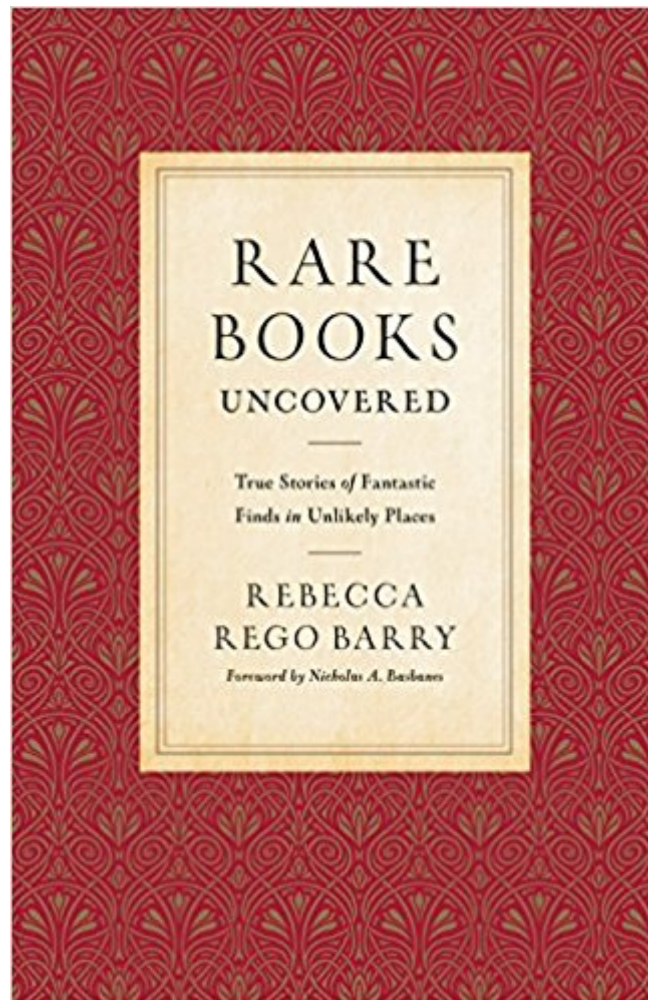




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# Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories Of Fantastic Finds In Unlikely Places



## 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

"...a welcome gift for a passionate reader or collector." - *Washington Post*"Barry shows that for serious collectors, getting to know a book is like getting to know a person, with all of the attendant quirks and mysteries that the analogy implies." - *The Washington Free Beacon*"Barry (editor, *Fine Books & Collections*) compiles a lovely collection of stories from veteran book collectors and dealers about their most exciting or memorable finds. Invoking the patriarch of bibliophilia with an introduction by author Nicholas A. Basbanes, Barry carries an overarching message of hope, as espoused in the subtitle: that rare books can be found almost anywhere. And the stories bear that out. From a historic document in a stifling attic that saved a museum to a simple discovery of a

signed first edition at a flea market, items end up in the most curious places. Garage sales, estate sales, even library book sales can hold treasures. Added to that are notes and definitions of common terms, suggestions for further reading, and other advice that make this a perfect primer for anyone interested in book collecting. There is also much talk about the profession and avocation of book collecting; anyone considering rare book dealing will get career counsel. While many other works have been written about book collecting, they are mostly autobiographical exploits - few will give newbies such an introduction. Verdict Novice and veteran bibliophiles alike." - Library Journal

"Rebecca Rego Barry's Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places is one of the finest books about books ever written." - American Book Collecting

"Rare Books Uncovered celebrates books, collectors, and the thrill of the hunt" - Victoria Magazine

Rebecca Rego Barry is the editor of Fine Books & Collections magazine. She has written about books for Preservation, the Barnes & Noble Review, The Awl, the Daily News/Page Views, American Libraries, Publishers Weekly, and many other periodicals, as well as WAMC Northeast Public Radio. She is Victoria magazine's 2014 Writer-in-Residence. Rebecca has been in the book business for over 15 years. After graduating from Syracuse University with degrees in English and Journalism, she joined the venerable publishing house of Simon & Schuster in New York. She moved on to Drew University, completing a masters degree in book history and serving as the preservation and archives associate in charge of the university's archives. She later completed postgraduate courses in archives and special collections at Drew University, the American Antiquarian Society, and the University of Virginia's Rare Book School. After relocating to the Hudson Valley, she spent a year as a reference librarian at Marist College before joining Fine Books & Collections.

Nicholas A. Basbanes is an author and America's foremost historian of books and book culture. Among his nine published books are the acclaimed *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* and *On Paper: The Everything of Its Two Thousand Year History*. In addition to his books, Mr. Basbanes has written for The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Smithsonian, and many other periodicals. He and his wife Constance live in Massachusetts.

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.

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!

I absolutely loved this book! It was exciting to read about how people were able to uncover valuable and rare books. The stories were just great and it really is true that you never know WHAT you might run across when you are a dedicated book hunter. Fun!

"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 is a delightful series of anecdotes about the ones that DIDN'T get away. Ms. Barry also gives hope to all of us who haunt church book sales and the dusty shelves in the backs of those remaining used and rare shops. There are still treasures to be found and Ms. Barry has offered a series bedtime tales that offer sweet dreams.

A great compilation of amazing book finds. I have heard a lot of these stories previously and it is great to have them all under one cover. Every booklover wishes he or she had a similar experience. The author's love of the subject comes through on every page.

This book of vignettes about discovering books is humorous, informative, and perfect for the bibliophile. In the tradition of Basbanes, Rebecca Rego Barry brings books and their discovery to life.

Interesting stories. Great for all of those rare book hunters out there.

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