

The Bookman's Price Index (BPI), published since 1964, indicates the availability and price of antiquarian books in the United States, Canada, and the British Isles. Since the BPI now numbers over 80 volumes, searching for specific titles has become a time-consuming task for the user.

This volume is the eleventh "cumulative index to the index." It references the entries in Volumes 74 through 79, which were published during 2003 and 2004. This work provides access to approximately 90,000 entries from the original BPI volumes.

What is Included?

Since the primary purpose of this volume is speedy access to tens of thousands of book titles, the complete entry in the original BPI volume is not repeated here. Such repetition would necessarily negate the ability to include all this information in one volume, thus defeating its purpose of quick and easy access. This index provides sufficient information for rapid identification of a specific title including the author, date of publication, and place of publication, followed by a list of all the BPI volumes in which that book is included.

BPI's regular volumes provide extensive information so that the user can identify a rare book and get some indication of how the particular dealer arrived at its price. This information, taken from rare book dealer catalogs, includes not only the author, title, date and place of publication, publisher, edition, and price, but a thorough description of the book and notes on its condition. The description and condition information includes physical size, illustrations, binding, authors' signatures, general physical condition, specific flaws, and relative scarcity whenever this information has been given by the dealer listing the book.

Arrangement

Entries appear in a single alphabetical sequence, based on the name of the author: in cases of personal authorship, the author's last name; in cases of books produced by corporate bodies such as governments of countries or states, the name of that entity; in cases of anonymous books, the title; and in cases of anonymous classics such as *Arabian Nights*, the customary or well-known title. The editors have tried their best

to duplicate the sorting rules of the original volumes, but as these rules have changed over the years that BPI has been published, this has been a difficult task. Users are advised to check the listings for possible variants to ensure they find all appropriate entries.

Extensive efforts were made to standardize the names of authors so that all titles belonging to the same author appeared together. However, in compiling the original volumes of BPI covered herein, some inconsistencies appeared in the way authors' names were presented between volumes. The editors have brought as much consistency as possible to this index, but in certain cases, changing an author's name for the sake of consistency might have made it impossible for the user to find the entry in the original BPI volume. Therefore, some latitude is necessary when searching for a specific author.

Under the author's name, works are arranged in alphabetical sequence according to the first word of the title, excepting initial articles. References to the same title are grouped together unless such grouping would have made it difficult for the user to locate the entry in the original BPI volume. Different editions of a single work are arranged according to the date of publication, with the earliest dates first. If the date of publication is the same but the place of publication is different, these entries are then organized alphabetically by the place of publication. Bearing all of this in mind, it would be advisable for the users to scan the entire list of an author's works so as not to miss locating information for a specific title.

Sample Entry

The following sample illustrates the components of a typical entry:

11 DE QUINCY, THOMAS
12 *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*
13 Oxford **14** 1930 **15** V. 69, 70, 73

11 Author's Name

12 Title

13 Place of publication

14 Date of publication

15 Volumes of the BPI in which the complete descriptive entry for copies of this edition can be found.

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My thanks to Michael Reade, coordinating editor at Thomson Gale, and to his managing editor Theresa MacFarlane for their guiding hands throughout this project, and to Dana Pavelescu-McGrath and Marguerite Keys for their many hours of reviewing and correcting some 90,000 entries in order to bring consistency to the index.

Suggestions Are Welcome

Suggestions are always welcome. The index volume is, in part, a result of the suggestions of BPI users. The editors invite all comments, especially those that might improve the usefulness of Bookman's Price Index.

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