

Rare Books and Special Collections Worksheet

You will turn in this worksheet on March 19, or you may scan it in and include it with your submission of Reflective Essay 1 on Blackboard.

Questions to Consider

(Note: not all questions may be relevant to your book)

1. What is the title?

2. Who is the author?

3. Are there other people associated with this book?
 - a. Editor
 - b. Translator
 - c. Is the book dedicated to someone?
 - d. Did a person or group approve publication?

4. What is the call number?

5. When and where was the book published?
 - a. Publisher (look for “printed for”)
 - b. Printer (look for “printed by”)
 - c. Bookseller (look for “sold at”)
 - d. Date/Year
 - e. Location

6. What is the size of the book? What does the book size suggest (larger books tend to be used for reference; smaller books tend to be used for everyday reading, etc.)?
 - a. Folio: 15” tall (or larger)
 - b. Quarto (4to): up to 12” tall
 - c. Octavo (8vo): up to 9 ¾” tall
 - d. Duodecimo (12mo): up to 7 ¾” tall

7. Can you find evidence that this book was ever read? Can you tell anything about former owners of this copy of the book or how or when this copy of the book came to Mizzou?
 - a. Marginalia: handwritten notes, scribbles, etc.
 - b. Bookplates: pasted papers with owner's name(s), usually in the front cover
8. What is the binding made from? (Paper, Leather? Marbled paper on boards?)
9. What sort of paper is inside? Heavy or thin? Yellowed or bright?
10. What sort of text and typeface is inside? Is it large or small? Easy to read or difficult?
11. Is the book illustrated? If so, are they in color or black and white? Do they appear to be printed or hand-drawn? How do the illustrations relate to the text?
12. Who is the intended audience for this copy of the book?
13. What parts or aspects of this book seem familiar? What parts seem different or strange?
14. What else would you like to know about this book, and how would you go about finding out more about it?
15. Any other notes, observations, or questions?