

christmas carol first edition

Christmas Carol First Edition: A Treasure for Collectors and Literature Enthusiasts

The **Christmas Carol first edition** is one of the most sought-after and celebrated collectibles in the world of literary memorabilia. Published in 1843, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" has become a timeless classic that has significantly influenced Christmas traditions worldwide. The rarity, historical significance, and cultural impact of the first edition make it a prized possession for collectors, bibliophiles, and historians alike. In this article, we explore the origins of the first edition, its physical characteristics, value, and tips for collectors interested in acquiring this literary gem.

Understanding the Significance of the Christmas Carol First Edition

Historical Context of Its Publication

Published on December 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol" was Charles Dickens' sixth Christmas book and marked a turning point in Victorian literature. Dickens aimed to promote charitable giving and compassion through his novella, and its timely publication resonated deeply with the societal values of the era. The first edition played a crucial role in shaping Christmas as a family-centered holiday filled with goodwill and festive cheer.

Why the First Edition Matters

The first edition of "A Christmas Carol" holds immense importance for several reasons:

- **Rarity and Collectibility:** With limited copies printed initially, the first edition is a rare artifact.
- **Historical Significance:** It reflects Victorian attitudes, printing techniques, and Dickens' own history.
- **Cultural Impact:** The story's influence on Christmas traditions makes the first edition a symbol of holiday history.

Physical Characteristics of the First Edition

Publication Details

The first edition was published by Bradbury and Evans in London. It was issued in a limited run of

approximately 6,000 copies, making it relatively scarce compared to modern publications.

Book Design and Features

The first edition of "A Christmas Carol" possesses distinctive physical traits:

- **Format:** 28 pages, with seven illustrations by John Leech.
- **Binding:** Originally issued in publisher's original cloth binding, often in green or brown.
- **Size:** Approximately 8.5 inches by 5.5 inches.
- **Typography:** Set in Garamond type, with decorative initial letters.
- **Illustrations:** Seven full-page engravings by John Leech, which are highly regarded and contribute to the book's aesthetic appeal.

Variations Within the First Edition

Collectors often look for specific variants:

- Publisher's bindings (original cloth vs. later rebinding)
- Dust jackets (extremely rare for the first edition)
- Binding colors and styles
- Proof copies or annotated editions

Valuation and Rarity of the First Edition

Factors Affecting Value

The value of a first edition can vary widely based on:

- Condition: Mint or near-mint copies fetch higher prices.
- Completeness: Presence of original binding, dust jacket, and illustrations.
- Edition Variants: Early impressions or those with printing errors can be more valuable.
- Provenance: Ownership history can increase desirability.

Price Range for Collectors

As of 2023, a well-preserved first edition of "A Christmas Carol" can range from:

- \$20,000 to \$75,000 for copies in excellent condition
- Higher prices for copies with rare features or provenance
- Lower prices for damaged or rebound copies

Notable Sales and Records

Some copies have sold for over \$100,000 at auction, especially those with historical significance or unique features.

How to Identify a Genuine First Edition

Key Indicators

To authenticate a first edition, consider:

- **Publisher's imprint:** Bradbury and Evans, 1843.
- **Page numbering:** Correct pagination matching the first impression.
- **Illustrations:** Seven original John Leech engravings.
- **Binding and cloth:** Original publisher's cloth with specific design features.
- **Printing features:** Specific typographical details unique to the first impression.

Consultation with Experts

Given the rarity and potential for forgeries, it's advisable to:

- Seek appraisal from reputable rare book dealers or auction houses.
- Verify provenance and authenticity through documentation.
- Cross-reference with bibliographies such as "The Works of Charles Dickens" by his publisher or bibliographic guides.

Collecting Tips and Preservation

Where to Find a First Edition

Sources include:

- Rare book auctions
- Specialized antiquarian bookstores
- Online rare book marketplaces
- Book fairs and literary festivals

Preservation and Care

Proper preservation ensures the longevity of your collectible:

1. Store in a climate-controlled environment, away from direct sunlight.
2. Use acid-free storage boxes or protective covers.
3. Handle with clean, dry hands or gloves to prevent damage.
4. Keep away from moisture, heat, and pests.
5. Have the condition professionally assessed and maintained.

Conclusion: The Enduring Appeal of the First Edition

The **Christmas Carol first edition** remains one of the most cherished literary collectibles, embodying the enduring legacy of Dickens' work and the cultural significance of Christmas. Whether viewed as a financial investment, a historical artifact, or a treasured piece of literary history, owning a first edition offers a tangible connection to the story that has warmed hearts for nearly two centuries. For collectors and enthusiasts alike, the hunt for an authentic first edition can be a rewarding journey filled with fascination, discovery, and a deeper appreciation of Dickens' timeless masterpiece.

Interested in acquiring a first edition? Always ensure thorough research and expert consultation to authenticate and preserve this precious literary treasure.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes a first edition of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens particularly valuable to collectors?

A first edition of 'A Christmas Carol' is highly sought after because it marks the original publication of Dickens's beloved story, often featuring unique bindings, illustrations, and the original printing details that can significantly increase its value among collectors.

How can I identify a genuine first edition of 'A Christmas Carol' from 1843?

To identify a genuine first edition, check for the original publisher's details on the title page, look for the 1843 publication date, examine the binding and illustrations, and consult reputable guides or experts to verify features such as the presence of the original cloth binding and any publisher's advertisements included.

Are first editions of 'A Christmas Carol' still affordable for collectors today?

While first editions can be quite valuable and expensive, especially if in good condition, some early copies with minor flaws or less desirable bindings may be more affordable, making it possible for dedicated collectors to acquire a first edition at varying price points.

What are some notable differences between the first edition of 'A Christmas Carol' and later editions?

The first edition typically features unique illustrations by John Leech, specific binding styles, and original publisher's advertisements. Later editions may have different cover designs, updated illustrations, or textual revisions, and often lack the original publisher's advertisements present in the first edition.

Where can I find authentic first editions of 'A Christmas Carol' for sale or display?

Authentic first editions can be found through rare book dealers, auctions, reputable online marketplaces specializing in rare books, or at specialized libraries and institutions that handle rare and antique books. Always verify authenticity through expert appraisal before purchasing.

Christmas Carol First Edition

christmas carol first edition: Part I: a Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 2021-11-23 Part I: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

christmas carol first edition: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Richard Gimbel, 1956

christmas carol first edition: A Christmas Carol 1843 Charles Dickens, 1843-12-18 A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843 and illustrated by John Leech. A Christmas Carol recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man. Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions, including carols, and newer customs such as Christmas trees. He was influenced by the experiences of his own youth and by the Christmas stories of other authors, including Washington Irving and Douglas Jerrold. Dickens had written three Christmas stories prior to the novella, and was inspired following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged School, one of several establishments for London's street children. The treatment of the poor and the ability of a selfish man to redeem himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. There is discussion among academics as to whether this is a fully secular story, or if it is a Christian allegory.

christmas carol first edition: *A Christmas Carol* Charles Dickens, 2020-12-07 Charles Dickens' classic story about a greedy old man learning the error of his ways by several ghosts on Christmas. This book has the text from the first edition.

christmas carol first edition: A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 2021-10 This luxurious foil-embossed hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original illustrations. First published on 19 December 1843, A Christmas Carol became an instant classic. Scrooge's transformation from grumpy miser to charitable figure carries a heart-warming message for the Christmas season - a time of peace and goodwill to all men. This deluxe edition makes a wonderful gift or collectible for adults and children alike.

christmas carol first edition: The Earliest State of the First Edition of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Richard Gimbel, 1983*

christmas carol first edition: The First Editions of the Writings of Charles Dickens and Their Values John C. Eckel, 1913

christmas carol first edition: Catalogue of First Editions of Esteemed Authors and Book Illustrators of the XIXth Century Maggs Bros, 1908

christmas carol first edition: *First Editions of the Works of Esteemed Authors of the XIXth and XXth Centuries* Maggs Bros, 1918

christmas carol first edition: A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 2003-03-12 Emerging from Dickens's preoccupation in the early 1840s with issues of poverty, ignorance, and cruelty, this classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, visited by four ghosts on Christmas Eve, was first published in 1843 to strong reviews and popular success. The Broadview edition uses the first edition with original drawings by John Leech. This edition also includes Washington Irving's descriptions of English Christmas customs; essays by Dickens on Christmas, and his essay "A Walk in a Workhouse"; a British government report on the lives of child labourers; a speech by Dickens on the importance of educating the poor; selected letters; contemporary reviews; and a listing of film, television, and radio adaptations of the book.

christmas carol first edition: Annotated Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 2004 The celebrated annotator of *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has now prepared a sumptuous new edition of the Dickens classic.

christmas carol first edition: A New York Collection of First Editions, Autograph Letters

& Relics of Lord Byron Anderson Galleries, Inc, 1925

christmas carol first edition: *Antiques* , 1922

christmas carol first edition: A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN PROSE BEING A Ghost Story of Christmas BY CHARLES DICKENS Original First Edition (Illustrated) Charles Dickens, 2020-12-03 A Christmas Carol is one of Charles Dickens' most loved books - a true classic and a Christmas must-read.- Ebenezer Scrooge is a mean, miserable, bitter old man with no friends. One cold Christmas Eve, three ghosts take him on a scary journey to show him the error of his nasty ways. By visiting his past, present and future, Scrooge learns to love Christmas and the people all around him.- External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty.

christmas carol first edition: *A Catalogue of Books in English Literature and History* Bernard Quaritch (Firm), 1915

christmas carol first edition: A Catalogue of Books Consisting of English Literature and Miscellanea Elihu Dwight Church, 1909

christmas carol first edition: *Notes and Queries* , 1866

christmas carol first edition: Notes and Queries: a Medium of Inter-communication for Literary Men, Artists, Antiquaries, Genealogists, Etc , 1892

christmas carol first edition: The Magnificent Library of A.S. Whiton...embracing a Very Important Collection of First Editions of Thackeray, Dickens, Lover & Lever, Many in the Original Parts as Issued, & in the Original Cloth A. S. Whiton, 1911

christmas carol first edition: Sotheran's Price Current of Literature Henry Sotheran Ltd, 1905

Related to christmas carol first edition

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843, first edition, red and green title This is only known copy of A Christmas Carol with the title-page printed in green and red inks and dated 1843. All other known copies of the green/red title-pages (acknowledged to be a pre

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Whitmore Rare Books Dickens' most beloved Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is made to see the dangers and consequences of his

A Christmas Carol: A Faithful Reproduction of the Original First This luxurious foil-embossed hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original full-colour illustrations

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, First Edition - AbeBooks This Oxford Children's Classic contains the complete unabridged text of A Christmas Carol and other Christmas stories written by Charles Dickens. It also features an introduction by Neil

A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 for sale | eBay Get the best deals for A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 at eBay.com. We have a great online selection at the lowest prices with Fast & Free shipping on many items!

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Rare and Antique Books Rare first edition of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, in prose, being A Ghost Story of Christmas with illustrations by John Leech. Chapman & Hall 1843

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Burnside Rare An excellent copy of the classic Christmas story, rare in the original cloth. Written by Dickens during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions,

A Christmas Carol | CHARLES DICKENS | FIRST ISSUE, FIRST STATE The result, written at white heat, was A Christmas Carol: in Prose, published by Chapman and Hall on 19 December as a handsomely bound little volume with four hand-coloured illustrations

A Christmas Carol - The First Edition Rare Books Inspired by a troubling parliamentary

commissioner's report on the working conditions for children in factories and mines, Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 to show the average

A Christmas Carol - Wikipedia A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843, first edition, red and green title This is only known copy of A Christmas Carol with the title-page printed in green and red inks and dated 1843. All other known copies of the green/red title-pages (acknowledged to be a pre

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Whitmore Rare Books Dickens' most beloved Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is made to see the dangers and consequences of his

A Christmas Carol: A Faithful Reproduction of the Original First This luxurious foil-embossed hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original full-colour illustrations

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, First Edition - AbeBooks This Oxford Children's Classic contains the complete unabridged text of A Christmas Carol and other Christmas stories written by Charles Dickens. It also features an introduction by Neil

A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 for sale | eBay Get the best deals for A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 at eBay.com. We have a great online selection at the lowest prices with Fast & Free shipping on many items!

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Rare and Antique Books Rare first edition of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, in prose, being A Ghost Story of Christmas with illustrations by John Leech. Chapman & Hall 1843

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Burnside Rare An excellent copy of the classic Christmas story, rare in the original cloth. Written by Dickens during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions,

A Christmas Carol | CHARLES DICKENS | FIRST ISSUE, FIRST STATE The result, written at white heat, was A Christmas Carol: in Prose, published by Chapman and Hall on 19 December as a handsomely bound little volume with four hand-coloured illustrations

A Christmas Carol - The First Edition Rare Books Inspired by a troubling parliamentary commissioner's report on the working conditions for children in factories and mines, Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 to show the average

A Christmas Carol - Wikipedia A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843, first edition, red and green title This is only known copy of A Christmas Carol with the title-page printed in green and red inks and dated 1843. All other known copies of the green/red title-pages (acknowledged to be a pre

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Whitmore Rare Books Dickens' most beloved Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is made to see the dangers and consequences of his

A Christmas Carol: A Faithful Reproduction of the Original First This luxurious foil-embossed hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original full-colour illustrations

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, First Edition - AbeBooks This Oxford Children's Classic contains the complete unabridged text of A Christmas Carol and other Christmas stories written by Charles Dickens. It also features an introduction by Neil

A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 for sale | eBay Get the best deals for A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 at eBay.com. We have a great online selection at the lowest prices with Fast & Free shipping on many items!

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Rare and Antique Books Rare first edition of Charles

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, in prose, being A Ghost Story of Christmas with illustrations by John Leech. Chapman & Hall 1843

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Burnside Rare An excellent copy of the classic Christmas story, rare in the original cloth. Written by Dickens during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions,

A Christmas Carol | CHARLES DICKENS | FIRST ISSUE, FIRST STATE The result, written at white heat, was A Christmas Carol: in Prose, published by Chapman and Hall on 19 December as a handsomely bound little volume with four hand-coloured illustrations

A Christmas Carol - The First Edition Rare Books Inspired by a troubling parliamentary commissioner's report on the working conditions for children in factories and mines, Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 to show the average

A Christmas Carol - Wikipedia A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843, first edition, red and green title This is only known copy of A Christmas Carol with the title-page printed in green and red inks and dated 1843. All other known copies of the green/red title-pages (acknowledged to be a pre

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Whitmore Rare Books Dickens' most beloved Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is made to see the dangers and consequences of his

A Christmas Carol: A Faithful Reproduction of the Original First This luxurious foil-embossed hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original full-colour illustrations

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, First Edition - AbeBooks This Oxford Children's Classic contains the complete unabridged text of A Christmas Carol and other Christmas stories written by Charles Dickens. It also features an introduction by Neil

A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 for sale | eBay Get the best deals for A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 at eBay.com. We have a great online selection at the lowest prices with Fast & Free shipping on many items!

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Rare and Antique Books Rare first edition of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, in prose, being A Ghost Story of Christmas with illustrations by John Leech. Chapman & Hall 1843

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Burnside Rare An excellent copy of the classic Christmas story, rare in the original cloth. Written by Dickens during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions,

A Christmas Carol | CHARLES DICKENS | FIRST ISSUE, FIRST STATE The result, written at white heat, was A Christmas Carol: in Prose, published by Chapman and Hall on 19 December as a handsomely bound little volume with four hand-coloured illustrations

A Christmas Carol - The First Edition Rare Books Inspired by a troubling parliamentary commissioner's report on the working conditions for children in factories and mines, Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 to show the average

A Christmas Carol - Wikipedia A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843

Dickens, A Christmas Carol, 1843, first edition, red and green title This is only known copy of A Christmas Carol with the title-page printed in green and red inks and dated 1843. All other known copies of the green/red title-pages (acknowledged to be a pre

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Whitmore Rare Books Dickens' most beloved Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is made to see the dangers and consequences of his

A Christmas Carol: A Faithful Reproduction of the Original First This luxurious foil-embossed

hardback presents Charles' Dickens best-loved tale A Christmas Carol, presented with gilded page-edges and original full-colour illustrations

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, First Edition - AbeBooks This Oxford Children's Classic contains the complete unabridged text of A Christmas Carol and other Christmas stories written by Charles Dickens. It also features an introduction by Neil

A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 for sale | eBay Get the best deals for A Christmas Carol First Edition 1843 at eBay.com. We have a great online selection at the lowest prices with Fast & Free shipping on many items!

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Rare and Antique Books Rare first edition of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, in prose, being A Ghost Story of Christmas with illustrations by John Leech. Chapman & Hall 1843

A Christmas Carol | Charles Dickens | First edition - Burnside Rare An excellent copy of the classic Christmas story, rare in the original cloth. Written by Dickens during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions,

A Christmas Carol | CHARLES DICKENS | FIRST ISSUE, FIRST STATE The result, written at white heat, was A Christmas Carol: in Prose, published by Chapman and Hall on 19 December as a handsomely bound little volume with four hand-coloured illustrations

A Christmas Carol - The First Edition Rare Books Inspired by a troubling parliamentary commissioner's report on the working conditions for children in factories and mines, Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843 to show the average

A Christmas Carol - Wikipedia A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as A Christmas Carol, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843

Related to christmas carol first edition

Christmas Stories: A Christmas Carol - Collector's Edition (Kotaku11y) All the Latest Game Footage and Images from Christmas Stories: A Christmas Carol - Collector's Edition Go off on a Christmas journey through time and space to help Scrooge, and fill his flawed and

Christmas Stories: A Christmas Carol - Collector's Edition (Kotaku11y) All the Latest Game Footage and Images from Christmas Stories: A Christmas Carol - Collector's Edition Go off on a Christmas journey through time and space to help Scrooge, and fill his flawed and

On this day in history, December 19, 1843, Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol' (FOX 5 Atlanta1y) "A Christmas Carol," a globally celebrated timeless tale of heartwarming human redemption crafted as a haunting holiday ghost story, was published in London on this day in history, Dec. 19, 1843

On this day in history, December 19, 1843, Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol' (FOX 5 Atlanta1y) "A Christmas Carol," a globally celebrated timeless tale of heartwarming human redemption crafted as a haunting holiday ghost story, was published in London on this day in history, Dec. 19, 1843

Related Articles

- [i am number four four](#)
- [townscape by gordon cullen](#)
- [john and janet books](#)

[Back to Home](#)