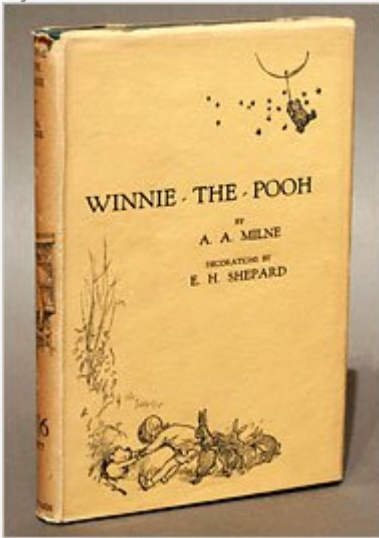




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First, Limited, Rare: The Gift Edition

By DWIGHT GARNER



How's the holiday shopping coming?

The Web site abebooks.com has put out a [list](#) of the 10 most expensive books it sold from November 23 through December 9, presumably bought with gift-giving in mind.

What's on it? Two books by Rushdie, an 1907 Escoffier, and an 1877 atlas of Bourbon County, Kentucky, among other things.

I'm happy to hear my secret Santa is on the case.

Here's the whole list:

1) Two Stories, by Salman Rushdie - \$7,031
"The Prophet's Hair" and "The Free Radio" combined into one book and privately printed in 1991, this is No. 4 of only 12 books in the print run. Bound in full leather and signed.

2) Winnie the Pooh, by A.A. Milne - \$5,500
A first edition, from 1926, of this legendary children's book.

- 3) **A Guide to Modern Cookery**, by Escoffier - \$5,124
A 1907 first edition signed by the author and inscribed to Sarah Morgan, who worked at the Cavendish Hotel in London.
- 4) **Thelema**, by Aleister Crowley - \$4,655
A first edition of a privately printed book from around 1909 containing “The Book of Law” - Crowley’s essential work.
- 5) **David Thompson’s Narrative of His Explorations in Western America 1784-1812** - \$4,250
One of North America’s great geographers, Thompson mapped more than 3.9 million square kilometers. Published in 1916 - one of just 550 copies.
- 6) **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, by J.K. Rowling - \$3,600
One of 1,700 copies signed at the book’s midnight launch in July.
- 7) **On Liberty**, by John Stuart Mill - \$3,500
An 1859 first edition bound in three-quarter leather of this key conceptual work on liberty by the great liberal thinker of the 19th century.
- 8) **Midnight’s Children**, by Salman Rushdie - \$3,000
A 1981 first edition of this Booker Prize-winning novel signed by the author: “They are despite everything, acts of love, Salman Rushdie, 9/12/81.”
- 9) **An Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky** - \$2,750
A rare Kentucky atlas from 1877 – published by Beers of Philadelphia.
- 10) **Dune**, by Frank Herbert - \$2,750
A 1965 first edition of this famous science-fiction novel – first winner of the Nebula Award.