

Introduction

the final year used in this listing.

In 1990 the city of publication listed on title pages was changed from Roslyn, NY to Port Washington, NY.

Beginning with those volumes we have assigned to 1993 the city of publication was moved again, to Woodbury, NY, and the imprint changed from "Published for the Detective Book Club by Walter J. Black, Inc." to simply "The Detective Book Club". It is very likely that the club had ceased operations in 1992 (there are just 4 volumes containing titles with copyright dates reaching 1992), and was restarted in 1994 or 1995. There is a brief mention in *Publishers Weekly*³ of "the Detective Book Club, recently resurrected by Platinum Press in Woodbury" .

Book Club First Editions?

The club reprinted recent mysteries. In this checklist the publisher of the edition being reprinted, and its year of publication, are listed after each title. Occasionally a book that was published two years previously will be included, and sometimes titles will be included when the original publisher is reissuing books in hardcover, but in general they did not mine publishers' backlists. Sometimes, however, the club seemed to publish concurrently with the trade publisher; and in a few cases they published the first US edition of a title.

The main example of first American editions from the book club are the books by the English writer Roy Vickers. Someone in the selection committee of the Detective Book Club must have been a Vickers fan; of the 12 Vickers titles that appear from the club, 5 were first US publications.

Several titles were published only by the Detective Book Club, including *The Famous McGarry Stories* by Matt Taylor (1958), and *Columbo and the Samurai Sword* by Bill Magee and Craig Schenck (1980).

The Big Blackout by Don Tracy (1959) preceded a paperback original from Pocket Books, as did *The Black Gold Murders* by John B. Ethan (1959). *Murder On Trial* by Michael Underwood was issued by the club in December, 1957; its official US publication date was February, 1958.

A possibly more interesting (because more collectible) example is Agatha Christie's *Blood Will Tell*, issued by the club in January 1952. The official Dodd, Mead publication date (as *Mrs. McGinty's Dead*) was February 1952⁴. The British publication date was March 1952 so a case could be made that the Detective Book Club printing is its true first edition.

³October 20, 1997, Volume 244, Issue 43 p.49

⁴*Publishers Weekly* December 28, 1951. p.9.

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Citation Example

1978.01 January **4586710**
MacDonald, John D. *One Fearful Yellow Eye.* 1977 Lippincott
Ferrars, E.X. *The Pretty Pink Shroud.* 1977 Doubleday.
Wetering, Janwillem van de. *The Japanese Corpse.* 1977 Houghton Mifflin.

The citations are ordered by year, and by month when month is known. Promotional volumes appear at the end of the year to which they are assigned.

The number at the beginning - 1978.01 above - is used in the indexes to reference a specific volume. These numbers are only useful within the context of this checklist. In the above example, "1978" identifies the year to which the volume is assigned. "01" in this case corresponds to the month, but that will only occasionally be true; it breaks down completely when multiple volumes are issued in any month. When no month is known then order within a year becomes arbitrary (other than for those promotional volumes listed at the end of listings for the year). In a few cases a change in publisher or location or cover design allows a year's volumes to be partially ordered. There are rare cases where a month of issue after 1983 can be independently determined.

The number at the right on the top line is the WorldCat id. WorldCat (www.worldcat.org) is a consolidated database of library catalogs from around the world; A WorldCat id has been identified for nearly every citation in this listing, as part of the verification process. It can be used to retrieve a catalog entry for each of the volumes; often these carry additional details, such as pagination.

The remainder of the listing consists of the three titles included in the volume. Each line contains the author, title, and then the year and publisher of the regular edition being reprinted. Occasionally the club's title will differ from that of the original publisher. Note also that date and publisher are not necessarily that of the first American edition; sometimes the club would pick up re-issues. John D. MacDonald is a good example of that practice; some of his books were paperback originals. *A Deadly Shade of Gold* was published by Fawcett paperbacks in 1965; issued in hardcover by Lippincott in 1974 and by the Club in January of 1975.

Publisher names change a good deal over time; occasionally they are given in somewhat abbreviated form, but where space allows the full name of the publisher has been preserved. Elizabeth Daly, in these listings, was published four times by Farrar & Rinehart. Farrar left (to form Farrar & Straus) and Day's remaining seven titles appeared from Rinehart. Rinehart eventually merged into Holt, Rinehart & Winston. All three forms of Rinehart appear many times in these listings.