



Little Golden Books and Beyond

Children's Books in the University
Library

September 30, 2021

Nancy O'Brien

Head, Social Sciences, Health, and Education
Library

I ILLINOIS
University Library

Why are there children's books at the University?

- Children's and young adult books are used by the teacher preparation programs in the College of Education and the youth services programs in the School of Information Sciences that educate future librarians.
- Books are used to expose students to the wide range of resources available in their future careers as teachers and librarians.
- Books are explored as literacy tools to engage readers, including reluctant readers.
- Most colleges and universities with teacher education programs have children's book collections.

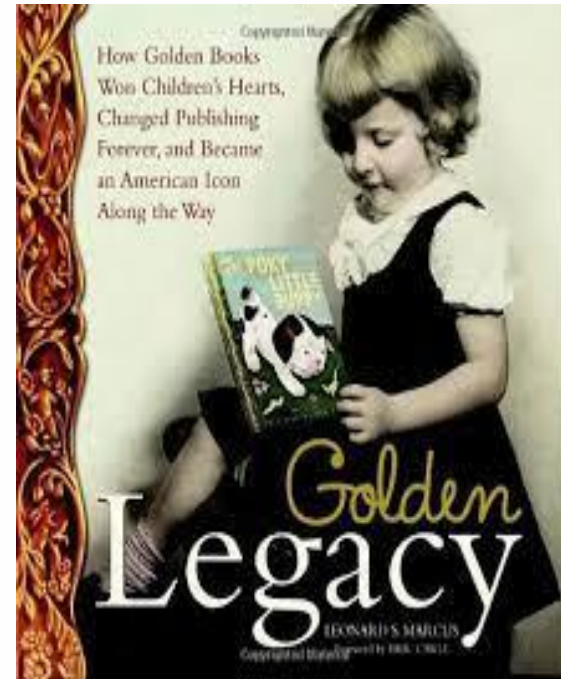
History of the children's books collection



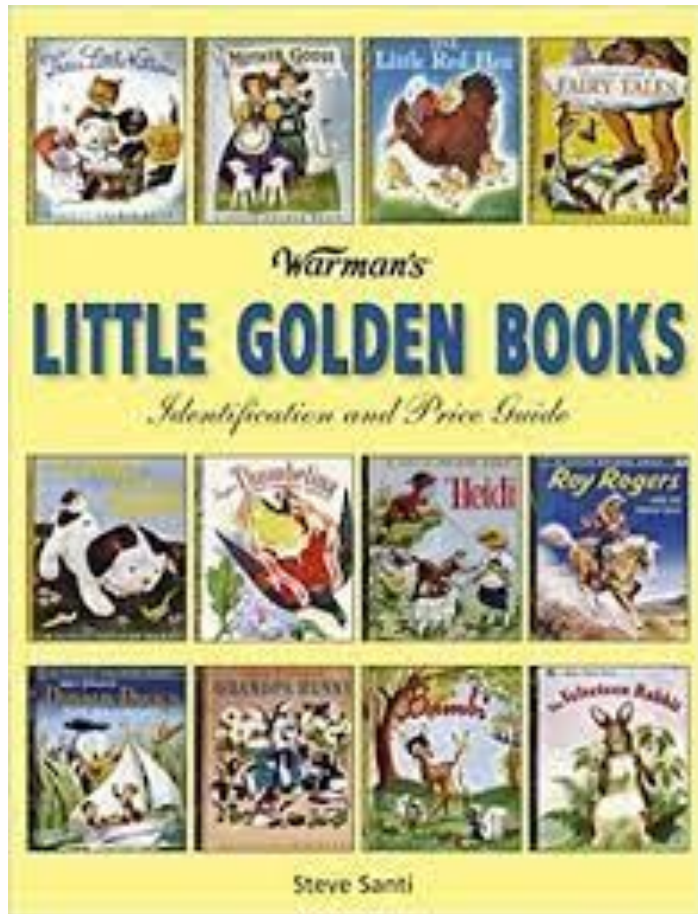
- The S-Collection (School Collection) was established in 1941. Its nucleus was from the Juvenile Collection, formed in the winter of 1905-1906, to serve the needs of the Library School's new courses in reading guidance for children and young adults.
- In 1941, the S-Collection Reading Room was opened to serve primarily the faculty and students of the Library School and the undergraduates in the colleges of Education and Liberal Arts registered for the teacher-librarian courses.

Collection History 1940s-1960s

From 1941 to 1944, the S-Collection Reading Room was under the administration of the Library School. In 1944, the University Library took over administrative activities, while retaining an advisory committee from the Library School.



Collection History 1940s-1960s



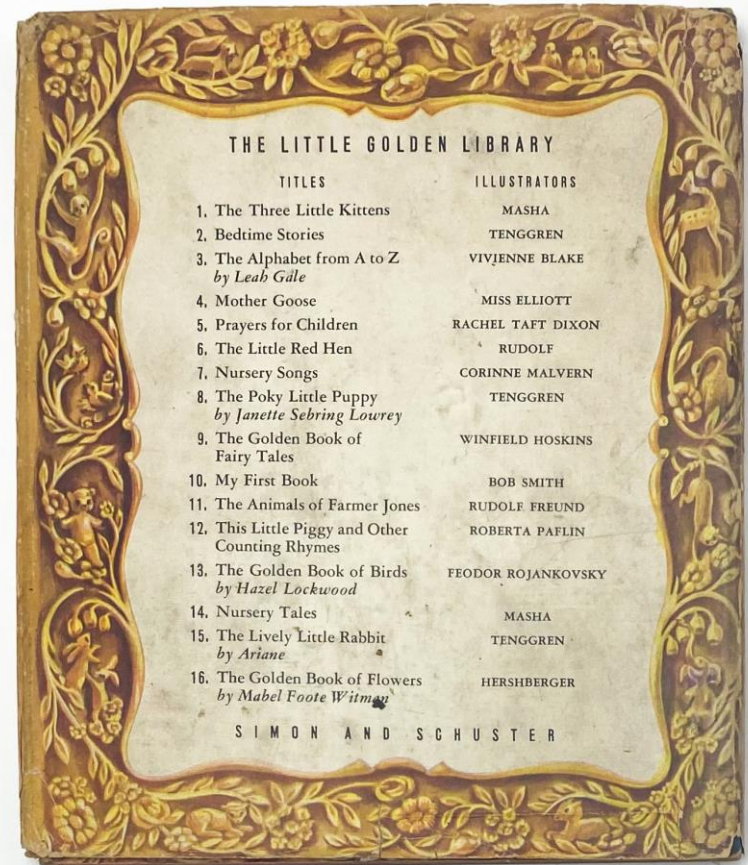
In 1948-49, the S-Collection was transferred to the Library Science Library. In 1964-65, due to space limitations in the Library Science Library, the S-Collection was transferred to the Social and Behavioral Sciences Library. Selection responsibilities were retained by the Library Science faculty until 1976.

Collection History 1980s to the present

- 1980: The S-Collection was consolidated to make room for the Curriculum Collection of K-12 school books transferred from the College of Education
- 1991: University of Chicago closed its Graduate Library School and its Center for Children's Books relocated to the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (now the iSchool)
- 1993: The UIUC Library was awarded the 58,000 volume collection of children's books from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL)
- 2019: Processing the CRL books completed

Size of Collection

- The S-Collection numbered 3,000 volumes at the time of its founding in 1941
- With the addition of books from CRL and annual acquisitions between 2,500 and 4,000 books, the current collection is over 184,000 books
- In 1995, Library of Congress held over 180,000 children's books, games, and other items. The UIUC collection numbered 43,000 books that year



Range of Publication Dates

- Includes books from 1800 to the present
- About half of the books currently are located in the Social Sciences, Health, and Education Library
- Older books (1800-1945) and pop-up books are located in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library locations
- Less frequently used books (1946-2020) are located in the Oak Street Library high-density storage facility

Collection Notables

Strengths of the collection include Aesop's fables, alphabet books, biographies of Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin, and fairy tales. Many of the major award winners are collected too.

Some authors are collected comprehensively based on recommendations from the children's literature faculty.

The Library has an incomplete collection of the Little Golden Books, but accepts donations of those and other similar series such as the Rand McNally Elf Books.





APPLE PIE



By KATE GREENAWAY

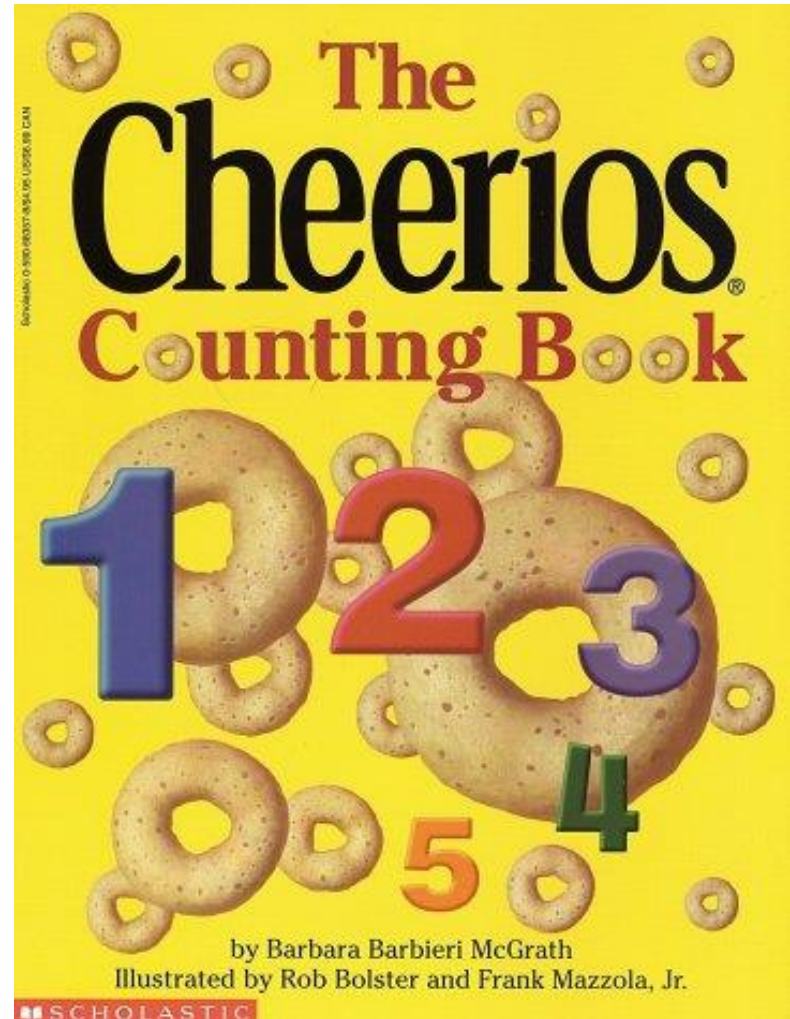
Highlights



By Samantha Berger • Illustrated by Ekaterina Zukhan

Strengths of the Collection

Unlike some of the other major children's literature collections that focus on author manuscripts or illustrations, or works of regional authors, the S-Collection's value lies in its depth and breadth. The S-Collection includes not only high quality, award winning books, but also less well-known books. Those are useful for historical researchers that want to get a true picture of books for children and the messages they send.



Little Golden Book Highlights

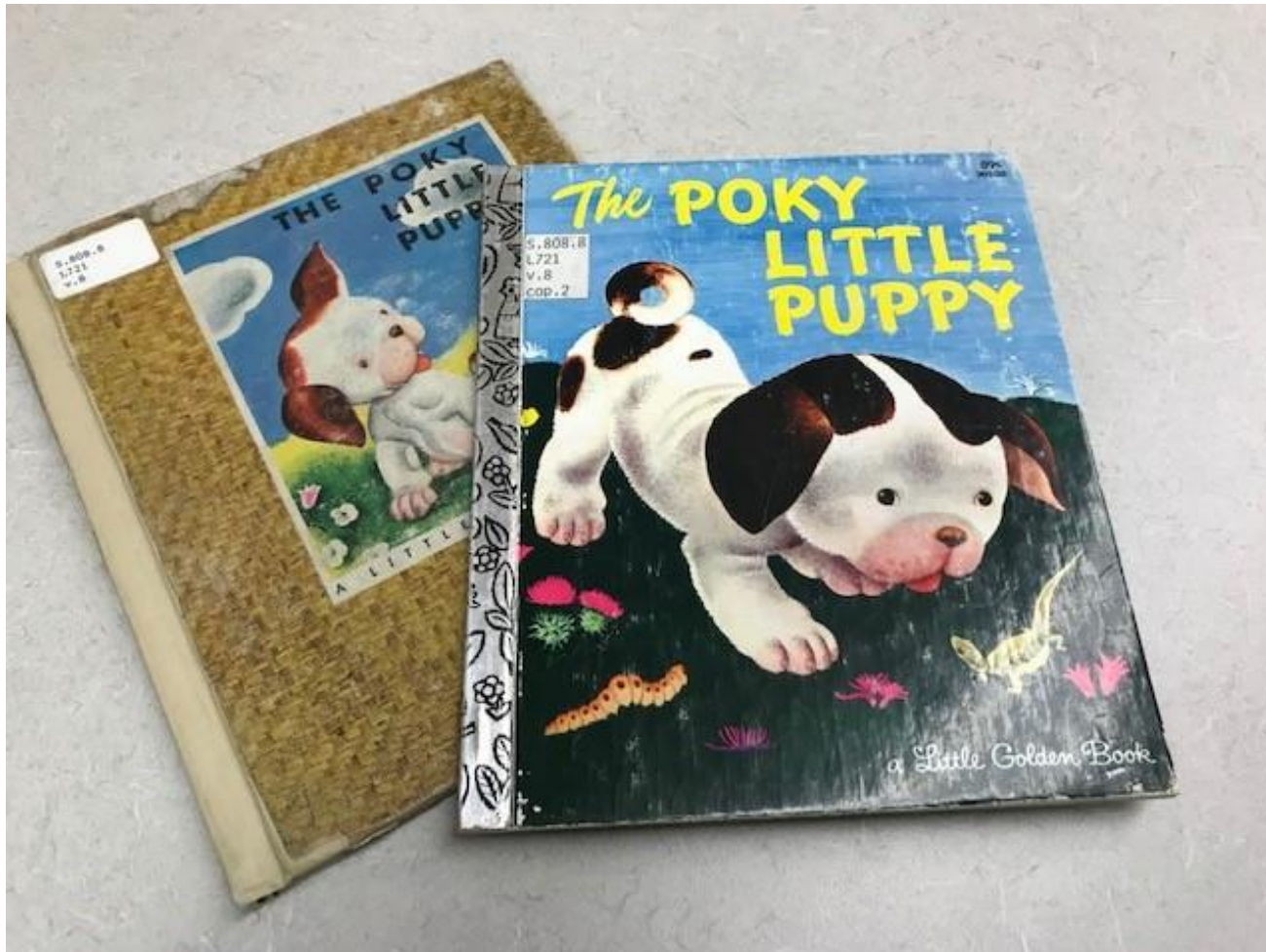
The Little Golden Books were prepared under the supervision of Mary Reed, Assistant Professor of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University

Illustrators were well known artists for Disney studios, eastern European refugees, and other very talented artists

Early Little Golden Books had dust jackets!



Library and Standard Binding



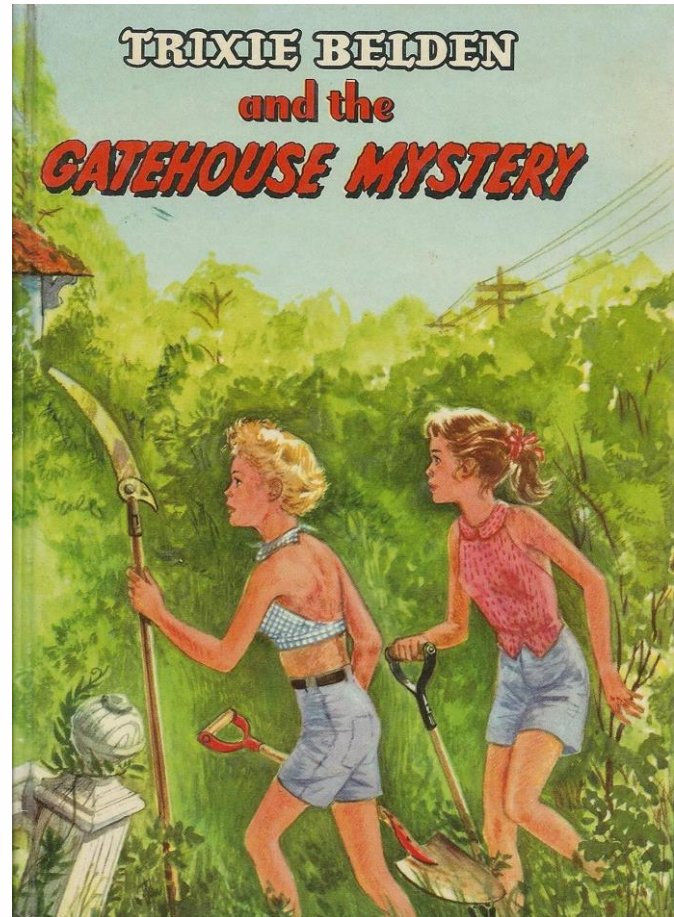
Series Books and Criticism

Series fiction remains popular.

The collection includes well-known series such as Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Dana Girls, Trixie Belden, Chip Hilton Sports Series, and more!

Current series are also acquired such as Matt Christopher's sports books and Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

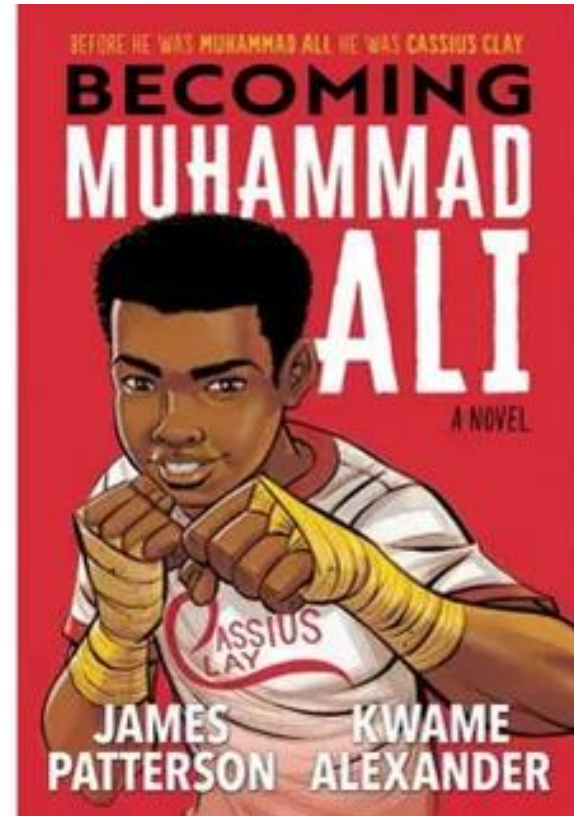
Popular fiction was often viewed poorly by teachers and librarians who favored classic literature in the first half of the 20th century.



Current Focus of Collection

Diverse literature to reflect society

Biographies to inspire, non-fiction to inform, and fiction to entertain or comfort, grow, and think critically.



Curriculum Collection

In 1980, the Library took ownership of the K-12 school book collection from the College of Education

In meetings with the teacher education faculty it became clear that both a current collection for practice and a historical collection for research were needed

The Library received a federal grant in 1987 to purchase and to accept donations of textbooks from other institutions such as Rutgers, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Nebraska. Many of these other libraries were downsizing and discarding collections. This project added extensive holdings to the Curriculum Collection, and the University Library at Illinois is still contacted for potential transfer of material.

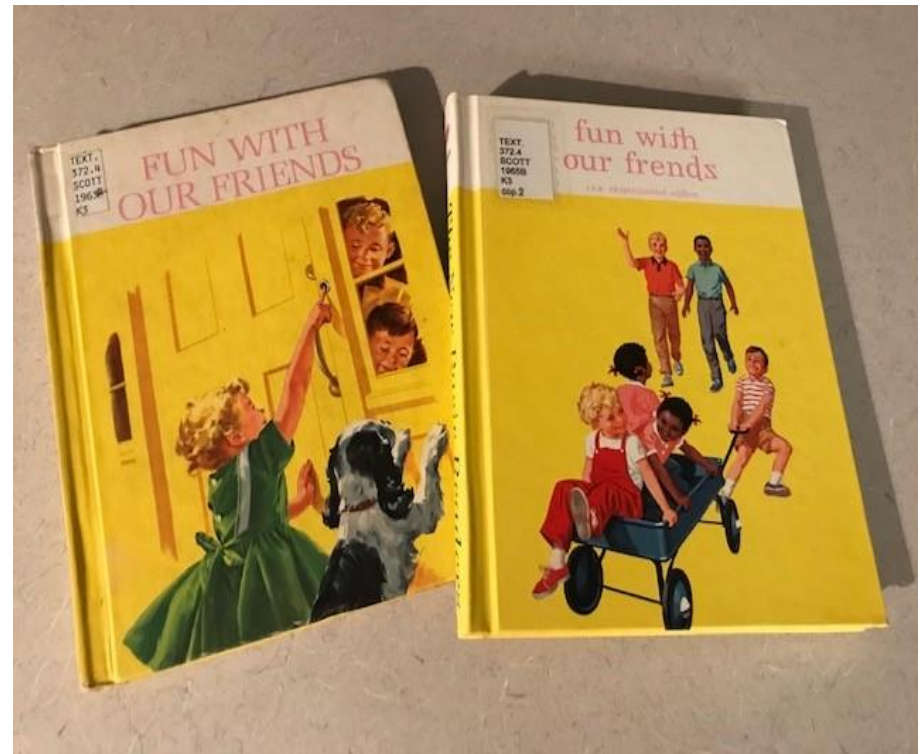
Curriculum Collection Highlights

- Researchers often ask for history textbooks to show how certain events and populations were portrayed
- Researchers have come from Brazil as well as other U.S. states to examine the textbook collection
- The Collection includes educational kits and games that are not held in any other libraries



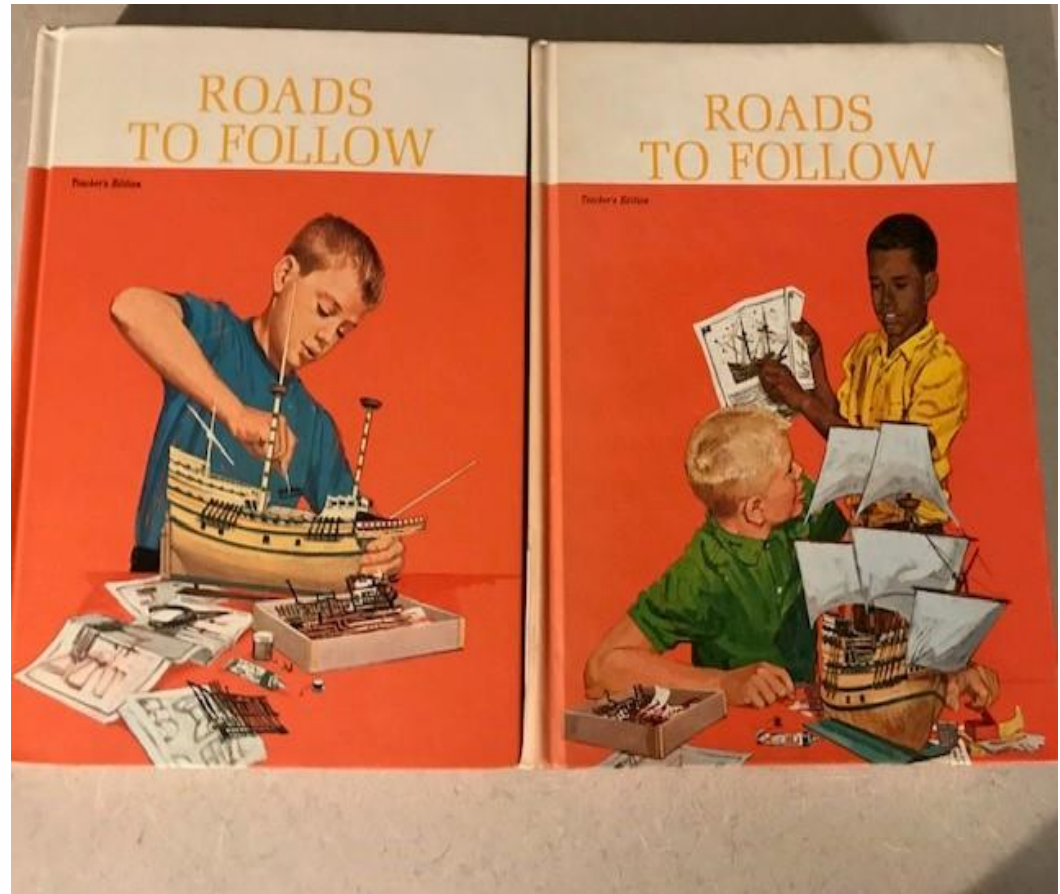
Dick and Jane Readers

- The *New Basic Readers* were published in multiple versions:
- The standard text familiar to many
- The *Cathedral Readers* for Catholic schools
- A multicultural edition for metropolitan areas
- An Initial Teaching Alphabet (i.t.a.) version that used a phonetic approach

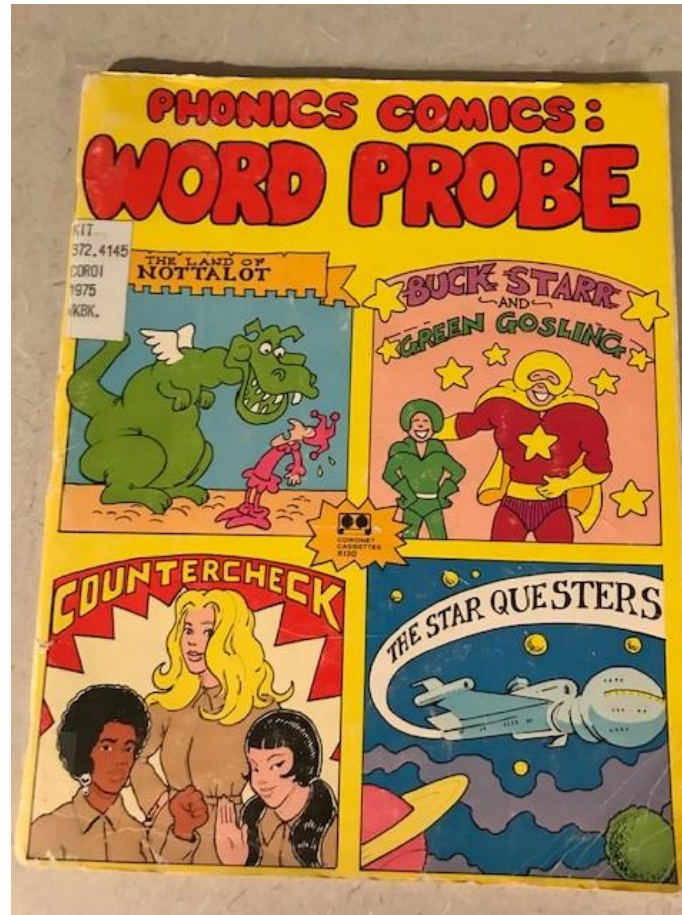


Multicultural Dick and Jane Readers

- The cover of this third grade reader shows differences in illustrations
- Most changes were to add characters from different ethnic and racial backgrounds and change names



Reflections of Teaching Trends



Donating Books!

Contact:

Nancy O'Brien

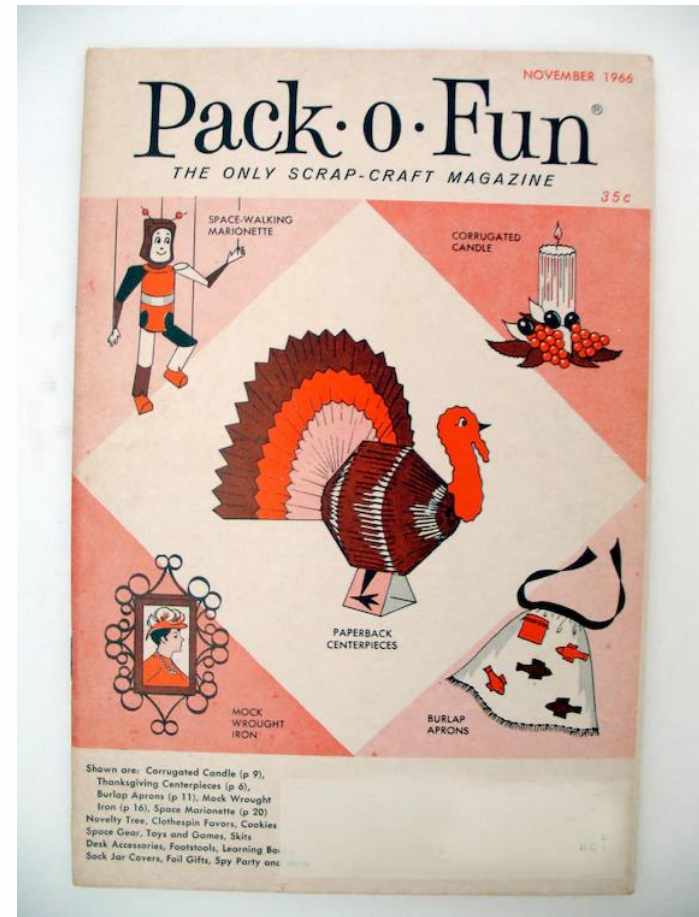
npobrien@illinois.edu

(email preferred)

Phone: 217-333-2408

Looking for:

- Pack-o-Fun handicraft books and booklets
- Children's encyclopedias, 1890s-1950s
- Boys and Girls Annuals
- More – please ask!



Sources

- A Apple Pie, by Kate Greenaway, 1900
- ABCs of Kindness, 2020
- America: Pathways to the Present, by Andrew Cayton, 2003
- Becoming Muhammad Ali, by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, 2020
- Cheerio's Counting Book, by Barbara McGrath, 1998
- Collections of Children's Literature
<https://www.library.illinois.edu/s-collection/research/collections/>
- A Day in the Jungle, by Janet Sebring Lowrey, (one copy has a dust jacket; the other is library binding), 1943
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's journal, by Jeff Kinney, 2007

More Sources

- Fun with our Friends (New Basic Readers), i.t.a. eksperimental edishon, 1965
- Fun with our Friends (New Cathedral Basic Readers), 1963
- Golden Legacy: The Story of Golden Books, by Marcus Leonard, 2017
- Match the Vowel [reading game], 1966
- Pack-o-Fun magazine, November 1966 issue
- Phonics Comics Word Probe, by Karl Koenke and Ray Cioni, 1975
- Poky Little Puppy, by Janet Sebring Lowrey, (library binding), 1942
- Poky Little Puppy, by Janet Sebring Lowrey, 1982 printing

Even More Sources!

- Roads to Follow (New Basic Readers), standard version, 1964
- Roads to Follow (New Basic Readers), multicultural version, 1965
- School Collection website <https://www.library.illinois.edu/s-collection/>
- Stories of Early American History, by Wilbur Gordy, 1913
- Trixie Belden and the Gatehouse Mystery, by Julie Campbell, 1954
- Warman's Little Golden Books: Identification and Price Guide, 2006
- Workers in our Neighborhood [educational game], 1967