

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

Country: France

Value: +

Also Known As: *Gasparinus'*

Letters

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1470

Author: Gasparinus de Bergame

Why Important: First book
printed in Paris, France.

Manipulus curatorum

Country: France

Value: +

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

Country: Germany

Value: +

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; it is a
diatribe against
Sacramentarians and
Anabaptists.

Von dem grossen Lutherischen
Narren wie ihr Murner
beschworen hat

Country: Germany

Value: +

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

Country: England

Value: +

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

Country: England

Value: +++

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

Country: Italy

Value: ++

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

Country: Italy

Value: +

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: France

Value: +++

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

Country: France

Value: +

Also Known As: *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1534

Author: Francois Rebelais

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

Doctrina en lengua mixteca

Country: Americas

Value: +

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

Country: Americas

Value: +

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

Country: Spain

Value: ++++

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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***

Country: England

Value: +++++ (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

Country: England

Value: +++

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

Country: Americas

Value: +++

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

Country: Americas

Value: +++++ (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***

Country: Italy

Value: +++

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

Country: Italy

Value: ++

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

Country: Germany

Value: +

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

Country: German

Value: +

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***

Country: France

Value: +++

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 Philippians.

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

Country: France

Value: +++

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

Country: France

Value: +

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

Country: France

Value: ++++

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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***

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: England

Value: ++++

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

Country: England

Value: +

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

Country: Italy

Value: +++

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

Country: Italy

Value: +++++ (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

Country: Germany

Virtue: +

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

Country: Germany

Virtue: ++

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

Country: Americas

Value: ++

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

Country: Americas

Value: +

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

Country: Americas

Value: ++++++ (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

Country: Americas

Value: ++++

Genre: Sports

Year Published: 1892

Author: James Naismith

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

Wuthering Heights

Country: England

Value: +++

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

Country: England

Value: ++++

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

Country: England

Value: +++

Genre: Science

Year Published: 1859

Author: Charles Darwin

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

De la democratie en Amerique

Country: France

Value: +

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

Country: France

Value: ++++

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

Country: Italy

Value: +

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

Country: Italy

Value: +

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: Germany

Value: ++

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

Country: Germany

Value: +

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

Country: England

Value: +++

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

Country: England

Value: ++++

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

Country: Americas

Value: +++

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

Country: Americas

Value: +++

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

Country: France

Value: +++

Also Known As: *The Little Prince*

Genre: Prose

Year Published: 1943

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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

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

Country: France

Value: +++

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***

Country: Spain

Value: ++

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

Country: Spain

Value: +

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

Country: Italy

Value: +

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

Country: Italy

Value: +

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

Country: Germany

Value: +++

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

Country: Germany

Value: ++

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.