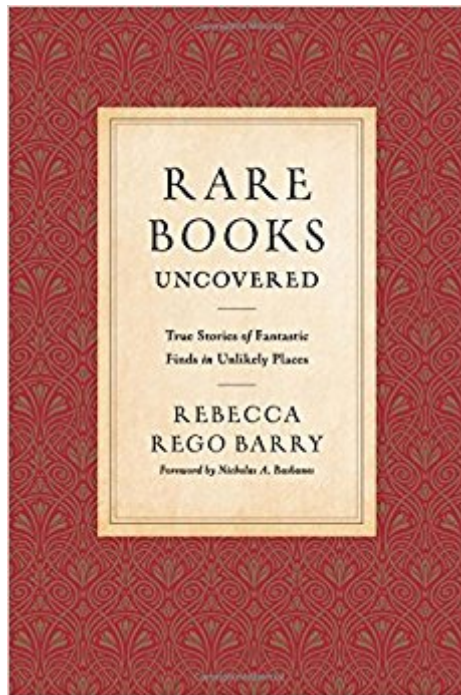


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# Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories Of Fantastic Finds In Unlikely Places



## Synopsis

Feed your inner bibliophile with this volume on unearthed rare and antiquarian books. Few collectors are as passionate or as dogged in the pursuit of their quarry as collectors of rare books. In *Rare Books Uncovered*, expert on rare and antiquarian books Rebecca Rego Barry recounts the stories of remarkable discoveries from the world of book collecting. Read about the family whose discovery in their attic of a copy of *Action Comics No. 1*--the first appearance of Superman--saved their home from foreclosure. Or the Salt Lake City bookseller who volunteered for a local fundraiser--and came across a 500-year-old copy of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*. Or the collector who, while browsing his local thrift shop, found a collectible copy of *Calvary in China*--inscribed by the author to the collector's grandfather. These tales and many others will entertain and inspire casual collectors and hardcore bibliomaniacs alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The stories are of spectacular interest. It gets three stars for that. The remaining two stars are not awarded for the distracting elements in the writing and printing. 1) The script (font) chosen is distracting. Yes, its stylish, but the number 1 (one) is rendered like the upper case I. Dates look like eye-925, and eye-nineteen-twenty-eye, and eye-nineteen-eye-eye. 2) The author refers to "old and rare bookshops" when you know she must mean old and rare book shops. The books are what's old and rare. The shops are neither. 3) Parenthetical insertions (too many, too often). They're not necessary (and distracting!) They go beyond style to annoyance (not cute when there's one in nearly every paragraph!) The author is an editor at *Fine Books & Collections* magazine. Surely she

must know a good proof reader and book designer. 'Should have used 'em.

An amazing collection of biblio-finds, also called "sleepers" and "brags," stories of amazing books found in the oddest of places or gotten for the cheapest of prices. The author, Rebecca Rego Barry, has done yeoman service in collecting these yarns for those of us who thrive on such tales. My only regret is that I didn't wait till Christmas to open the package, but I guess I could rewrap the book, open it on Christmas morning, and delight in this fabulous book all over again.

Headlines featuring someone coming across a rare and valuable book in an unlikely place spur our interest and excite our greed. For some, who seek out rare books in unlikely places, this is a business. Ms. Barry, knowledgeable and realistic, repeatedly warns that the success rate is very low and most successes are measured in hundreds not hundreds of thousands of dollars. Still, the thought of finding an unappreciated gem in an attic, barn, or derelict house is exciting. The author has collected interesting stories often featuring interesting people. Your personal favorites will likely turn on how much the book found appeals to you. Has or will the internet change all of this? The experiences here suggest only methods will be changed. It is important to remember that luck will carry the collector only so far: knowledge is crucial for success.

"Rare Books Uncovered" is a book that bibliophiles will enjoy time and again as it collects stories of rare finds in the world of book collecting. It contains a foreword by eminent bibliophile, Nicholas A. Basbanes (whose books on book-collecting are a must-read), followed by chapter after delightful chapter on the most amazing finds and acquisitions of rare books and manuscripts, not only by chance, but also by book collectors' penchant for sniffing out a rare gem. As an amateur collector myself (though I have yet to unearth a truly rare find, I consider some of my acquisitions to be well-worth the effort), I found these stories entertaining and inspiring. The chapters can be read in order or selected at will - with intriguing chapter titles like "A Textbook Turned Lipstick Blotter", "Mark Twain Stashed in a Barrel", "Mendelssohn, for a Song" and more, this is a book that will warm any bibliophile's heart and continue to entertain for ages.

This book, especially a few of the anecdotes, perfectly captures what book scouting is about. I have examples where my experiences closely match those that the author has recounted in these stories. Locking the door to your office as you get a chance to take your first close look at what could be a great score; other times just setting it aside in a bag for a few days/weeks/years because you

DON'T want to look at it due to what you think will be your inevitable disappointment; hanging around in auctions in non-air-conditioned warehouses in the oppressive heat...As with most books of this kind, they are padded with vignettes of lesser quality, particularly when the author includes multiple tales regarding ephemera (diplomas, tickets, playing cards and the like). But overall I found the book very entertaining, and very insightful into the world of book scouting.

A really interesting read about finding really, really rare books in unlikely places. Very inspiring for a wanna-be rare book collector. There's something for everyone in here, from 500-year-old illustrated manuscripts to first editions of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Loved it!

What a "rare" treat to read this collection of stories of rare book finds. Not being a collector of books myself, I appreciated the brief description and/or definition of common words or phrases that us common folk wouldn't know. I found the stories very interesting, anxiously anticipating what would be discovered and what the estimated worth was. It also reminded me how precious classic literature is in preserving those significant eras in history. I'll tell you one thing...I will forever be inclined to open up that "old" book and check the edition or whether it is inscribed inside!

As a voracious reader and long-time personal bibliophile, I found this book to be a fantastic read. While being both well-written and in-depth, it was also a page turner. My only problem was that I finished it too quickly! I've some of my own personal experience walking through cobweb-covered aisles in book barns and sorting through \$.25 bins at yard sales looking for some long-forgotten and misplaced 1st edition, so reading about those lucky few who were able to uncover a hidden gem was quite enjoyable. I'd recommend this to even the most casual collector and am eagerly anticipating the author's next release.

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