

*The Gutenberg Bible*

Country: Germany

Value: \*\*\*\*\* (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 Chronicarium*

Country: Germany

Value: \*\*\*

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*

Country: England

Value: \*\*\*\*\* (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*

Country: England

Value: \*\*\*\*

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*

Country: Italy

Value: \*\*\*\*

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*

Country: Italy

Value: \*

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*

Country: Spain

Value: \*

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*

Country: Spain

Value: \*

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 is  
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 Fruitiere*,  
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 democratie en Amerique*,  
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.