

UNDERSTANDING “OLD BOOKS”

Are you new to collecting vintage, rare, or antique books? There are many factors in how “vintage/rare” books are evaluated and priced, and we hope this helps you understand and make your book adventure exciting. Our “vintage/rare” books in the shop and online are very genre specific to “Occult” topics. So, we will focus on that specifically.

The occult, in the broadest sense, is a category of esoteric supernatural beliefs and practices which generally fall outside the scope of religion and science, encompassing phenomena involving otherworldly agency, such as magic and mysticism and their varied spells. It can also refer to supernatural ideas like extra-sensory perception and parapsychology. The term occult sciences were used in 16th-century Europe to refer to astrology, alchemy, and natural magic.

A “rare” book can mean several things however, here are a couple simple factors: There are not many physical copies available because not many were made (or have been destroyed over the years), or there are a lot of copies, but few available for sale in nice condition and it’s in high demand.

An Obscure book is (for example) self-published or few were made. The topic may be extremely specific, and it may also be unknown by the masses. In our shop, obscure books are exciting and often have unique information in them that was not mass printed. It may also be books on personal experiences of an individual of the past.

Pricing of “Occult” books fluctuates as much as the stock market does right now. Due to the topic popularity and the ongoing love for “Old-Books”, we often re-appraise our books 1-2 times per year. The price of a book has many factors however here are a few: The rarity of the book. The demand for a particular author. The extreme age of the book. Does it have its original dust jacket. First editions (this varies a lot). Demand for original, unaltered information. And the overall collectability of the book....to name a few. As of 2022/2023 there is a strong possibility that the “antique occult” book you buy now will maintain its value or go up in value. This does not typically concern the buyer because they plan on keeping it indefinitely.

Rare and antique book collecting is an enjoyable experience, and you often get access to information that has been removed or “watered-down” in modern books. Old occult books speak in a very matter of fact and unemotional way that is very engaging. In some situation, modern reprints don’t contain all the information that the original book may have had.

We carefully hand curate our books from all over the world. It’s a very time-consuming process. We hope you enjoy collecting and reading information of the past as much as we do! Enjoy!