

The Antiquarian Book Glossary

Version 1.1



Books Tell You Why

1265 Chrismill Lane
Mt. Pleasant, SC

www.BooksTellYouWhy.com
info@bookstellyouwhy.com
(843) 849-0283

Contents

[Introduction..3](#)

[Glossary...4](#)

[Index...37](#)

[Additional Info...42](#)



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Books Tell You Why and welcome to our Antiquarian Book Glossary. We couldn't be more pleased you've selected us as your source for information about rare book collecting, and we hope that this downloadable guide helps address your questions and concerns about the field of antiquarian books.

The following glossary is designed to provide you with an entry-level resource for commonly used terms and concepts in the rare book world. While our aim is to offer as comprehensive a guide as possible, please note this document is merely a primer of rare book and manuscript collecting, and should be used as more of an introductory text rather than a definitive guide to the purchasing and collecting of rare books.

For additional information and resources about our glossary, books, or services, please don't hesitate to:

- Visit us online at www.BooksTellYouWhy.com
- Contact us via email at info@bookstellyouwhy.com
- Call us at [\(800\) 948-5563](tel:8009485563).

Once again, thank you for your interest in Books Tell You Why. We wish you the best of luck in your collecting journey.



A

ABAA

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America was founded in 1949 to promote interest in rare books and foster collegial relations. They maintain the highest standards in the trade. Members must meet certain requirements in order to join; show a minimum of four years in the business of selling books; possess knowledge of cataloguing; and maintain and a sound financial footing. All members agree to abide by the ABAA's Code of Ethics. Books Tell You Why has been a member of the ABAA since 2008.

ALS

Autographed Letter Signed - A letter that is signed and completely handwritten by the signatory. [See also TLS \(Typed Letter Signed\), pg. 29.](#)

ARC

Reading Copy or Advance Review Copy. ARCs are produced by publishers for distribution to journalists and booksellers before a book is released to the public. Since ARCs are advanced copies, they may diverge from the final published version. They may contain typos or have different cover art.

All Edges Gilt (AEG) or Top Edges Gilt (TEG)

Refers to the edges of the text block that have gold leaf applied. [See TEG, pg. 29.](#)

Armorial

Adjective: (1) a binding blocked with the coat of arms, usually in gilt, of its original or a subsequent owner; and (2) of bookplates based on, incorporating, the owner's arms. Noun: colloquial for an armorially decorated book.

A

As Issued

A term used to describe an aspect of the book that might be perceived as a flaw but was the original state of the book when published.

Association Copy

Book that is of no particular interest on its own except that it was owned by someone important or famous.

B

BAL

Reference/Bibliography: Jacob Blanck; Bibliography Of American Literature; 1955 - 1991; provides nearly 40,000 records of the literary works of approximately 300 American writers.

Back, Backstrip

A frequent synonym in the antiquarian book-trade for the spine of a book, or the backbone or shelfback: whether leather-bound, cloth-bound, boarded or wrapped. It was first pasted to the back of the quires, forming a flexible back; refinement of tooling and economy dictated the hollow back in the 18th century. Backstrip is commonly used to describe the paper spine-covering of books in boards, which is usually different from the paper covering of the boards. Back is used in such terms as gilt back (of leather-bound books) or boards, cloth back (see half cloth), but should be avoided in any context where it might be confused with the back cover, or lower board, of the binding.

Bastard Title

See [Half-Title: pg. 15](#)

Blind and Foil Stamping

An impression that is embossed onto cloth or leather binding, and sometimes on paper. Blind stamping is a simple indentation into the leather, whereas foil stamping fills the impression with gold ("gilt stamp"), silver, or other metallic leaf.

Boards

The stiff material commonly referred to as the covers. Historically made of wood, but most modern binders use cardboard.

B

Bolt

Bookbinding: the three edges of a folded sheet that must be cut so that the leaves can be opened.

Book-Plate

A label, mostly adhesive, placed in a book to indicate ownership. Most book-plates are decorative, often with the intent of portraying some insight into the personality of the book's owner. An author's book-plate can add value to a book by making it an association copy, though most often the presence of a book-plate is perceived as reducing a book's value.

Bowed

A condition where the boards of a hardcover book have turned either inwards or outwards in relation to the leaves. This often occurs because of a rapid change in moisture.

Broadside

A printing often used as a poster to announce an event or proclamation, or also for a poem or music. On a single sheet of paper and only printed on one side; the verso (other side) is blank. When printed on both sides, the sheet becomes a "broadsheet".

Buckram

A stiff cloth, made of cotton or occasionally linen, which is used to cover and protect books. Modern buckrams have been stiffened by soaking in a substance, usually now pyroxylin, to fill the gaps between the fibers.

C

Cancel, cancellation

A cancel is any part of a book substituted for what was originally printed. It may be of any size, from a tiny scrap of paper bearing one or two letters pasted on over those first printed, to several sheets replacing the original ones. The most common form of cancel is a single-leaf inserted in place of the original leaf.

Chapbook

Small pamphlet of popular, sensational, juvenile, moral or educational character, originally distributed by chapmen or hawkers rather than booksellers.

Chipped

Used to describe a binding or dust-jacket which is missing small pieces along its edges. This should be distinguished from ripped, torn, or intentionally clipped binding edges.

Clasps

Part of the protective armor of medieval (and post-medieval) bindings. A clasp, either of metal with a hinge or with an intervening strip of leather or textile, on one board snapped into a catch on the other. Its object was to keep the book closed, relieving any strain on the joints from casual movement. In England and France, the clasp was on the upper board, the catch on the lower; elsewhere in Europe the positions were reversed.

Collation

A term in descriptive bibliography which signifies the non-binding portion of the book, verifying the proper sequence and completeness of pages and their gatherings (signatures).

C

Colophon

A statement, often placed at the end of a book or manuscript, with facts relative to its production. It typically includes the name of the printer, type of paper and typeface used, and may state the number of books printed in this edition. The term is also used to describe an identifying mark, emblem, or device used by a printer or publisher. From the Greek kolophon meaning summit, finishing touch.

Conjugate

Indicating the attachment of leaves: e.g., the bibliographical notation A 1.8, indicating the first and eighth leaves of the first gathering are conjugate: e.g., attached.

Criblé

A relief printing technique, criblé was used to make the earliest metal prints on paper by dotting the plate with a punch. Criblé plates were relief printed like woodcuts. Criblé backgrounds were used to lighten borders which would appear too dark in relation to the text area of a page if they were printed solid black.

Crushed Morocco

Morocco leather so thoroughly ironed, pressed, or rolled that the grain of the original skin has been almost obliterated. This is done in the piece, not when it is on the boards. The characteristic high polish is given after the volume is bound.

Cuts

Woodcut illustrations often printed on the same pages as the body of text.

D

Deckle Edges

The rough, untrimmed edges of a sheet of handmade paper; the deckle being the frame or band which confines the paper in manufacture.

Dos-a-dos

In a dos-à-dos binding (from the French for "back-to-back"), two books are bound back-to-back so that they share one lower board as back cover and open in opposite directions. This binding form was popular from the 17th Century onward.

Doublure

A separate and often ornamental inside lining of a board. It is made of fabric (often silk or moiré silk), vellum, leather or decorated paper, usually surrounded with gold tooled turn-ins. Popular particularly in France from the mid 18th Century. Also called double.

Dust-Jacket

The paper *jacket* which is wrapped around most modern books to protect the cloth covers. Sometimes called a dust-wrapper, it often includes information about the book and author. The earliest recorded dust-jackets date from the early 19th Century.

Dummy Editions, Salesman's Dummy

A dummy edition is similar to an ARC in that it is designed for advance distribution; however, dummy editions generally contain only a portion of the book, such as a single chapter. Intended to convince booksellers to carry an upcoming release, a dummy edition may also be referred to as salesman's edition or publishers dummy.

E

Endpapers

Endpapers are typically not part of the book as printed, but double leaves added to the front and back by the binder. The outer leaf of each is pasted to the inner surface of the cover board (referred to as the pastedown), and the inner leaves (or free endpapers) form the first and last pages of the volume when bound or cased. Endpapers can be plain or highly decorated, as with [marbling](#). The pastedown is often where a bookplate is found.

Ephemera

Ephemera is a rather broad term. Of Greek origin, it means things lasting no more than a day, i.e., not originally intended to be collected. Typical items being described as ephemera include posters, letters, tickets, book plates and bookmarks, catalogs, film scripts and screenplays, and almost anything else book-related.

Ex-Library

A book that was once part of an institutional or public library's collection but has been deaccessioned. Ex-library copies often bear the marks of the library, such as stamps, seals, call numbers, or the increasingly outdated (but memorable) pocket for a check-out card. Collectors should be aware that "ex libris" does not indicate an ex-library copy.

Extra-Illustrated

A book illustrated by means of engravings, variant title pages, and the like not originally included in the book by the publisher. This additional matter may consist of original drawings, manuscripts, etc., but it may also consist of leaves taken from other books. The added material may be mounted, inlaid, or trimmed to conform to the size of the other leaves of the book. Also called "[Grangerized](#)" (a term derived from the vogue begun by the publication of James Granger's biographical history of England, in 1769, in which Granger had blank leaves included so that the owner could insert desired illustrations).

F

First edition

A [\(first\) edition](#) of a book may often go through many printings with only minor corrections of typos or other errors before its text is significantly changed, chapters or sections added or deleted, or if the book is in translation. When the book goes back to press after such a change, it is in its second edition. While technically incorrect for collectors, "first edition" has become shorthand for a copy from the first printing of the first edition. A proper description indicates a first edition/first printing or first edition/later printing.

First trade edition

The first regularly published edition for release to the book trade and the general public marketplace. ISBN (International Standard Book Number) numbers are included beginning after 1970. This may be the "true" first edition, or it may have been preceded by a first limited edition.

Fly-leaf

A binder's blank following the front free endpaper or preceding the rear. Often used for the front free endpaper itself.

Folio

Used to indicate one of the following: the numbering of leaves as distinct from the numbering of pages, a single sheet such as a broadsheet, or as a statement of format in a book whose sheets are folded once producing two leaves or four pages, referred to as "folio size."

Fore-edge

The outer vertical edge of the pages of a book. In addition to the obviously named top-edge and bottom-edge, the fore-edge is one of three open edges.

F

Foxing

A descriptive term for scattered spots on paper which are commonly reddish-brown in color. The term is derived from the rusty red color of Reynard the Fox. **Foxing** is created by a particular chemical reaction and must be distinguished from the discoloration that can occur from surface colonies of mold growth.

French Flaps

French flaps are extensions of a paperback cover that fold inside the book. Provides additional stability to a book but is often rejected for cost reasons.

Frontispiece

An illustration facing the title-page of a book. In collating an illustrated book which has no list of illustrations but in which, as often, the plates themselves are numbered in sequence, the frontispiece is seldom included in such numeration.

G

Galley Proof

Often simply called “galley,” galley proofs are the preliminary editions of the book intended for use within the publishing house. The author, editor, and publisher use the galley proofs to review the book before final publication. A galley proof is usually issued early in the editing process, and the pages may be uncut or unbound.

Ghosting, Shadowing, of Offsetting

A description used for uneven fading on paper. [Ghosting](#) is often caused by prolonged contact with other paper materials, such as a bookmark or old adhesives which have triggered a chemical reaction.



Grangerized

A [term](#) derived from the vogue begun by the publication of James Granger's biographical history of England, in 1769, in which Granger had blank leaves included so that the owner could insert desired illustrations.

H

Half-title

The leaf in front of the title page which usually bears just the title, as opposed to the title page which includes subtitle, author, and publisher information. It is sometimes used interchangeably with the term “[bastard title](#).” [See **Bastard Title**, pg. 6.](#)

Head

The top of a book, as in head-margin, head-edge, or headband. Opposite side of foot.

Headband

A decorative band, usually colored, which originally protected the top and bottom edges of the spine, but is strictly decorative in modern books. The band can be plain or colored, and was originally worked-over leather, cord, or rolled paper.

Hot metal typesetting

Hot metal typesetting refers to technologies for typesetting text in letterpress printing. This method injects molten type metal into a mold that has the shape of one or more glyphs. The cast metal elements are later used to press ink onto paper.



ILAB

International League of Antiquarian Booksellers - The International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB) federates 20 National Associations of Antiquarian Booksellers. It speaks for 20 national associations, 30 countries, and nearly 2,000 leading booksellers throughout the world. Its emblem stands for integrity and professionalism in the rare book trade. The League publishes and upholds a code of ethics based on the wide experience of all its national associations.

The code is binding on all ILAB booksellers. It is a mark of the success of this code that disputes are rare. If disputes should arise, the national associations mediate in accordance with the code of ethics devised by the League. The League presides over the network that links the antiquarian booksellers worldwide. Books Tell You Why has been a member of the ILAB since 2008

Illuminated, Illumination

An [illuminated manuscript](#) or an illuminated book is one in which the text is enhanced by hand decoration or illustration. These decorations are often used on initial letters, page borders, and marginalia. Illumination was practiced most during the Middle Ages and into the era of the printing press, though it is still used today to create unique and rare books.

Imposition

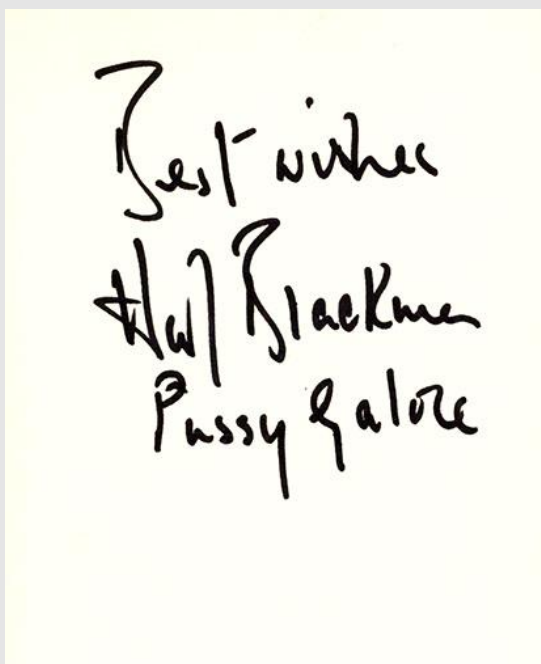
The method by which pages were laid out, either by scribe or compositor, so that they appeared on the sheet, when folded, in the right sequence.

Incunable, Incunabla

The Latin description of early books as printed in *cunabulis* (in the swaddling clothes) during the new-born art of printing for books printed before 1501.

Inscribed

A short note with a personalized dedication [written](#) by the author or a previous owner, usually in the beginning of a book and generally accompanied by a signature.



From an inscribed copy of the James Bond novel, *Goldfinger*, published by Ian Fleming in 1959.

Intaglio

A family of printmaking [techniques](#) in which the image is incised into a surface. Normally, copper, wood, or zinc are used as a surface, and the incisions are created by etching, engraving, drypoint, aquatint, or mezzotint.

J

Joint and Hinge

The joint is the exterior element where a board joins the spine and bends when opened. The interior side is the hinge, which can be covered in endpapers. [See Endpapers, pg. 11.](#)

K

Kermes

A red dye derived from the dried bodies of the females of a scale insect (*Coccus ilicis*) in the genus *Kermes*, primarily *Kermes vermilio*. It forms the root for the English color word *crimson* is derived from the word *kermes* based on the widespread use of this dye in medieval times and the rich red color it yields.

L

Laid Paper

Paper having a ribbed texture imparted by the manufacturing process. Its use diminished during the 19th Century as it was largely supplanted by wove paper. In pre-mechanical papermaking (from the 12th Century into the 1800s), the laid pattern was produced by a wire sieve in the rectangular mold used to produce single sheets of paper. Modern papermaking techniques use a roll to create the laid pattern effect during the early stages of manufacturing, in the same way as applying a paper watermark.

Leaf

A single sheet of paper or parchment comprising one page on its front side (recto) and another on its back (verso).

Leporello binding

The name Leporello is derived from Mozart's opera of Don Giovanni. Leporello was a manservant who kept a record of Don Giovanni's female conquests in a book. At the end of Act II, he spread the book across the stage. It's an accordion fold of unlimited width. Pages are joined to form the accordion.

Lithography

A **method** for printing using a stone with a completely smooth surface. A image is drawn onto the stone with an oil-based ink, which is then imprinted onto the paper. This technique allowed the artist to work directly on the stone, eliminating the middleman (as opposed to etchings or engravings). Chromolithography is used to create colored prints with many separate plates and was very popular in the 19th Century.

M

Manuscript

In addition to its significance in book history for centuries, a manuscript also represents a book in its earliest form in the publication process; it is the first version of the book submitted for publication. Most modern manuscripts are written electronically or via typewriter, but they may also be handwritten. It's common for only one manuscript to exist, making these items exceptionally rare. Some collectors consider manuscripts to be ephemera rather than pre-first editions.

Moire

Fabric with a watered, interference pattern. Moiré silk was popular for doublures and flyleaves in the 19th Century, often seen in France. Also called watered silk or tabby.

Morocco

A vegetable-tanned leather having a characteristic pinhead grain pattern developed either naturally or by means of graining or boarding, but never by embossing. The most common and characteristic grain pattern is known as "hard grain."

By long usage, the term "morocco" is taken to denote a goatskin, tanned by any vegetable tannage, and boarded in the wet condition; in a more strict interpretation, morocco is defined as a goatskin tanned exclusively with SUMAC and boarded in the wet condition. Leather made from vegetable tanned goatskin with a grain pattern resembling that of genuine morocco, but produced other than by hand boarding, is more accurately termed "morocco grained goat" or "assisted morocco."

N

Niger

A kind of [morocco](#) (goatskin) leather. Coming from West Africa, niger is a soft skin with an unemphatic, variable grain. It is locally tanned and dyed; colors often seen are crimson, orange to brick-red, green, or the natural buff. Slight variations of grain and color give niger its character and are seldom successfully achieved with imitations. [See Morocco, pg. 21.](#)



Prime examples of niger covers showcasing the common crimson, orange, brick-red, and green variations.



Octavo, or 8vo

The size of a book whose pages are made by folding a sheet of paper three times to form eight leaves. [See 8vo, pg. 36.](#)

Off-setting

When one material "bleeds" onto another. For example, the ink from a plate might transfer onto the facing page, or dust-jacket flaps might "ghost" onto the endpapers. Offsetting occurs often (although not exclusively) from ink or acidity.

P

Paper Proof

A paper proof is issued later in the editing process after all mistakes and changes have presumably been made. The paper proof is therefore the “final version” before a book is printed for release. Unlike galleys, paper proofs generally have “all the details,” such as pagination, indices, and illustrations. They are sometimes also called uncorrected proofs.

Pastedown

A binder's blank following, the front free endpaper or preceding the rear. Often used for the front free endpaper itself. [See Endpapers, pg. 11.](#)

Plates

[Illustrations](#) on leaves often of a different paper stock, separately printed and inserted into the book at the time of binding.



Pictured here, rare and highly-collectable editions of books are often cited for their ornate plates.



Quadrat

A piece of type metal lower than the raised typeface used for filling spaces and blank lines. Also called quad. Can leave quad marks when not properly mounted.

Quarto, or 4to

The size of a book whose pages are made by folding a sheet of paper twice to form four leaves. [See 4to, pg. 36.](#)

R

Recto

The front, or obverse, side of the leaf: e.g., the right-hand page of an open book or manuscript. (Oriental books open the other way, with the recto on the left.) Its complement is the verso. [See Verso, pg. 31.](#)

Relief

Opposite of intaglio. A family of printmaking [techniques](#) in which the image is raised from the surface. This is done by carving away all negative space in the image. The raised areas hold ink and the recessed areas do not. A rubber stamp is a common example of relief printing. [See Intaglio, pg. 17.](#)

S

Salesman's Dummy or Dummy Editions

A dummy edition is similar to an ARC in that it is designed for advance distribution. However, the dummy edition generally contains only a portion of the book, such as a single chapter. Intended to convince booksellers to carry an upcoming release, a dummy edition may also be referred to as salesman's edition or publishers dummy. [See Dummy Edition, pg. 10.](#)

Screenprinting

Screenprinting is a printing technique that uses a woven mesh to support an ink-blocking stencil. The attached stencil forms open areas of mesh that transfer ink as a sharp-edged image onto a substrate. A roller or squeegee is moved across the screen stencil, forcing or pumping ink past the threads of the woven mesh in the open areas. Check [here](#) for more information about the process.

Sextodecimo, or 16mo

A small book, approximately 4 inches wide and 6 inches tall. To make it, each sheet of paper is folded four times, forming sixteen leaves (32 pages). [See 16 mo, pg. 36.](#)

Shaken

Used to describe a book whose pages have become loose in their binding; no longer tight, but not detached.

Sprinkled edges

A technique where page edges have been cut solid and sprinkled, usually with an earth pigment, such as bole, dissolved in a non-spirit solvent. Sprinkled edges are intended to be decorative and to prevent the edges from appearing to be soiled.

S

Stained edges

The edges of a book that have been stained a uniform color, contrary to gilded, marbled, sprinkled, or stippled edges.

Stippled edges

The edges of a book which have been spotted irregularly with color mainly to keep them from appearing soiled.

Sunning

Materials which are faded from direct and prolonged exposure to sunlight. Light can cause a chemical breakdown in printed ink, but also in cloth and leather bindings. A book's spine will sometimes show the worst sunning from facing outward on a shelf.

T

T.E.G. (Top Edge Gilt)

The head edge of a book which has been cut smooth and gilded. The other two edges, which are not gilded, may be cut smooth, trimmed slightly, or left uncut.

TLS (Typed Letter Signed)

Typed letter by the signatory with his/her signature. See also ALS (Autographed Letter Signed) with the entire content of the letter being handwritten. [See ALS, pg. 4.](#)

Tail/Foot

The aptly named bottom edge of the book.

Tete-beche

Books bound in tête-bêche (French for "head-to-toe") have no back cover, but two front covers and a single spine with two titles. When a reader reaches the end of the text of one of the works, the next page is the (upside-down) final page of the other work.

Tipped-In

A technique where pages, plates, or signatures are glued into the book post-binding of the book.

Trimmed before sewing

A book that has had its edges cut before it is sewn. Trimming before sewing is a technique employed when the book is to be rough gilt. Trimming is usually done section by section in a paper cutter, so as to provide a degree of roughness if only the head is to be gilt.

U

Unpaginated

The pages of a book or document are not numbered; the opposite of "paginated"

Unsophisticated

Pure, genuine, unrestored.



Vellum

Originally, a translucent or opaque material produced from calfskin that had been soaked, limed and unhaired, then dried at normal temperature under tension, usually on a wooden device called a stretching frame. Today vellum is generally defined as a material made from calfskin, sheepskin, or virtually any other skin obtained from a relatively small animal: e.g., antelope. Some authorities do not even distinguish between vellum and parchment, although traditionally the former was made from an unsplit calfskin, and consequently possessed a grain pattern on one side (unless removed by scraping) while the latter was produced from the flesh split of a sheepskin and contained no grain pattern. The important distinction between vellum (or parchment) and leather is the former is not tanned but prepared by soaking the skin in lime and drying it under tension.

Verso

The back, or reverse, side of the leaf; i.e. the left-hand page of an open book. Verso is the complement to recto. [See Recto, pg. 26.](#)

W

Woodcut

One of the earliest forms of printed illustration in which an impression is taken from an inked form cut in a block of soft wood. The design of a woodcut is of bold black lines or areas depicting a design against a white background (relief) whereas that of wood engraving is the reverse (intaglio). [See Relief, pg. 26](#); [See Intaglio, pg. 17](#).

Wove Paper

Paper with an uneven, granulated texture mostly made on a continuous, close-meshed wire belt. Invented by James Whatman in about 1755, it has been the usual paper for ordinary book-printing since the early 19th Century. It is distinct in its method of manufacture from laid paper and is normally distinguishable by the absence of chain lines and wire (or laid) lines.

X

Xylography

One of the oldest known relief printmaking techniques in which an image is carved into the surface of a block of wood, often beechwood in Europe or cherry wood in Japan.

Y

Yapp, Yapp Edges

Yapp, so called after the London bookseller who invented it about 1860, is a style of binding with overlapping edges or flaps on all three edges. Hence, yapp edges, meaning the flaps.

Z

Zincography

The art or process of producing a printing surface on a zinc plate, especially of producing one in relief by etching away unprotected parts with acid. Originated in the early 19th Century.

Numerics

4to, or Quarto

The size of a book whose pages are made by folding a sheet of paper twice to form four leaves. [See Quarto, pg. 25.](#)

8vo, or Octavo

The size of a book whose pages are made by folding a sheet of paper three times to form eight leaves. [See Octavo, pg. 23.](#)

16mo, or Sextodecimo

A small book, approximately 4 inches wide and 6 inches tall. To make it, each sheet of paper is folded four times, forming sixteen leaves (32 pages). [See Sextodecimo, pg. 27.](#)

Index

A

[ABAA](#)...4
[ALS](#)...4
[ARC](#)...4
[AEG](#)...4
[Armorial](#)...4
[As Issued](#)...5
[Association Copy](#)...5

B

[BAL](#)...6
[Back, Backstrip](#)...6
[Bastard Title](#)...6
[Blind and Foil Stamping](#)...6
[Boards](#)...6
[Bolt](#)...7
[Book Plate](#)...7
[Bowed](#)...7
[Broadside](#)...7
[Buckram](#)...7

C

[Cancel, cancellation](#)...8
[Chapbook](#)...8
[Chipped](#)...8
[Clasps](#)...8
[Collation](#)...8
[Colophon](#)...9
[Conjugate](#)...9
[Crible](#)...9

Index cont'd

C

[Crushed Morocco](#)...9

[Cuts](#)...9

D

[Deckle Edges](#)...10

[Dos-a-dos](#)...10

[Doublure](#)...10

[Dust-Jacket](#)...10

[Dummy Editions](#)...10

E

[Endpapers](#)...11

[Ephemera](#)...11

[Ex-Library](#)...11

[Extra-Illustrated](#)...11

F

[First Edition](#)...12

[First Trade Edition](#)...12

[Fly-leaf](#)...12

[Folio](#)...12

[Fore-edge](#)...12

[Foxing](#)...13

[French Flaps](#)...13

[Frontispiece](#)...13

G

[Galley Proof](#)...14

[Ghosting, Shadowing, Offsetting](#)...14

[Grangerized](#)...14

Index cont'd

H

- [Half-Title](#)...15
- [Head](#)...15
- [Headband](#)...15
- [Hot Metal Typesetting](#)...15

I

- [ILAB](#)...16
- [Illuminated, Illumination](#)...16
- [Imposition](#)...16
- [Incunable, Incunaba](#)...16
- [Inscribed](#)...17
- [Intaglio](#)...17

J

- [Joint and Hinge](#)...18

K

- [Kermes](#)...19

L

- [Laid Paper](#)...20
- [Leaf](#)...20
- [Leporello Binding](#)...20
- [Lithography](#)...20

M

- [Manuscript](#)...21
- [Moire](#)...21
- [Morocco](#)...21

Index cont'd

N

[Niger...22](#)

O

[Octavo, or 8vo...23](#)

[Off-setting...23](#)

P

[Paper Proof...24](#)

[Pastedown...24](#)

[Plates...24](#)

Q

[Quadrat...25](#)

[Quarto...25](#)

R

[Recto...26](#)

[Relief...26](#)

S

[Salesman's Dummy, Dummy Edition...27](#)

[Screenprinting...27](#)

[Sextodecimo, or 16mo...27](#)

[Shaken...27](#)

[Sprinkled Edge...27](#)

[Stained Edge...28](#)

[Stippled Edge...28](#)

[Sunning...28](#)

T

[T.E.G. \(Top Edge Gilt\)...29](#)

Index cont'd

T

- [Tail/foot...29](#)
- [Tete-deche...29](#)
- [Tipped-in...29](#)
- [Trimmed before sewing...29](#)

U

- [Unpaginated ...30](#)
- [Unsophisticated...30](#)

V

- [Vellum...31](#)
- [Verso...31](#)

W

- [Woodcut...32](#)
- [Wove paper...32](#)

X

- [Xylography...33](#)

Y

- [Yapp, Yapp Edges...34](#)

Z

- [Zincography...35](#)

Numeric figures

- [4to, or Quarto...36](#)
- [8vo, or Octavo...36](#)
- [16mo, or sextodecimo...36](#)

Additional Info

Thank you for your interest in Books Tell You Why - we hope this guide has provided a useful introduction to the language of rare book and manuscript collecting.

In addition to this and several other [book collecting guides](#), Books Tell You Why maintains a daily-updated [blog](#) about the books, authors, concepts, and discussions making headlines in the rare book world. Visit the Books Tell You Why blog for additional book and manuscript-related content and resources.

For more information on Books Tell You Why, or additional resources on book and manuscript collecting, please visit us [online](#) or contact us via [email](#) or phone at:

- (800) 948-5563 (**U.S. customers**)
- +44 (0) 1334-260018 (**U.K. customers**)
- 1+(843) 849-0283 (**International customers**)

Interested parties can also send questions, concerns, or correspondence via snail mail to:

Books Tell You Why
1265 Chrismill Lane
Mt. Pleasant, SC
United States
29466



The Antiquarian Book Glossary

Version 1.1

Books Tell You Why

www.bookstellyouwhy.com

info@bookstellyouwhy.com

1265 Chrismill Lane

Mt. Pleasant, SC

29466

(800) 948-5563