

Discworld Monthly

An Idiots Guide To Identifying Discworld Novel First Editions.

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1 Introduction

This is the first in a series of guides that will eventually cover how to identify 1st editions of all of Terry Pratchett's books.

Identifying a true 1st edition is not easy for new collectors as different publishers use different methods. It all makes it difficult to work out if your book is a true first edition or not. So I decided it was time to write an idiot's guide (because I am an idiot and if I can work it out from this guide then everyone can!)

1st editions are generally published in the author's home country. In the case of Terry Pratchett that is the UK. So your book needs to be a UK edition. There is one exception to that rule but you will discover that later.

Some of the information in the document was collated from Colin Smythe's website <http://www.colinsmythe.co.uk/> the information remains copyright Colin Smythe. Colin doesn't object to people using parts of his site if credit is given.

What is a True 1st Edition?

Well this bit is simple... a true 1st edition is the first printing of a book anywhere for distribution to the masses. Often you will see that someone has a 1/1 of a book. It means its a 1st edition / 1st impression aka a true 1st edition.

Impression vs Printing.

Actually it means the same thing. When you see “2nd impression” or hear someone talk about the “2nd printing” it means the 2nd time the book has been printed (the book being exactly the same as it was when it was first printed). I used the term impression throughout these guides.

You can get 1st editions that are on their 7th, 9th or even 20th impression. The number eg 7th impression, just means it is the 7th print run.

*Terminology ... “1/1” means a true 1st edition/1st impression
“1/X” means a 1st edition/ X Impression (X=number)

2nd or New Editions

Publishers produce a new edition when something has significantly changed within the book. It could be a new introduction or added illustrations. Usually when its a new edition, the new edition will have a different ISBN to the 1st edition. There is no “Solid” rule on this though.

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Hardbacks

Generally all 1st editions are hardback books, however, there are some exceptions in the Discworld Novel collection which I will talk about later in this guide.

Slip-cased, Deluxe and Limited Editions

Somebody in a publishing house somewhere ¹ decided that a slip-cased edition of *The Colour of Magic* would be a good way to celebrate 21 years of the Discworld. They were right of course, and it spawned a whole new set of books for people to collect. For the purpose of this guide, we are treating Slip-cased / Deluxe and Limited editions as a separate collection as there are very limited numbers of each of them in circulation but for most cases they were published at the same time as the general mass market releases of the books.

Here is a list ² of them for completeness.

The Colour of Magic

- Numbered and signed (1,000 copies)

The Last Hero

- Deluxe Edition (2,000 copies)

Thud!

- Numbered and signed (1,000 copies). 12 unnumbered copies lettered A-L, were *hors de commerce*, supplied to the author and his agent and contains the latter's initial by the letter. A further eight copies were retained by the publishers. We know of one copy that is not signed or numbered / lettered.

Wintersmith

- Numbered and signed (1,000 copies)

Making Money

- Numbered and signed (2,500 copies)

Unseen Academicals

- Numbered and NOT signed (3,000 copies)

I shall wear Midnight

- Numbered and NOT signed (2,500 copies)

Snuff

- Numbered and NOT signed (2,000 copies)

Raising Steam

- Numbered and NOT signed (1,000 copies)

The Shepherd's Crown –

- ¹ It might have been somebody in a publishing house or it may have been an agent or even an author or a PA that thought it was a good idea and although we could ask some of those people, we couldn't be bothered because we thought you might like a footnote.
- ² Lists ... because we are a little compulsive about lists and we know you are too.

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- Limited slip-cased edition - numbered and NOT signed (5,000 Copies)
- Deluxe Collector's edition - numbered and stamped by Rob Wilkins (500 copies)

BCA (Book Club Associates) Editions

BCA editions are never first editions. They are often referred to as Book Club Editions. They are smaller and have less pages than the usual mass market release because the font size is smaller. They are made of cheaper paper and cheaper binding materials. The only exception to this is the Unseen Library editions which are half leather bound.

You can identify BCA editions in several ways (some or all will apply):

- The letters BCA appearing on the bottom of the spine.
- A CN number on the barcode and on the copyright page instead of an ISBN.
- “This edition published by BCA” shown on the copyright page.
- BCA written on the title page.

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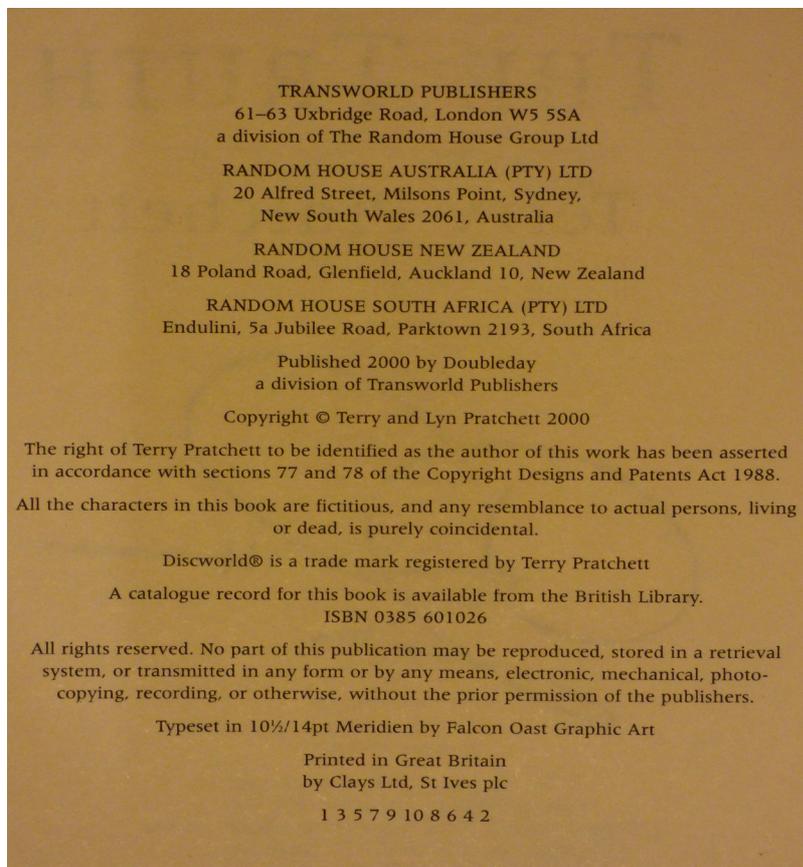
2 How do you tell if its a 1st Edition / 1st Impression aka a True 1st Edition?

Different publishers use different methods and even over time they change methods. Here is the Discworld Monthly (DWM) foolproof way to tell if yours is a true 1st.

First off you need to find the copyright page.

This page contains the information that will tell you what edition and impression it is.

It can look a bit like this one...



Copyright page of The Truth

Found it in your book? Good, now go back to the Table of Contents in this document, locate the name of your book and go to the relevant page. Good Luck! I hope yours is a true 1/1!

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3 The Colour of Magic

UK or US Edition? Which came out first?

This was what Colin Smythe (Terry's agent) told me about it.

'Simultaneous publication in the UK and USA was intended but St Martin's sent out copies to booksellers which were sold prior to publication (21?October 1983 has been mentioned)'

What this means is that the US edition actually hit the shops before the UK edition which means the US edition is the true 1st edition!

USA Hardback

US 1st Edition

Cover illustration by Alan Smith

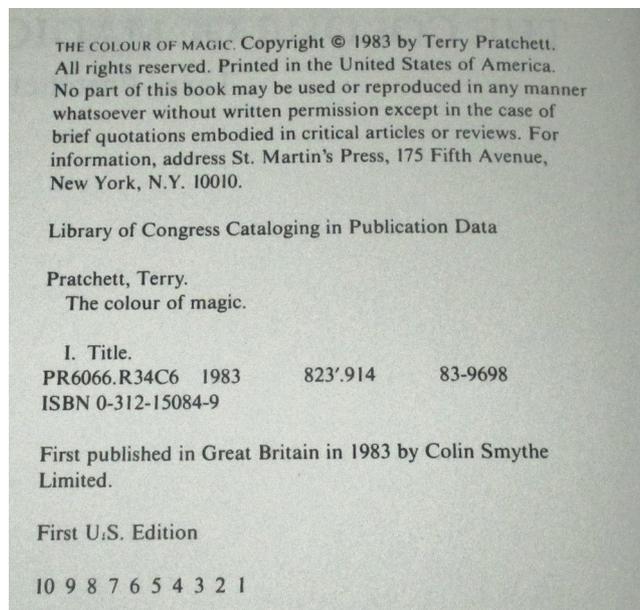
206 pages

St Martin's Press on spine

4,000 copies

Publishing date is 21?/10/1983

ISBN 0-312-15084-9



The Colour of Magic US 1st edition / 1st impression

If your copy has the exact same thing printed in it, congratulations you have a TRUE 1st edition/1st impression.

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Rarest of the Rare

At least two copies were evidently bound containing the Smythe bookblock and the St Martins Press casing and jacket. DO check your St Martins Press US edition ... If it has a UK Copyright page, then let us and Colin Smythe know. It's the rarest of rare books!

UK Hardback

The Colour of Magic published by Colin Smythe

Cover illustration by Alan Smith

206 pages

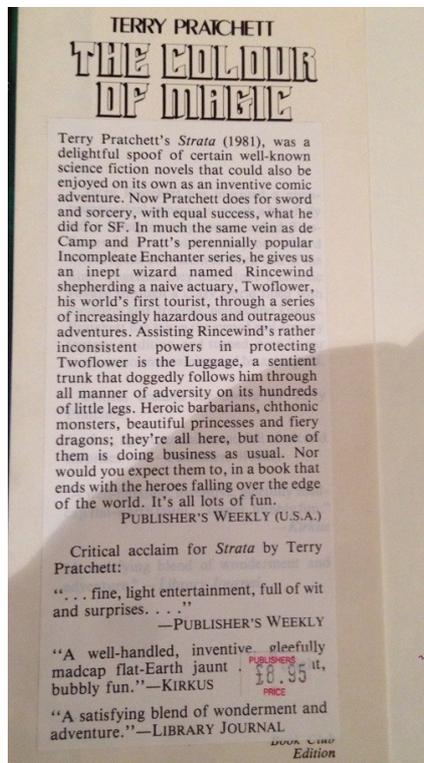
Colin Smythe Publishing logo on spine

506 copies

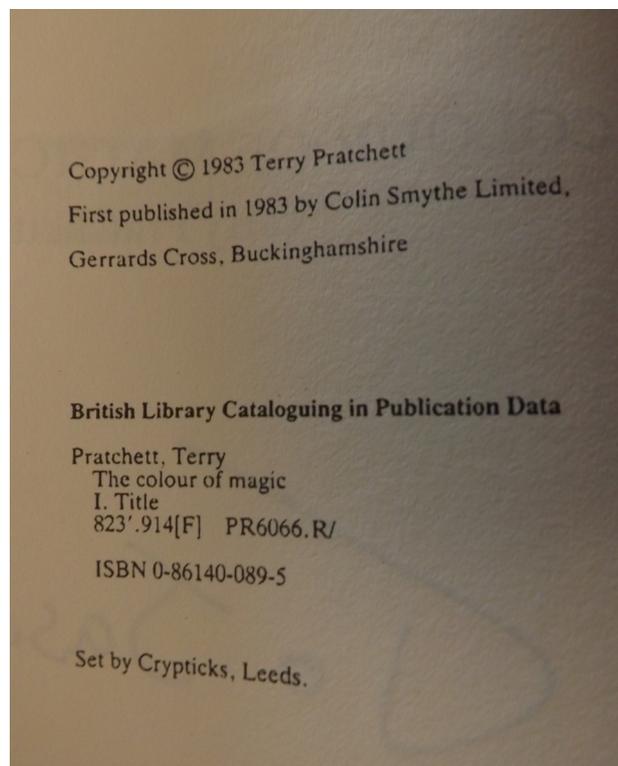
Publishing date is Thursday 24/11/1983

ISBN 0-86140-089-5

Note: It was originally intended to be published on the 10th November, but publication was delayed because labels had to be printed to cover over the incorrect blurb which was written by the US publishers (who printed the UK edition). So do look for the Label on the dust-jacket, it should be there and it looks like the one below on the left.



*Blurb Label
(this is from a Book Club Edition)*



*The Colour of Magic UK
1st Edition 1st Impression aka a 1/1*

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USA Book Club Edition

Alan Smith cover illustration (same as the UK and US 1st Editions)

Science Fiction Book Club's Main Selection May 1984 (ref.06199)

184 Pages

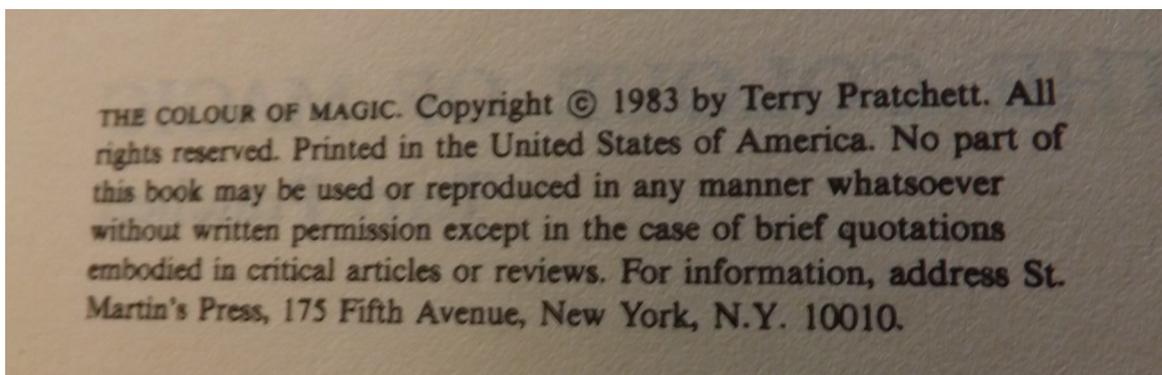
Has No ISBN ... instead it has a Book Club number of 01699

Info from Colin Smythes' Website

“The first printing was in quarter deep green cloth with cloth-pattern embossed paper covered boards, and blocked gold on spine. The title verso gives the printer / binder as the Maple-Vail Book Manufacturing Group.

Later printings lack the name of the printer and were bound in dark greenish-blue paper-covered boards, with printed blue-green lettering on spine.”

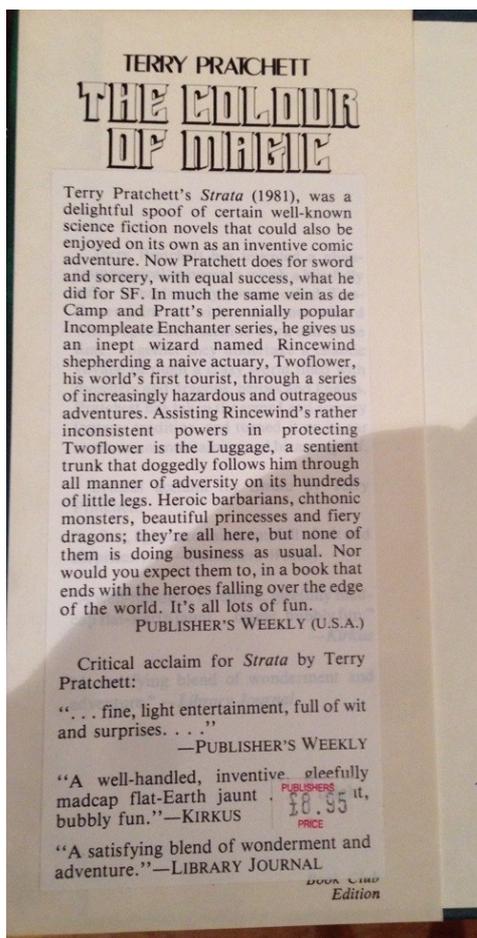
The text was reset for the book club edition and has 184 pages as opposed to the St Martin's Press (true US 1st / 1st) - and Smythe (UK 1st / 1st) - editions which have 206pp.



The Copyright page of the Book Club Edition of The Colour of Magic.

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After the first UK edition sold out and before producing the 1989 printing, Colin Smythe imported a total of 400 copies of the book club edition for sale in the UK. These would have had some form of Smythe price sticker on them. Some of them have the same Blurb Sticker as the UK 1st edition stuck inside the dust-jacket. How many of the 400 imported copies have the sticker is unknown. (sticker and price label pictured below)



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4 The Light Fantastic

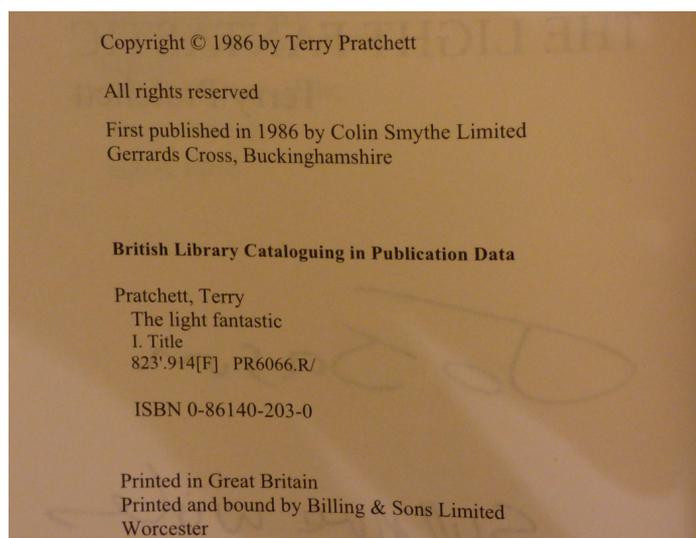
Cover illustration by Josh Kirby

Published by Colin Smythe,

1034 copies

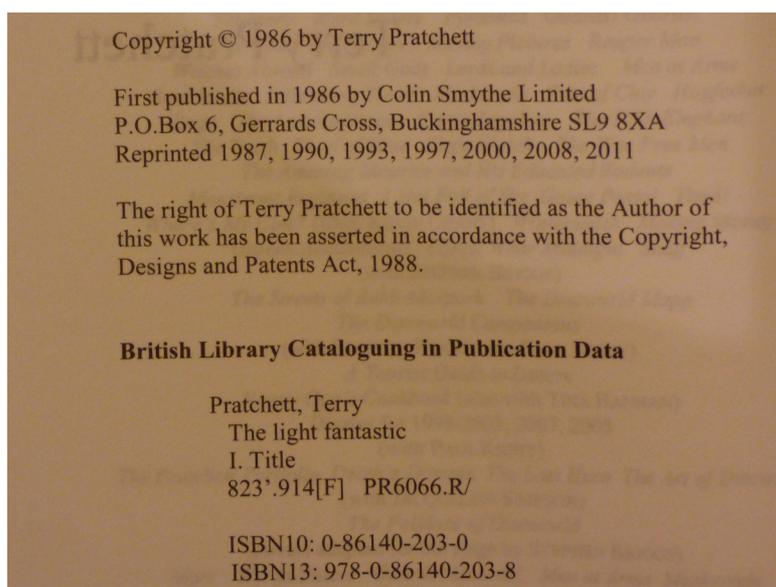
Published on 2/6/86

ISBN 0-86140-203-0



1st edition / 1st impression aka a true 1st edition (1/1) of The Light Fantastic

Further impressions are indicated by the “Reprinted 19XX” line as shown below



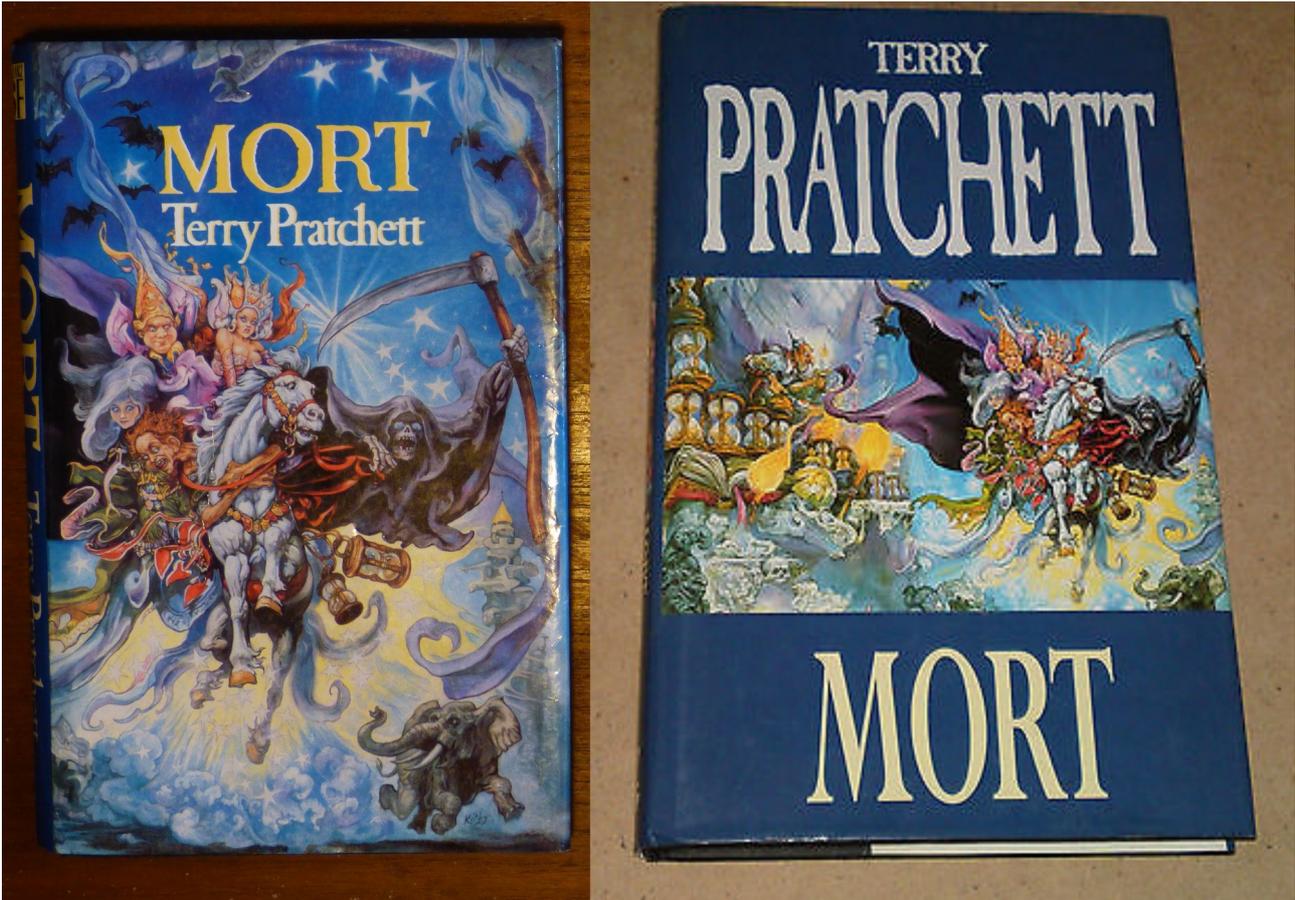
1st edition / 8th impression of The Light Fantastic

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5 Equal Rites up to Jingo

Three things you need to know:

1. Anything released before Maskerade was not first published in Letterbox covers. They had Fully illustrated covers (example shown below). If you have a letterbox edition of a book published before Maskerade, it is NOT a 1st edition.



On the left is an actual 1st edition of Mort. On the right a 2nd Edition of Mort (letterbox)

2. Check the “By this Author” list printed in the front of the book. If it has books listed that were published after the book the list is in, then it is a later impression. You would need to check the copyright page for what impression it is.
3. On the next page is a list of all the books in this section. It shows the original publishing date and how many copies were printed on that first run. It also shows the ISBN and publishing details. (Thanks and credit to Colin Smythe for the information). Make sure your book has the same ISBN and publishing date on the copyright page (see images after the publishing list).

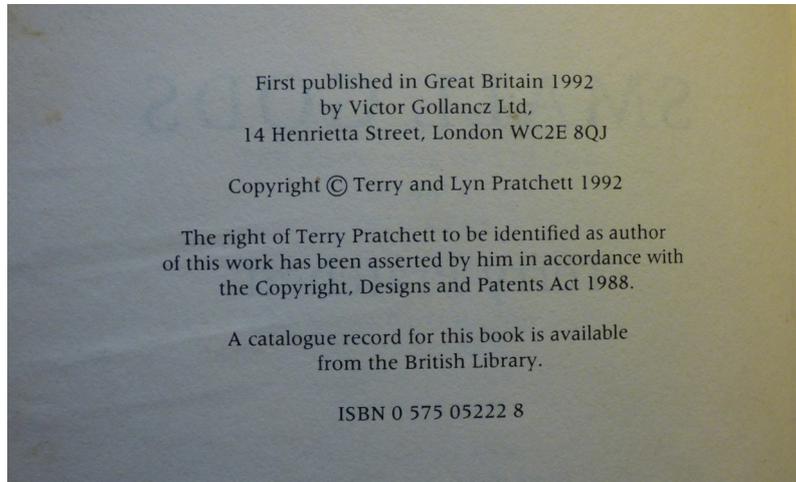
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Original Publishing Info List:

- *Equal Rites*: **15/01/1987** Victor Gollancz in association with Colin Smythe, 2850 copies, (0-575-03950-7) - later printings appeared under Gollancz's sole imprint.
- *Mort*: **12/11/1987** Victor Gollancz in association with Colin Smythe, 3,950 copies, (0-575-04171-4) - later printings appeared under Gollancz's sole imprint.
- *Sourcery*: **19/05/1988** Victor Gollancz in association with Colin Smythe, 7,200 copies, (0-575-04217-6) - later printings appeared under Gollancz's sole imprint.
- *Wyrd Sisters*: **10/11/1988** Victor Gollancz, 6,700 copies, (0-575-04363-6)
- *Pyramids*: **15/06/1989** Victor Gollancz, 12,300 copies, (0-575-04463-2)
- *Guards! Guards!*: **09/11/1989** Victor Gollancz, 14,200 copies, (0-575-04606-6)
- *Moving Pictures*: **01/11/1990** Victor Gollancz, 18,200 copies, (0-575-04763-1)
- *Reaper Man*: **23/05/1991** Victor Gollancz, 20,200 copies, (0-575-04979-0)
- *Witches Abroad*: **07/11/1991** Victor Gollancz, 25,000 copies, (0-575-04980-4)
- *Small Gods*: **21/05/1992** Victor Gollancz, 27,700 copies, (0-575-05222-8)
- *Lords and Ladies*: **05/11/1992** Victor Gollancz, 30,000 copies, (0-575-05223-6)
- *Men At Arms*: **11/11/1993** Victor Gollancz, 30,000 copies, (0-575-05503-0)
- *Soul Music*: **19/05/1994** Victor Gollancz, 40,000 copies, (0-575-05504-9)
- *Interesting Times*: **02/11/1994** Victor Gollancz, 43,000 copies, (0-575-05800-5)
- *Maskerade*: **02/11/1995** Victor Gollancz, 55,000 copies, (0-575-05808-0)
- *Feet of Clay*: **06/06/1996** Victor Gollancz, 85,000 copies, (0-575-05900-1)
- *Hogfather*: **07/11/1996** Victor Gollancz, 70,000 copies, (0-575-06403-X)
- *Jingo*: **06/11/1997** Victor Gollancz, 120,000 copies, (0-575-06540-0)

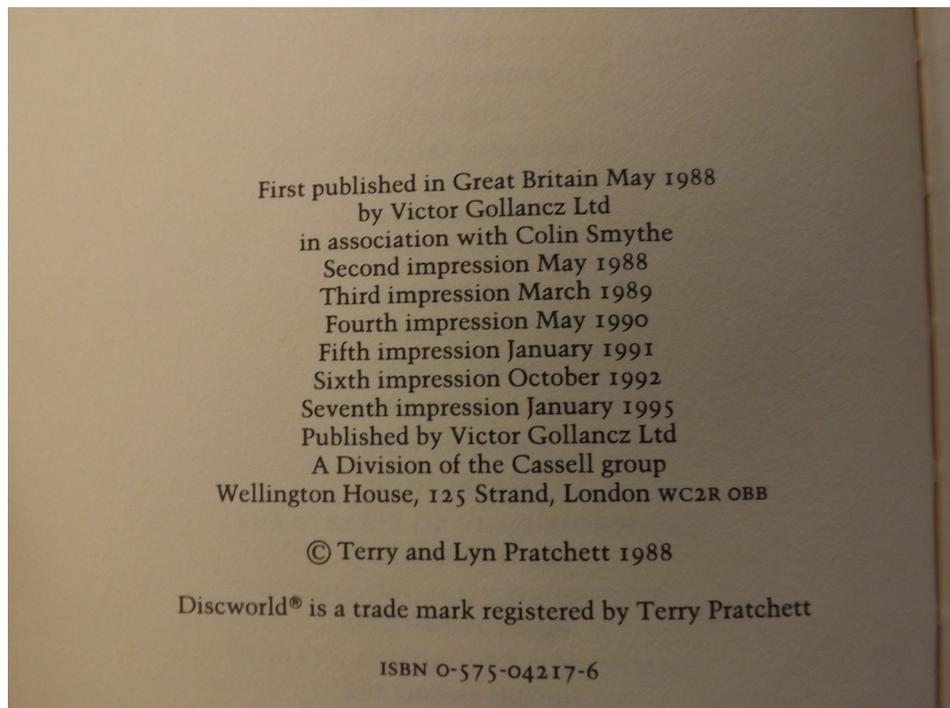
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True 1st editions of the Victor Gollancz books in this section look like this:



True 1st edition (1/1) of Small Gods

whereas a 1st edition / 7th impression looks like this:



1st edition / 7th impression (1/7) of Sourcery

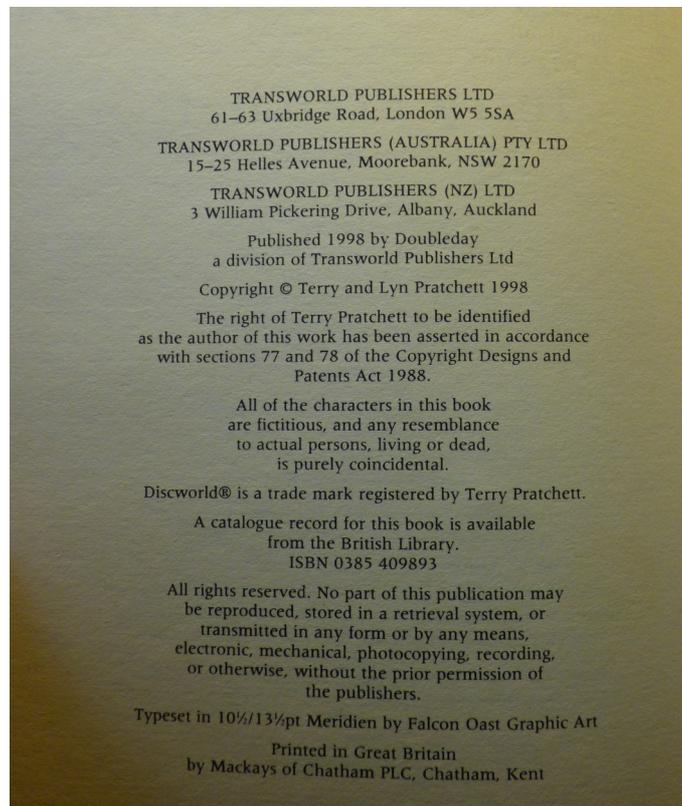
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6 The Last Continent, Carpe Jugulum and The Fifth Elephant

The Last Continent was the first book to be published by Doubleday rather than Gollancz.

They used this format for three books: The Last Continent, Carpe Jugulum and The Fifth Elephant.

Doubleday used a different format for their copyright pages. On this copyright page the only thing you need to look for is the “Published 19XX by Doubleday” line. If its a reprint, it will have “Reprinted 19XX”



The Copyright Page of The Last Continent True 1st Edition (1/1)

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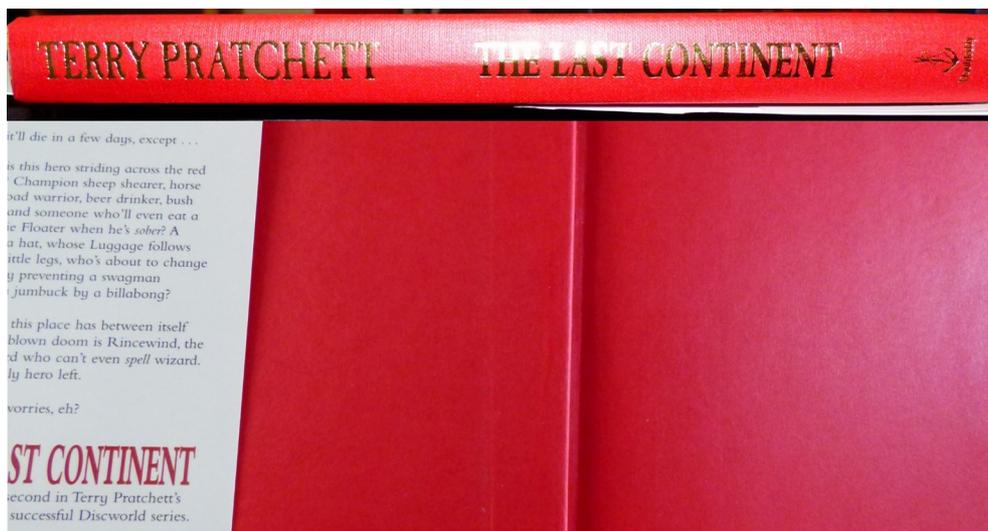
The Last Continent additional information...

There were two issues of the first impression:

About 10,000 copies for the Australian market. They have deep blue end-papers and plain spine blocking. (pictured below)



UK copies. The spine blocking has the same lettering as on the dust-jacket, and has red end-papers. (pictured below)



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The 1st UK reprint combined the deep blue end-papers and the same style of spine blocking as on the dust-jacket. (combination pictured below)



Original Publishing information for all 3 books

- *The Last Continent*: **01/05/1998** Doubleday, 93,500 copies, (0-385-40989-3)
- *Carpe Jugulum*: **02/11/1998** Doubleday, 160,000 copies, (0-385-40992-3)
- *The Fifth Elephant*: **04/11/1999** Doubleday, (0-385-40995-8)

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7 The Truth onwards (bar the Young Adult series)

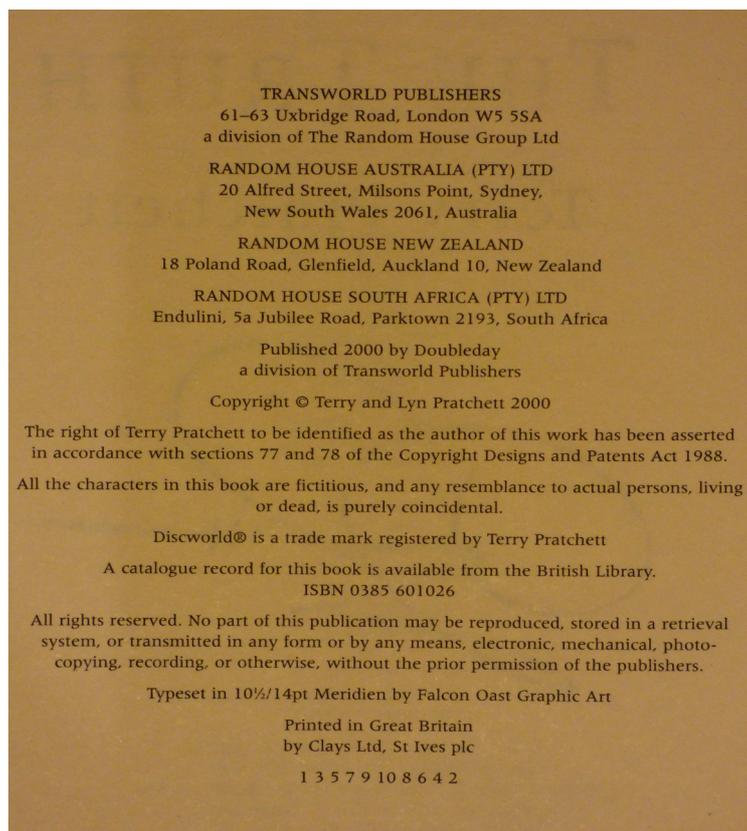
Finally, we can use a system that the internet talks about. Number lines!

Number lines indicate what impression your book is. You still have to check that what you have is an actual 1st edition.

Luckily for you, none of the books in this section have had a 2nd edition produced. Yet!

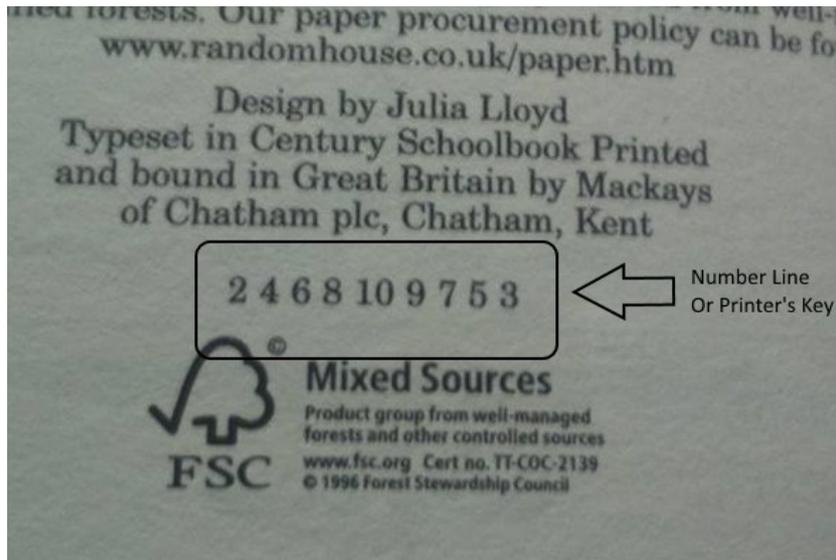
Number lines are useful if you know how to read them. It's simple really!

If it has a 1 in it then it is a 1st impression of the book. If it doesn't then the lowest number in the line indicates the impression of it. I will show you examples of both below:



A 1st edition and 1st impression (1/1) of The Truth.

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No number 1 in the line therefore not a 1st impression but there is a 2 so its a 2nd impression.

Some number lines are of a different format to the ones I've shown you already.

The following lines show that it is a 1st impression

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The following examples show some of the different ways 2nd impressions are shown

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
2 4 6 8 10 11 9 7 5 3
3 5 7 9 11 10 8 6 4 2

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They can also have fewer numbers like the one shown below!



This is a 6th impression because 6 is the lowest number in the line.

Overall when working with number lines: **The lowest number always shows the impression.**

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Differing Editions

Somebody in a publishing house ³ thought they would complicate things for the true 1st edition hunter by producing lots of differing editions of a single book, all published on the same day. Some of which have nothing different other than a free gift, such as some exclusive football cigarette cards or a bookmark or even a limited edition print. Some variant editions have extra content such as an extra short story in them. All these editions are true 1st editions.

This list is the ones we know of (if you have one not listed, please email the details to rachel@discworldmonthly.co.uk):

Thud!

- Waterstones, Ankh Morpork City Watch Warrant Card / Koom Valley postcard (10,000 copies)

Unseen Academicals

- Limited edition football cards

I shall Wear Midnight

- Free limited edition print. 350 copies were sold and signed at midnight at Waterstone's Piccadilly – title page stamped “Signed at midnight” and “official signature”.

Snuff

- Waterstones exclusive Gold edition with extra short story 'A Collegiate Casting-out of Devilish Devices' (30,000 copies).

Raising Steam -

- Collector's Edition for independent bookshops, with orange stained edges
- WH Smith Special Edition with a short story written for The Bucks Free Press in June 1967, “Humphrey Newt's Thunderbolt Carriage”
- Waterstones Edition with a bookmark and special jacket

Original Publishing Info List:

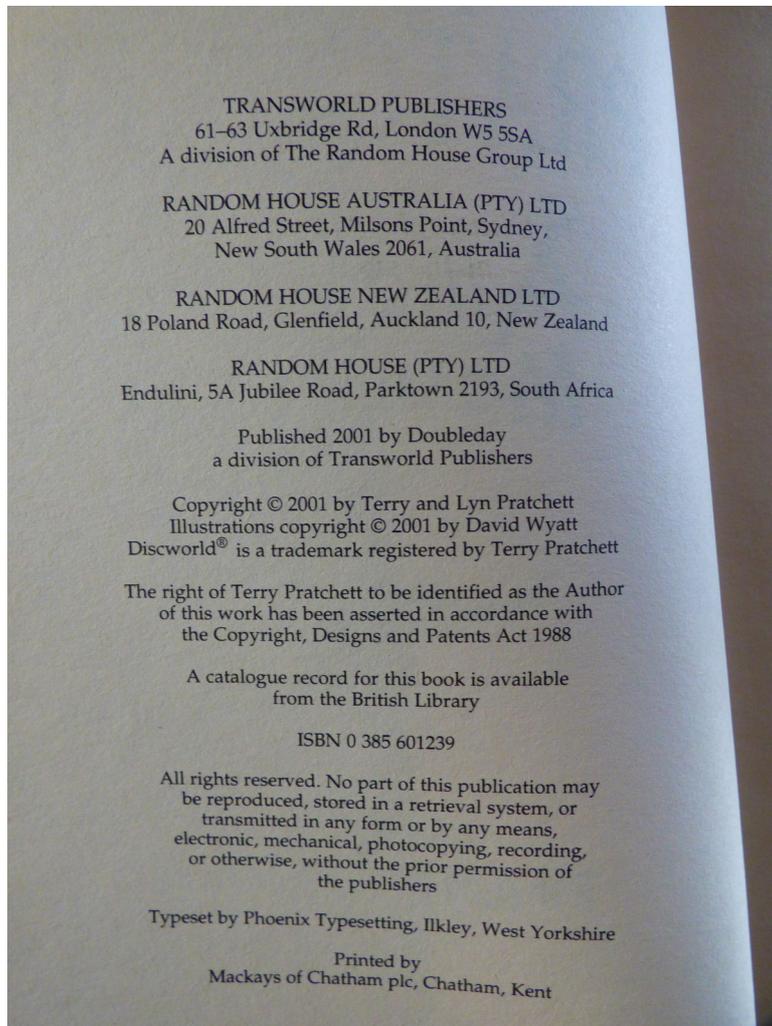
- *The Truth*: **02/11/2000** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60102-6
- *Thief of Time*: **03/05/2001** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60188-3
- *Night Watch*: **07/11/2002** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60264-2
- *Monstrous Regiment*: **25/09/2003** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60340-1
- *Going Postal*: **01/10/2004** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60342-8
- *Thud!*: **01/10/2005** Doubleday ISBN 0385608675
- *Making Money*: **20/09/2007** Doubleday ISBN 978-0-385-61101-5
- *Unseen Academicals*: **13/10/2009** Doubleday ISBN 0385609345
- *Snuff*: **10/2011** Doubleday ISBN 038561926X
- *Raising Steam*: **07/11/2013** Doubleday ISBN 0857522272

³ same somebody as before possibly ... we don't know.

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8 The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents.

This one bucks the Doubleday trend of using number lines on their books. Below is the copyright page from the 1st edition of TAMASHER, it has NO number line....



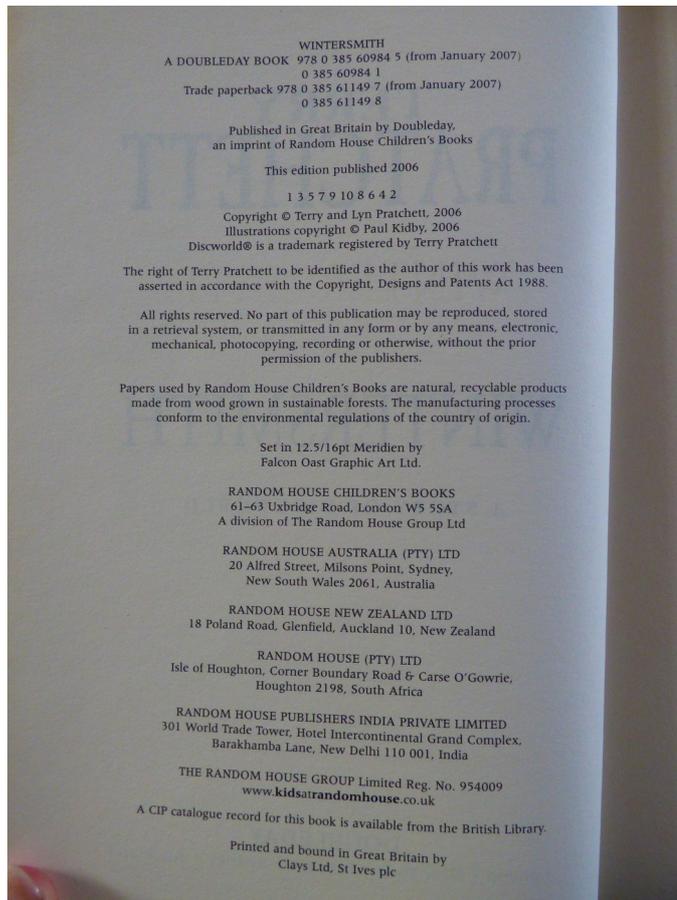
Original Publishing Info List:

- *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents*: **01/11/2001** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60123-9

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9 The Wee Free Men, A Hat Full of Sky, Wintersmith, I Shall Wear Midnight and The Shepherd's Crown

All 5 of these have number lines but it is much further up the page than the other Doubleday books. (see picture)



Wintersmith is the anomaly here as it was published in both hardback and paperback at the same time and both are the 1st editions (see the above picture)

It's a Doubleday paperback not the smaller Corgi edition. (Middle book as shown below)



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Original Publishing Info List:

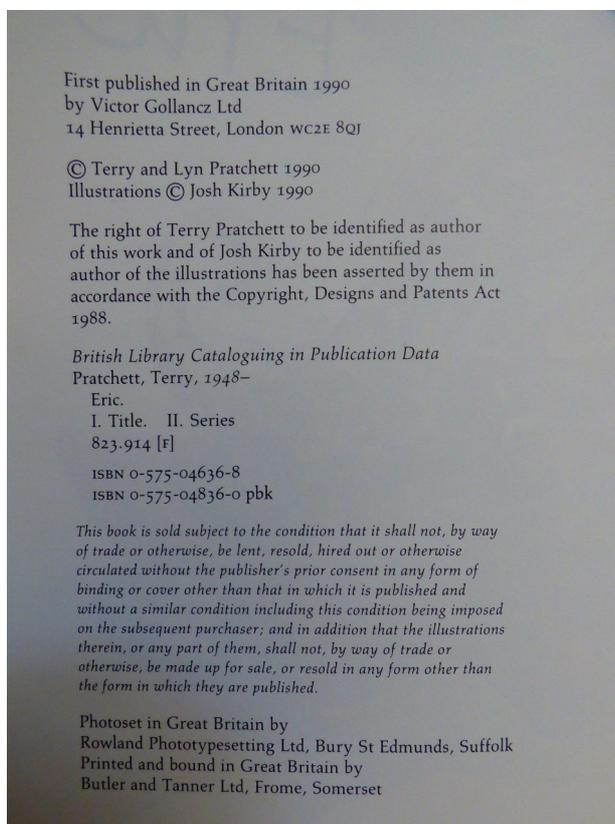
- *The Wee Free Men*: **05/2003** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60533-1
- *A Hat full of Sky*: **29/04/2004** Doubleday ISBN 0-385-60736-9)
- *Wintersmith*: **28/09/2006** Hardback & B-format paperback Doubleday (hardback ISBN 0-385-60984-1, paperback ISBN 0-385-61149-8)
- *I Shall Wear Midnight*: **02/09/2010** Doubleday ISBN 0385611072
- *The Shepherd's Crown*: **27/08/2015** Doubleday ISBN 0857534815

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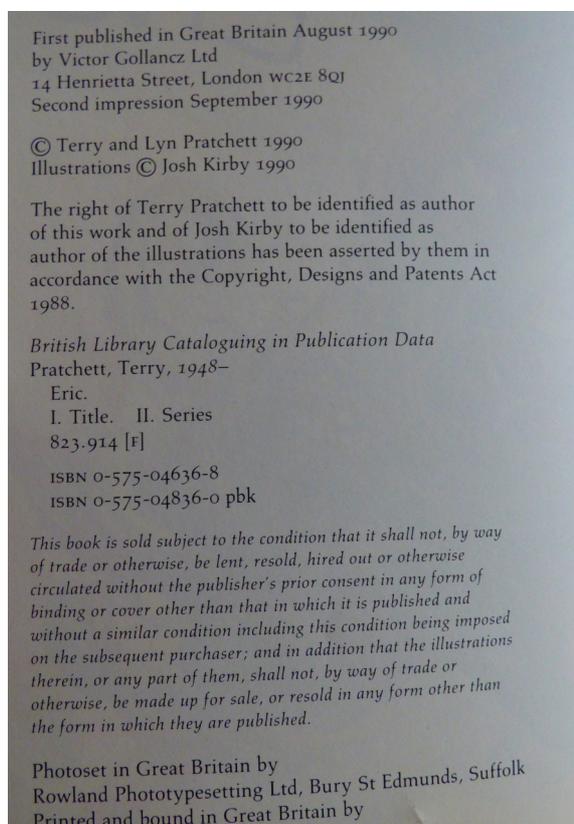
10 Faust Eric / The Last Hero

These are the illustrated novels written in collaboration with two of the most prolific Discworld artists at the time of publication. In the instance of **Faust Eric** that was Josh Kirby and in **The Last Hero** that was Paul Kidby.

Faust Eric was published in both hardback and paperback and both are considered true 1st editions. There were only 4,200 copies published as hardbacks and 50,500 as paperbacks. It did go into at least a second impression in paperback and was then produced in text only versions for the smaller paperbacks. Any edition produced after 1990 is not a 1st edition.



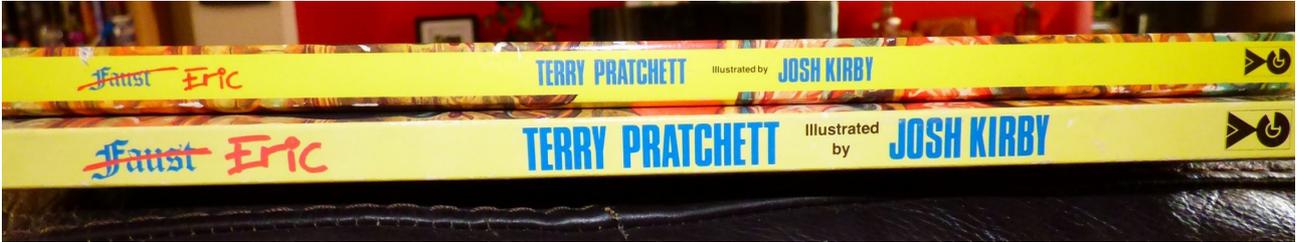
1st edition 1st impression of **Faust Eric**



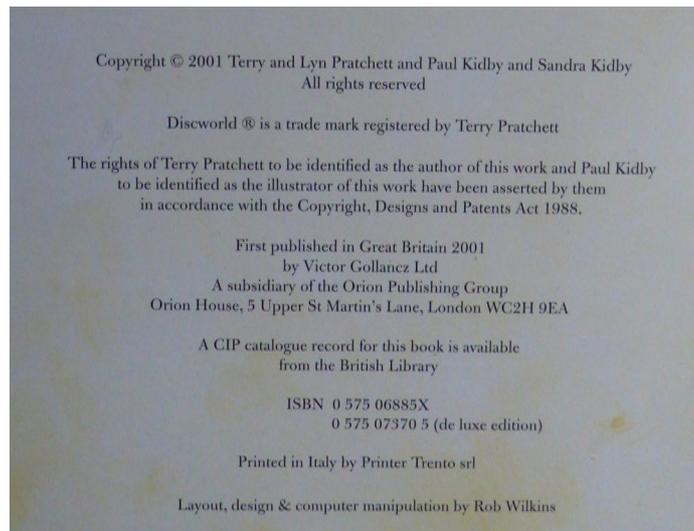
1st edition 2nd impression of **Faust Eric**

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There are also differences in the font size on the spine of *Faust Eric* between 1st and 2nd impressions. This makes it easy to tell which is which quickly. The picture below shows the two together. The 1st impression is the one on top with the smaller font.



The Last Hero's true 1st edition is the hardback edition of which 175,000 copies were produced. The copyright page is shown below.



Original Publishing Info List:

- *Faust Eric*: **16/08/1990** Victor Gollancz, hardback ISBN 0-575-04636-8, paperback ISBN 0-575-04836-0 (4,200 copies of the hardback and 50,500 of the paperback)
- *The Last Hero*: **18/10/2001** Gollancz, 175,000 copies, ISBN 0-575-06885-X

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11 Update History

Version	Released	Description
1.0	08/09/2015	Original release
1.0.1	09/09/2015	Fixed ISBN for Men at Arms
1.1	14/09/2015	Added BCA information
1.2	15/10/2015	Added note about copyright on Colin Smythe's website and more information on Snuff and Thud!
1.3	24/11/2015	Fixed incorrect date on USA The Colour of Magic