

# A Remarkable Gift for Bibliophiles

Offering a window into some of the most beautiful and important books produced since the origins of the written word, a new book from DK discusses the vital importance of the book to human society

**Remarkable Books** published by DK

*Remarkable Books: The World's Most Beautiful and Historic Works* is an illustrated guide to more than 80 of the most celebrated, rare and historically important books, with discussions of their purpose, features and creators.

From ancient masterpieces such as *The Art of War*, written on the leaves of bamboo, to the stunningly illustrated *Birds of America*, to Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book*, *Remarkable Books* delves into the stories behind the most incredible tomes ever produced, offering an insight into their wider social and cultural context. The book is arranged chronologically into five eras (3000 BCE–999 CE, 1000–1449, 1450–1649, 1650–1899, 1900 Onward) to demonstrate the synergies between the growth in human knowledge and the bookmaking process.

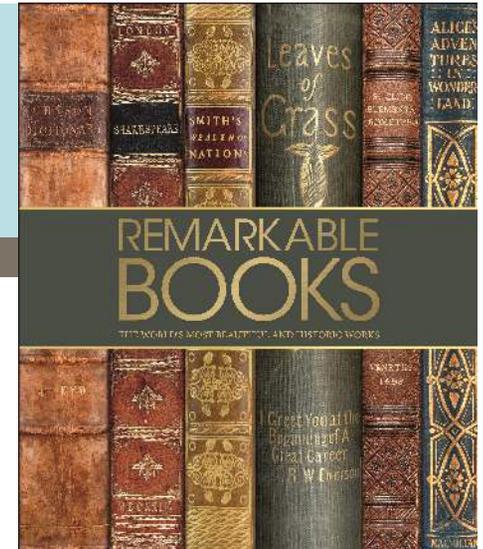
"A book is a remarkable thing. It can represent beauty, knowledge, ideas, freedom, and escapism," reads the preface. "The historic importance of the book cannot be overstated. . . . Neither the convenience and portability of the ebook, nor the infinite scope of the internet as a source of information, has been able to supersede the vital importance of the book to human society."

Many of the rare books photographed for *Remarkable Books* are from the collection of Jay Walker, founder of [Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com) and The Walker Library, a collection that contains some 20,000 volumes and hundreds of museum-level books, manuscripts, maps and artifacts.

The books examined in *Remarkable Books* include, among others:

- Ancient Egyptian Books of the Dead
- *Dead Sea Scrolls*
- *Book of Kells*
- *The Exeter Book*
- *Gutenberg Bible*
- Dante's *Divine Comedy*
- Machiavelli's *Il Principe*
- *Don Quixote*
- *Birds of America*
- *Silent Spring*
- Baedeker guidebooks
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- *The Pickwick Papers*
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
- *Le Petit Prince*

*Remarkable Books* explores each title both as a historical artifact and a vehicle of change, illustrating the impact that books have had on history and culture over the centuries. Every title is analyzed visually, with annotated details that draw out key elements, setting it in context and enabling readers to see it as its first readers would have.



## BOOK DETAILS

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9.875" x 11.875"

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## Story Ideas / Talking Points

- Books have served as the foundation stones that the world's great religions were built upon, great engines of medical knowledge, the medium by which scientists and philosophers introduced their ideas to the world, and an effective way of voicing protest. Today, 45 trillion pages are printed every day, accessible to billions of people.
- Once our most ubiquitous art form and source of information, books were valued as much for their physical beauty as for their historical, cultural and social significance. An understanding of the role of books throughout history is now more important than ever.
- What is the oldest complete printed document in the world?
- The shift from the papyrus scrolls and codices of Egypt to the wood block printed pages of China to Gutenberg's movable type in Germany
- Learn what scientific book has defied convention for more than a century
- Gift guides: This coffee table-worthy book is wrapped in a textured jacket with gold foil, making it a great gift for those with an interest in literature and art and design

## About the Contributors

**Michael Collins** is a graduate of the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archeology in Rome. His initial passion for books and writing stemmed from his interest in calligraphy. It was further fueled when he discovered that the *Book of Kells* was once owned by an ancestor, Bishop Henry Jones, who donated it to Trinity College Dublin in 1663. He has published books in 12 languages.

**Alexandra Black** studied business communications before embarking on a writing career. She is now a freelance author and writes on a range of subjects, from history to fashion.

**Thomas Cussans** is a freelance historian and author based in France and has contributed to numerous DK titles, including *History: The Definitive Visual Guide*.

**John Fardon** is an author, playwright, composer, and poet. He has written many international bestsellers such as *Do You Think You're Clever?*

**Philip Park** has studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International studies. He is a historian and critically acclaimed author.

## About DK

DK is the bestselling and award-winning publisher known for informing, entertaining, and educating global audiences through beautifully designed content. DK also publishes the Eyewitness series for children and Eyewitness Travel Guides. Prima Games, Alpha Books, and Rough Guides are also available from DK, a division of Penguin Random House. [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)

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