

The History of Books?

The history of books starts with the development of writing, and various other inventions such as paper and printing, and continues through to the modern day business of book printing. The earliest history of books actually predates what would conventionally be called "books" today and begins with tablets, scrolls, and sheets of Papyrus. Then hand-bound, expensive, and elaborate books, called codices, appeared. These gave way to press-printed volumes and eventually lead to the mass printed tomes prevalent today. Contemporary books may even have no physical presence with the advent of the e-book.

In Ancient Egypt, papyrus was used for writing maybe as early as from First Dynasty, but first evidence is from the account books of King Neferirkare Kakai of the Fifth Dynasty (about 2400 BC)

Papyrus books were in the form of a scroll of several sheets pasted together, for a total length of 10 meters or more. Some books, such as the history of the reign of Ramses III, were over 40 meters long.

Books rolled out horizontally; the text occupied one side, and was divided into columns. The title was indicated by a label attached to the cylinder containing the book. Many papyrus texts come from tombs, where prayers and sacred texts were deposited (such as the Book of the Dead, from the early 2nd millennium BC).

East Asia

Writing on bone, shells, wood and silk existed in China long before the 2nd century BC. Paper was invented in China around the 1st century AD. The discovery of the process using the bark of the blackberry bush is attributed to Ts'ai Louen the cousin of Kar-Shun which is the greatest singer in China like Mhang Khan-Nohr, but it may be older. Texts were reproduced by woodblock printing; the diffusion of Buddhist texts was a main impetus to large-scale production. The format of the book evolved with intermediate stages of scrolls folded concertina-style, scrolls bound at one edge ("butterfly books") and so on.

Pre-columbian codices of the Americas

In Mesoamerica, information was recorded on long strips of paper, agave fibers, or animal hides, which were then folded and protected by wooden covers. These were thought to have existed since the time of the Classical Period between the 3rd and 8th

centuries, CE. Many of these codices were thought to contain astrological information, religious calendars, knowledge about the gods, genealogies of the rulers, cartographic information, and tribute collection. Many of these codices were stored in temples but were ultimately destroyed by the Spanish explorers.

Currently, the only completely deciphered pre-Columbian writing system is the Maya script. The Maya, along with several other cultures in Mesoamerica, constructed concertina-style books written on Amatl paper. Nearly all Mayan texts were destroyed by the Spanish during colonization on cultural and religious grounds. One of the few surviving examples is the Dresden Codex.

Although only the Maya have been shown to have a writing system capable of conveying any concept that can be conveyed via speech (at about the same level as the modern Japanese writing system), other Mesoamerican cultures had more rudimentary ideographical writing systems which were contained in similar concertina-style books, one such example being the Aztec codices.

Wax Tablets

Romans used wax-coated wooden tablets or pugillares upon which they could write and erase by using a stylus. One end of the stylus was pointed, and the other was spherical. Usually these tablets were used for everyday purposes (accounting, notes) and for teaching writing to children, according to the methods discussed by Quintilian in his *Institutio Oratoria* X Chapter 3. Several of these tablets could be assembled in a form similar to a codex. Also the etymology of the word codex (block of wood) suggest that it may have developed from wooden wax tablets.

Parchment

Parchment progressively replaced papyrus. Legend attributes its invention to Eumenes II, the king of Pergamon, from which comes the name "pergamineum," which became "parchment." Its production began around the 3rd century BC. Made using the skins of animals (sheep, cattle, donkey, antelope, etc.), parchment proved easier to conserve over time; it was more solid, and allowed one to erase text. It was a very expensive medium because of the rarity of material and the time required to produce a document. Vellum is the finest quality of parchment.

Papermaking

Papermaking has traditionally been traced to China about AD 105, when Cai Lun, an official attached to the Imperial court during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD), created a sheet of paper using mulberry and other bast fibres along with fishnets, old rags, and hemp waste.

While paper used for wrapping and padding was used in China since the 2nd century BC, paper used as a writing medium only became widespread by the 3rd century. By the 6th century in China, sheets of paper were beginning to be used for toilet paper as well. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) paper was folded and sewn into square bags to preserve the flavour of tea. The Song Dynasty (960-1279) that followed was the first government to issue paper currency.

An important development was the mechanisation of paper manufacture by medieval papermakers. The introduction of water-powered paper mills, the first certain evidence of which dates to the 11th century in Córdoba, Spain, allowed for a massive expansion of production and replaced the laborious handcraft characteristic of both Chinese and Muslim papermaking. Papermaking centres began to multiply in the late 13th century in Italy, reducing the price of paper to one sixth of parchment and then falling further.

Middle Ages

By the end of antiquity, between the 2nd and 4th centuries, the scroll was replaced by the codex. The book was no longer a continuous roll, but a collection of sheets attached at the back. It became possible to access a precise point in the text directly. The codex is equally easy to rest on a table, which permits the reader to take notes while he or she is reading. The codex form improved with the separation of words, capital letters, and punctuation, which permitted silent reading. Tables of contents and indices facilitated direct access to information. This form was so effective that it is still the standard book form, over 1500 years after its appearance.

Paper would progressively replace parchment. Cheaper to produce, it allowed a greater diffusion of books.

Books in monasteries

A number of Christian books were destroyed at the order of Diocletian in 304 AD. During the turbulent periods of the invasions, it was the monasteries that conserved religious texts and certain works of Antiquity for the West. But there would also be important copying centers in Byzantium.

The role of monasteries in the conservation of books is not without some ambiguity:

Reading was an important activity in the lives of monks, which can be divided into prayer, intellectual

work, and manual labor (in the Benedictine order, for example). It was therefore necessary to make copies of certain works. Accordingly, there existed scriptoria (the plural of scriptorium) in many monasteries, where monks copied and decorated manuscripts that had been preserved.

However, the conservation of books was not exclusively in order to preserve ancient culture; it was especially relevant to understanding religious texts with the aid of ancient knowledge. Some works were never recopied, having been judged too dangerous for the monks. Moreover, in need of blank media, the monks scraped off manuscripts, thereby destroying ancient works. The transmission of knowledge was centered primarily on sacred texts.

Copying and conserving books

Despite this ambiguity, monasteries in the West and the Eastern Empire permitted the conservation of a certain number of secular texts, and several libraries were created: for example, Cassiodorus ('Vivarum' in Calabria, around 550), or Constantine I in Constantinople. There were several libraries, but the survival of books often depended on political battles and ideologies, which sometimes entailed massive destruction of books or difficulties in production (for example, the distribution of books during the Iconoclasm between 730 and 842). A long list of very old and surviving libraries that now form part of the Vatican Archives can be found in the Catholic...?

Encyclopedia.

A very strong example of the early copying and conserving books is that of the Quran. After Muhammad, his companion Abu Bakr, on the recommendation of Umar Bin Alkhattab, assigned Zayd bin Saabit to compile the first official scripture of the Quran. Zayd collected all the available scriptures of the Quran scripted by different companions of Muhammad during his life. He compiled one scripture and got it verified by all the companions who had memorized the whole book while Muhammad was alive. Then this first official scripture was kept at the house of Hafsa, the wife of the Muhammad. By the time of the third caliph Uthmaan, the Islamic state had spread over a large portion of the known world. He ordered the preparation of the official copies of the first official scripture. The copies were duly verified for accuracy. These copies were sent to each city of the caliphate so that further copies can be made locally with the perfect accuracy.

Contemporary era

During the [Enlightenment](#) more books began to pour off European presses, creating an early form of information overload for many readers.

Nowhere was this more the case than in Enlightenment Scotland, where students were exposed to a wide variety of books during their education.¹⁹

The demands of the [British and Foreign Bible Society](#) (founded 1804), the [American Bible Society](#) (founded 1816), and other non-denominational publishers for enormously large inexpensive runs of texts led to numerous innovations. The introduction of steam printing presses a little before 1820, closely followed by new steam paper mills, constituted the two most major innovations. Together, they caused book prices to drop and the number of books to increase considerably. Numerous bibliographic features, like the positioning and formulation of titles and subtitles, were also affected by this new production method. New types of documents appeared later in the 19th century: [photography](#), [sound recording](#) and [film](#).

[Typewriters](#) and eventually computer based word processors and printers let people print and put together their own documents. [Desktop publishing](#) is common in the 21st century.

Among a series of developments that occurred in the 1990s, the spread of digital multimedia, which encodes texts, images, animations, and sounds in a unique and simple form was notable for the book publishing industry. [Hypertext](#) further improved access to information. Finally, the [internet](#) lowered production and distribution costs.

E-books and the future of the book

It is difficult to predict the future of the book in an era of fast-paced technological change. Anxieties about the "death of books" have been expressed throughout the history of the medium, perceived as threatened by competing media such as radio, television, and the Internet. However, these views are generally exaggerated, and "dominated by fetishism, fears about the end of humanism and ideas of techno-fundamentalist progress". The print book medium has proven to be very resilient and adaptable.

A good deal of reference material, designed for direct access instead of sequential reading, as for example encyclopedias, exists less and less in the form of books and increasingly on the web.

Leisure reading materials are increasingly published in e-reader formats.

Although electronic books, or e-books, had limited success in the early years, and readers were resistant at the outset, the demand for books in this format has grown dramatically, primarily because of the popularity of e-reader devices and as the number of available titles in this format has increased. Since the Amazon Kindle was released in 2007, the e-book has become a digital phenomenon and many theorize that it will take over hardback and paper books in future. E-books are much more accessible and easier to buy and it's also cheaper to purchase an E-Book rather than its physical counterpart due to paper expenses being deducted. Another important factor in the increasing popularity of the e-reader is its continuous diversification. Many e-readers now support basic operating systems, which facilitate email and other simple functions. The iPad is the most obvious example of this trend, but even mobile phones can host e-reading software.

Anatomy of a Book: The Physical Parts

Author: [Barbara Doyen](#)

How to identify and define the interior parts of a published book, including the Dedication Page, Acknowledgements, Foreword, Preface, Appendix, Index and other matter?

We've all read so many books, that perhaps we feel we are well-acquainted with the many elements that go inside them. But are we, really? Let's identify and define the interior parts of a book.

What's Inside a Published Book?

Not all of these elements are in all published books, nor are they always in the order presented here.

Starting inside the front cover, let's take a tour. . .

End Papers:

Also called Leaves, these are the blank pages (perhaps with images) you find at the beginning and end of a book. They function to fill out the Signatures. Some books, particularly paperbacks, may not have End Papers.

An historical photograph illustrating a setting from the novel appears on the End Papers of *The Christmas Pearl* by Dorothea Benton Frank.

Half Title Page:

Only the book title appears on this page; the rest is blank space.

Other Books by the Author Page:

This optional list might appear on the opposite side of the Half Title page, or on its own page following the Half Title page or elsewhere.

Title Page:

The book title and the names of the author(s) and the publisher are found here. Additional information appears on the back side of this page: the copyright notice, the ISBN (the International Standard Book Number) and printing numbers, the publisher's address, the year the book was published, and the Library of Congress Catalogue information.

Dedication Page:

This optional element allows the author to dedicate the book to someone or something.

Meg Schneider and I chose to dedicate [The Everything Guide to Writing a Book Proposal: Insider Advice on how to Get Your Work Published](#) to our readers: "For authors everywhere, we offer these tools to help you in your pursuit of publication. May success attend your quest!"

Acknowledgements:

Here the author thanks people helpful in some way relative to the book: perhaps a writing instructor, the editor at the publishing house, the author's agent, a supportive spouse, etc. The Acknowledgements might follow the Dedication, the Table of Contents or even appear in the Back Matter, depending on the publisher's preference.

Sometimes the author says thanks by cleverly using the book's theme or images. For instance, in *The New Year's Quilt*, author Jennifer Chiaverini offers symbolic bottles of champagne to publishing professionals, party hats and noisemakers to her nanny, a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" to family

and friends, and a "sky full of fireworks for my husband, Marty, and my sons, Nicholas and Michael, for making every New Year the happiest yet."

Table of Contents:

Also known in the publishing industry as the TOC, the Table of Contents lists the individual chapters and the other elements found in the book plus the page where each begins. It's more typically found in nonfiction books than in novels.

List of Charts, Diagrams, Photos or Illustrations:

If included, this might follow the TOC to further detail the book's contents.

Foreword:

A special kind of introduction that offers supportive information relevant to the book, the Foreword is written by someone other than the book's author.

Preface:

Written by the book's author, the Preface contains important information relating to the book topic, but outside of the book's contents.

For example, in *The Gift*, the Preface (here called the Author's Note) is where Richard Paul Evans reveals that he has Tourette's syndrome.

Front Matter:

All the pages up to this point are called the Front Matter. The page numbering is done in Roman numerals or some other system that differs from the Body pagination.

Introduction:

The author gives the reader more details about the book in this optional section. In trade nonfiction books, the Introduction may be an informal "Dear Reader" letter getting the reader excited about the information presented, inviting the reader inside the book and giving an overview of the book's contents. The pagination starts here.

Body or Chapters:

This refers to the text of the book, which is usually broken down into chronologically numbered and named elements called Chapters.

In nonfiction books each chapter may be divided into sub-titled segments which may be included in the TOC.

In fiction, the chapters might contain segments called Scenes; these are separated by blank space within the text. They are usually not referenced in the TOC.

In both fiction and nonfiction, chapters might be grouped together and labeled as Part 1, Part 2, etc.

Back Matter:

All the pages appearing after the body of the book are called the Back Matter; they are usually included in the pagination of the Book Body.

Afterword:

Any additional information for the reader to know after having read the book goes here.

For example, a nonfiction crime book might include an update about how the victims are doing or the result of an appeal.

Appendices:

Nonfiction books may have one or more Appendix listing recommended books, websites, organizations, or other resources relating to the book topic. Fiction only occasionally has an Appendix. For example, *The Christmas Pearl* includes recipes for the food mentioned throughout the novel.

Glossary:

Usually found in nonfiction books, this section lists vocabulary words and their definitions as they relate to the book's subject matter.

Bibliography:

Lists the references used in writing the book.

Index:

Usually in nonfiction books, the Index is an alphabetical list of significant terms found in the text and the pages they appear on, helpful to someone seeking specific information in the book.

Author Bio or Biography:

A sentence, paragraph or even a page about the author.

End Papers or Leaves: (see above.)

How to Identify and Define the Different Parts of a Published Book

We all are aware that a book is a collection of printed pages bound together and surrounded by a cover. But there is more to a book than that. Let's take a closer look at the elements that go into making a published book.

Starting from the outside**Dust Jacket:**

This is a paper that wraps around the cover of a hardback book, with ends folded inside the book itself. The original idea was to protect the cover, which might have been made of fine leather and linen cloth, from dust and scratches. Now the jacket might be more important than the cover, as it is designed by an artist to be eye-catching and to project a conscious and subconscious message about the contents.

Front cover:

On a hardback book, the actual cover sans dust jacket might be rather plain. It is likely made of paper-covered cardboard rather than leather and linen. On a paperback, the front cover takes the place of the dust jacket as a sales piece to communicate information about the book. As such, it is designed by an artist and usually printed in full color.

Spine:

This is the left side of the book (in the West) where the pages are bound. It is often the only part of the book that is visible in the bookstore where most books are shelved, rather than displayed face out. The spine usually contains the book's title (but maybe not the subtitle), at least the last name of the author, and the publisher's identity, usually by including their logo because there is not enough room for their company name or imprint.

Back cover:

Further sales information about the book is found on the flip side of the book, on either the dust jacket or the back paperback cover. Included here might be the author bio and photo, further sales info about the contents of the book, advance critical acclaim for the book or endorsements of the book or the author.

Signatures:

Quality hardback books are made up of several signatures that are sewn together to create the whole book. You can see these if you examine the page edges at the top or bottom of the book spine. A signature is a portion of the book with the number of pages being a multiple of 16. Each signature is bound individually, and then all are bound together collectively. If the text of the book does not run into an even multiple of 16 pages, the publisher might add blank pages at the front and back of the book to fill out the signatures for printing purposes.

Fancy End Paper:

On a quality hard cover book, the paper glued inside the front cover and back cover might be a heavier weight and either printed with a design or perhaps dipped into oil paint floated on water and then stirred to make a swirled design.

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