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**Readers Pay the Price for One-of-a-Kind Books**

December 21, 2007

By Kimberly Maul

Books are always popular holiday gifts, but a unique copy of a book, such as a signed edition or one from a limited release, can make the gift extra special. And customers on **Abebooks.com** are paying high prices for unique books this season.

A copy of two stories by Salman Rushdie—"The Prophet's Hair" and "The Free Radio" combined into one book—was the most expensive book sold on Abebooks.com from Nov. 23 to Dec. 9 and went for \$7,031. The fourth book of only 12 copies that were privately printed, it is bound in leather and signed.

A 1926 first edition of AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* sold for \$5,500, while *A Guide to Modern Cookery*, by Escoffier, went for \$5,124. That copy was a 1907 first edition signed by the author and inscribed to Sarah Morgan, who worked at the Cavendish Hotel in London, Abebooks said. A first edition, privately printed copy of Aleister Crowley's *Thelema*, which contains Crowley's essential work on the occult, sold for \$4,655, and a 1916 edition of David Thompson's *Narrative of His Explorations in Western America 1784-1812* sold for \$4,250.

The other five books that round out Abebooks' Top Ten Most Expensive Sales include a signed copy of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (\$3,600), a first edition of John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* (\$3,500), a first edition of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (\$3,000), a 1877

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edition of *An Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky* (\$2,750), and a first edition of Frank Herbert's *Dune* (\$2,750).

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