

The Gutenberg Bible, Germany, ***** (MVB)

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1455

Author: NA

Why Important: First book to be printed with movable type, initiating the beginning of printed books.

Liber Chronicarum, Germany, ***

Also Known As: *Nuremburg Chronicle*

Genre: History

Year Published: 1493

Author: Hartmann Schedel

Why Important: This book is one of the first to integrate text and woodblock illustrations together.

The Canterbury Tales, England, ***** (MVB)

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1477

Author: Geoffrey Chaucer

Why Important: One of the most significant texts of the Western canon and printed by William Caxton.

Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye, England, *****

Also Known As: *Recall of the History of Troy*

Genre: History

Year Published: 1475

Author: Raoul Lefevre

Why Important: First book printed in English after translation from the French and printed by William Caxton.

Geographia Cosmographia, Italy, ****

Also Known As: *Geography of the Cosmos*

Genre: Cartography

Year Published: 1477

Author: Claudius Ptolemy

Why Important: Represents second century Roman knowledge of cartography.

Epistolae ad familiares, Italy, *

Also Known As: *Familiar Letters*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1469

Author: Cicero

Why Important: First book printed in Venice, Italy.

Gramatica de la lengua castellana, Spain, *

Also Known As: *Grammar of the Castilian Language*

Genre: Language

Year Published: 1492

Author: Antonio de Nebrija

Why Important: First grammar for Castilian Spanish; presented to Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II.

Obres e trobes en lahors de la Verge Maria, Spain, *
Also Known As: *Works and Trials in the life of Virgin Mary*
Genre: Religion
Year Published: 1474
Author: Jordi de Centelles
Why Important: First book printed in Spain.

Gasparini Pergamensis Epistolae, France, *
Also Known As: *Gasparinus' Letters*
Genre: Prose
Year Published: 1470
Author: Gasparinus de Bergame
Why Important: First book printed in Paris, France.

Manipulus curatorum, France, *
Also Known As: *The Manual of the Curate*
Genre: Religion
Year Published: 1478
Author: Guido de Monte Rochen
Why Important: Created by the German printer who was invited to Paris to create French incunabula.

Diallage, Germany, *
Also Known As: *Dialogue, Conciliatio locorum Scripturae/Favored Speaking Scripture*
Genre: Religion
Year Published: 1525
Translator: Sebastian Franck (also known as Franck von Word)
Why Important: The German translation of the *Diallage* by Andrew Althamer, which is a diatribe against Sacramentarians and Anabaptists.

Von dem grossen Lutherischen Narren wie ihr Murner beschworen hat, Germany, *
Also Known As: *On the Great Lutheran Fool*
Genre: Religion
Year Published: 1522
Author: Thomas Murner
Why Important: This book is a virulent satire of Martin Luther.

The English Secretarie, England, *
Genre: Philosophy
Year Published: 1586
Author: Angel Day
Why Important: This book went through 10 editions rapidly; it taught art of letter writing.

An Atlas of England and Wales, England, ***
Genre: Cartography
Year Published: 1579
Author: Christopher Saxton
Why Important: Shows Queen Elizabeth as patron of Astronomy and Geography; also includes most important and first map of the area by the father of English cartography, Christopher Saxton.

Commedia di Dante, Italy, **

Also Known As: *The Divine Comedy*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1506

Author: Dante Alighieri

Why Important: One of the greatest works of Western literature.

La Sofonisba, Tragedia, Di Nuovo con Somma Diligenza Corretta Ristampata, Italy, *

Also Known As: *Sofonisba*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: Listed as 1524, 1569?

Author: Gian Giorgio Trissino, also known as Giovan Giorgio Trissino

Why Important: First Italian vernacular tragedy to follow a Greek model.

La Celestina, Spain, *

Also Known As: *Celestina, Tragicomedia de Calisto y Melibea*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1500 (Toledo version)

Author: Fernando de Rojas

Why Important: This book marks the transition from medieval to Renaissance Spanish literature.

La Perfecta Casada, Spain, *

Also Known As: *The Perfect Wife*

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1583

Author: Fray Luis de León

Why Important: This book is an interpretation of Solomon written as a conduct manual for newly married women; it became widely popular.

Les Œuvres, France, ***

Also Known As: *The Works*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1553

Author: Clément Marot

Why Important: These are the first sonnets in French.

Five books of the lives, heroic deeds, and sayings of Gargantua and his son Pantagruel, France, *

Also Known As: *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1534

Author: Francois Rabelais

Why Important: Rabelais is a significant French Renaissance writer known for his use of caricature.

Doctrina en lengua mixteca, Americas, *

Also Known As: *Doctrine in the Mexican Language*

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1539

Author: Juan de Zumarraga

Why Important: This is the first book published in the Americas, by Juan Pablos in Mexico City; also, the book is a bilingual text written in both Spanish and Nahuatl.

*Manuale Sacramentorum secundum vsum Ecclesie mexicane, Americas, **

Also Known As: *Second Sacred Manuel for Mexican Ecclesia*

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1560

Author: Catholic Church

Why Important: This book was the last work published by Juan Pablos in Mexico City.

*Don Quixote, Spain, *****

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1605

Author: Miguel de Cervantes

Why Important: This is the most significant novel in Spanish as well as one of the most important novels in the world.

*La Cvna, Y La Sepvltvra para el conocimiento propio, Spain, **

Also Known As: *The Cradle and the Grave for the Proper Knowledge*

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1634

Author: Francisco de Quevedo

Why Important: Quevedo wrote during the Spanish Baroque era in the conceptismo style (rapid, witty, concise).

*Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies, England, ***** (MVB)*

Also Known As: The First Folio

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1623

Author: William Shakespeare

Why Important: One of the most important sets of works in the Western canon from the most important author of the English language.

*King James Bible, England, ****

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1611

Author: N/A

Why Important: The English translation of the Bible for the Church of England, this version became the most common translation of the Bible as well as the most widely printed book in history.

*Theatro d'el orbe de la Tierra, Americas, ****

Also Known As: *Theater of the Globe of the Earth*

Genre: Cartography

Year Published: 1602

Author: Abraham Ortelius

Why Important: Published in Antwerp, this atlas contains significant cartographic improvements in portraying South America as well as Mexico, California, and North America; additionally, it includes the landmark map “America Sive Novi Orbis Nova Descriptio” (America, or New World, Newly Described).

*Bay Psalm Book, Americas, ***** (MVB)*

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1640

Author: John Eliot, Richard Mather

Why Important: This book was the first printed in British North America; it set a record for highest amount paid for a printed book.

*Istoria e dimostrazioni intorno alle macchie solari e loro accidenti, Italy, ****

Also Known As: *Galileo’s Defense of the Copernican Theory*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1613

Author: Galileo Galilei

Why Important: One of the most significant texts in the history of science.

*Dell’elixir Vitae, Italy, ***

Also Known As: *The Elixir of Life*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1624

Author: per Secondino Roncagliolo

Why Important: An extremely rare book on distillation and alchemy; the author tried to experiment with immortality and the elixir of life.

*Carolus Stuardus, Germany, **

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1657

Author: Andreas Gryphius (also known as Andreas Greif)

Why Important: This lyric poet and dramatist is one of the most significant German dramatic writers.

*Simplicius Simplicissimus, German, **

Also Known As: *Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus Teutsch/The life of an odd vagrant named Melchior Sternfels von Fuchshaim*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1668

Author: Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen

Why Important: Inspired by true events, this novel became incredibly popular throughout Europe.

*A Fine Composite Atlas of French and Dutch Maps, France, ****

Genre: Cartography

Year Published: 1655

Author: Nicholas Sanson D’Abbeville

Why Important: French cartographers were considered the best in the sixteenth and the seventeenth century; this atlas includes a number of foreign maps, including India and the Philipians.

*Le Jardin du Roy Tres Crestien Henry IV, France, ****

Also Known As: *The Garden of King Henry IV*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1608

Author: Pierre Vallet

Why Important: Marie de Medici was the Queen of France; her love of flowers established a court tradition and this book of flowers for her set a standard for natural illustration.

Encyclopédie, France, *

Also Known As: *Encyclopaedia*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1751-65

Author: Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond d'Alembert

Why Important: This is the first Western Encyclopedia; eventually, the project incurred Pope Clement XIII's censorship.

Traite des Arbres Fruitiers, France, ****

Also Known As: *Traits of Fruit Trees*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1768

Author: Henri-Louis Duhamel du Monceau

Why Important: This book illustrates pruning and grafting of fruit trees; it was listed as one of the ten most expensive books of 2006 by *Fine Books Magazine*.

Teatro crítico universal, Spain, *

Also Known As: *Universal Critical Theater*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1736

Author: Fray Benito Jerónimo Feijoo y Montenegro

Why Important: Affiliated with the Age of Enlightenment and Educational Reform in Spain, Fray Benito Jerónimo Feijoo y Montenegro was a populist who wanted to eliminate superstition.

El sí de Las Niñas La Comedia Nueva o El cafe Poesías, Spain, *

Also Known As: *The Maidens' Consent*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1801

Author: Leandro Fernández de Moratín

Why Important: Leandro Fernández de Moratín is the most important neoclassical playwright. Unfortunately, his play was denounced under the Inquisition of Ferdinand VII.

The First Book of Urizen, England, ****

Also Known As: *Book of Urizen*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1794

Author: William Blake

Why Important: This is William Blake's first prophetic poetry.

Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded, England, *

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1740

Author: Samuel Richardson

Why Important: A bestseller of the period, this novel was based on conduct books and the popular genre of epistolary novels.

Il servitore di due padroni, Italy, ***

Also Known As: *The Servant of Two Masters*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1746

Author: Carlo Goldoni

Why Important: This play highlights the practice of stock characters in commedia dell'arte.

Histoire de ma vie, Italy, ***** (MVB)

Also Known As: *Mémoires de Jacques Casanova/The Memoirs of Jacques Casanova*, an earlier but bowdlerized (censored) edition; *Histoire de ma vie jusqu'à l'an 1797/History of my Life until the year 1797*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1797

Author: Giacomo Casanova

Why Important: Casanova's memoir provides what many critics consider the best discussion of eighteenth century European life.

Wissenschaftslehre, Germany, *

Also Known As: *Science of Knowledge*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1794

Author: Johann Gottlieb Fichte

Why Important: Author of the I vs. not-I philosophy, Fichte was a transcendental idealist and philosopher who built from Kant's work.

Critik der reinen Vernunft, Germany, **

Also Known As: *Critique of Pure Reason*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1781

Author: Immanuel Kant

Why Important: One of the most important works in Western philosophy.

The Psalms of David, Americas, **

Genre: Religion

Year Published: 1740

Author: Isaac Watts, Benjamin Franklin printer

Why Important: One of the great Renaissance men/polymaths of early America, Franklin was a printer as well as a founding father of the United States; this book was a best seller during the Great Awakening of the 1740s.

Charlotte: A Tale of Truth, Americas, *

Also Known As: *Charlotte Temple*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1791

Author: Susanna Rowson

Why Important: This seduction tale was one of the bestselling works of an early American author.

Birds of America, Americas, ***** (MVB)

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1827-1838

Author: James Audubon

Why Important: This book introduced American birds to the United Kingdom, is considered an artistic masterpiece, and portrays now-extinct birds such as the great auk and the passenger pigeon.

Rules of Basketball, Americas, ****

Genre: Sports

Year Published: 1892

Author: James Naismith

Why Important: James Naismith established the rules of this popular sport.

Wuthering Heights, England, ***

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1847

Author: Emily Brontë

Why Important: The rarest of the first editions by the Brontë sisters, *Wuthering Heights* was a classic of nineteenth century British literature.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, England, ****

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1865

Author: Lewis Carroll, or Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

Why Important: This book is a significant part of the children's literature canon.

On the Origin of Species, England, ***

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1859

Author: Charles Darwin

Why Important: Darwin revolutionized both science and religion with this book.

De la démocratie en Amérique, France, *

Also Known As: *Of Democracy in America/Democracy in America*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1835, 1840

Author: Alexis de Tocqueville

Why Important: de Tocqueville, a French ambassador, examined democracy in the Americas.

Les Liliacees, France, ****

Also Known As: *The Lilies*

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1802

Author: Pierre-Joseph Redoute

Why Important: Redoute, one of the court artists of Marie Antoinette, is considered the greatest flower painter of all time.

Archivio storico italiano, Italy, *

Also Known As: *Italian Story Archive*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1842

Author: Giampietro Vieusseux

Why Important: Vieusseux is known as a master realist within the Italian literary tradition.

Stella d'Oriente, Italy, *

Also Known As: *Eastern Stella*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1890

Author: Grazia Deledda

Why Important: This novel was the first book written by the only Italian woman to win the Nobel Prize.

Pepita Jiménez, Spain, *

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1874

Author: Juan Valera y Alcalá-Galiano

Why Important: While Galdós is seen as the most creative Spanish Realist writer, and perhaps the most significant, Juan Valera y Alcalá-Galiano is seen as the best writer (the writer's writer)/

Realidad, Spain, *

Also Known As: *Reality*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1892

Author: Benito Perez Galdós

Why Important: The Spanish Government wanted Galdós to win the Nobel Prize for Literature; he is seen as the most significant Spanish Realist writer.

Phänomenologie des Geistes, Germany, **

Also Known As: *The Phenomenology of Spirit/The Phenomenology of Mind*

Genre: Philosophy

Year Published: 1807

Author: G.W.F. Hegel

Why Important: The most important work of Hegel, one of the most significant German philosophers.

Penthesilea, Germany, *

Also Known As: *Queen of the Amazons*

Genre: Theater

Year Published: 1808

Author: Heinrich von Kleist

Why Important: A major German literary prize was named for Kleist; Kleist subverted Romanticism and his work is a precursor to modern drama.

The Hobbit, England, ***

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1937

Author: J.R. Tolkien

Why Important: *The Hobbit* is the prequel to *The Lord of the Rings*, a masterpiece of fantasy with medieval and Anglo-Saxon elements.

The Tales of Beedle the Bard, England, ****

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 2008

Author: J.K. Rowling

Why Important: This book was published in a limited edition of seven books handwritten and illustrated by JK Rowling herself and then published for general public.

The Great Gatsby, Americas, ***

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1925

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald

Why Important: *The Great Gatsby* is one of the most significant works of American literature.

Gone with the Wind, Americas, ***

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1936

Author: Margaret Mitchell

Why Important: A widely popular novel about the Civil War belonging to the historical romance genre.

Le petit prince: avec dessins par l'auteur, France, ***

Also Known As: *The Little Prince*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1943

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Why Important: A classic of French and children's literature.

À la recherche du temps perdu [Du côté de chez Swann], France, ***

Also Known As: *In Search of Lost Time, Swann's Way*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1913

Author: Marcel Proust

Why Important: One of the most significant books of French literature and the Western canon.

Cantos de vida y esperanza, los cisnes y otros poemas, Spain, **

Also Known As: *Songs of Life and Hope: The Swans and Other Poems*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1905

Author: Rubén Darío

Why Important: Rubén Darío was a Nicaraguan who crossed Iberian and Latin letters, becoming the father of modernism.

Impresiones y paisajes, Spain, *

Also Known As: *Impressions and Landscapes*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1918

Author: Federico García Lorca, also known as Federico del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús García Lorca

Why Important: Lorca was a major Spanish poet executed by Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War; this book was his first.

Il Gattopardo, Italy, *

Also Known As: *The Leopard*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1958

Author: Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa

Why Important: One of the most important books in Italian literature, Lampedusa's masterpiece is cited as a major influence on later twentieth century writers.

Democrazia Futurista: Dinamismo Politico, Italy, *

Also Known As: *Future Democracy: Political Dynamism*

Year Published: 1919

Genre: Philosophy

Author: Filippo Tommaso Marinetti

Why Important: Futurism is an important avant-garde movement of Modernism; this book is its manifesto.

Die Blechtrommel, Germany, ***

Also Known As: *The Tin Drum*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1959

Author: Gunter Grass

Why Important: One of the most important books about Nazi Germany from one of the most significant German authors of the twentieth century; Grass received the Nobel Prize in 1999.

Der Sand aus den Urnen, Germany, **

Also Known As: *The Sand from the Urns*

Genre: Poetry

Year Published: 1948

Author: Paul Celan [Paul Antschel]

Why Important: First work of poet Paul Celan, a noted Holocaust writer; Celan was multilingual, writing in German, although he was a native Romanian who lived in France.