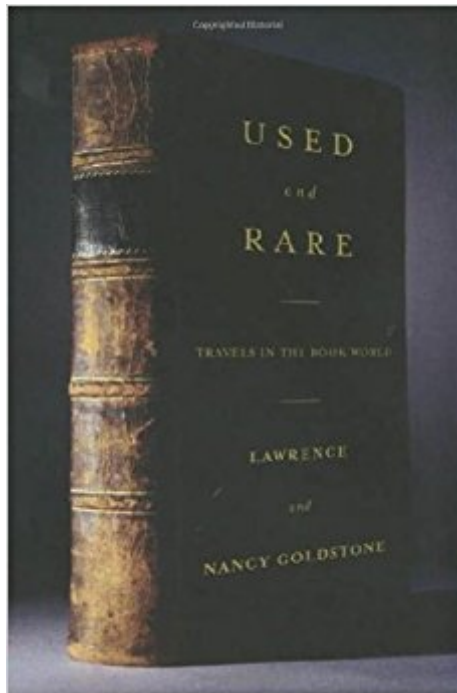




The book was found

# Used And Rare: Travels In The Book World



## Synopsis

Journey into the world of book collecting with the Goldstones-rediscover the joy of reading, laugh, and fall in love with books all over again. The idea that books had stories associated with them that had nothing to do with the stories inside them was new to us. We had always valued the history, the world of ideas contained between the covers of a book or, as in the case of *The Night Visitor*, some special personal significance. Now, for the first time, we began to appreciate that there was a history and a world of ideas embodied by the books themselves.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 81 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #475,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Books

## Customer Reviews

After years of competitive extravagance at birthday time, Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone decided to limit themselves to \$20 each, which is how they came to be in possession of a \$10 definitive translation of *War and Peace*, complete with maps of the major battles and fold-out color illustrations. It is also how they eventually came to be the owners of a \$650 edition of Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Used and Rare, the Goldstones' tale of the journey from point A to point B, is a joyful celebration of their love of books. Rare-book dealers are a quirky lot; while one might invite you to caress an *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* worth thousands, another might turn you away altogether for no apparent reason. The Goldstones' enthusiasm is infectious, and, besides offering a lesson in used-book parlance, the pair remind us that for every book there are at least two stories: the one between the covers, and the one beyond the covers.

The Goldstones are expatriate urbanites who fled jobs on Wall Street to live and write in the Berkshires. With a sense of adventure and fresh beginnings, they relate how they revived their life

together and discovered the wonders of old books. Soon they were visiting used and rare book shops and auctions in the remote towns in the region, as well as in Boston, New York, and even as far away as Chicago. Along the way, the reader learns about the lore and minutiae of old books. As the authors flirt with collecting modern first editions, readers are treated to some of the fascinating stories of modern literature and get the insider's view of the arcane ways experts identify a first edition and decide what makes a book valuable. Readers also meet intriguing book sellers and collectors and others who inhabit the world of books. All in all, a delightful education in the book arts; recommended for public libraries. ?Paul A. D'Alessandro, Portland P.L., Me. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Fantastic book - couldn't put it down! I read a lot and also sell books on - and I learned a lot of information about books and how they are graded I didn't know. Plus it is such a fun read! I have since purchased the Goldstone's two follow-on books - am now reading Slightly Chipped - and recommend it! It's just as good as Used and Rare. Then I will move on to Warmly Inscribed. These books are well edited (I'm also an editor of 30 years and recognize good editing when I read it) and so, so readable - but don't begin reading at night in bed because you will NEVER get to sleep (unless you drop the book). Enjoy!!

I opened this book and that was the end of me until I turned the last page. If you love books and your not wealthy but you have pie in the sky dreams about having your own library someday...READ THIS. You can live the folly and reality through this book. You will go on adventures through the halls of bookstores that you have to buzz the door to get in and the books sell with the decimal point a bit far to the right for normal people. You will stumble with the authors through the little bookstores with wobbly wood floors and books stacked everywhere. You will dig through the piles of books to uncover some wonderful finds. If you have a bookshelf in your home and for some reason you get joy out just seeing your books, knowing they are there, just touching them and seeing your own identity in what you choose to buy - Get this book. You'll learn how complicated and intriguing book collecting can be. You'll get in on those auctions that have buried treasures of books. And maybe, if your lucky, you'll take away a lesson of your own. I learned that like the authors I would like to own hard cover books of the classics and the books I love but in the end I will collect the books I love for what they contain. I can't afford to own all first editions but I can afford to own and experience the stories, the visions and the intrigues the writers of books provide. I love my books just as much even if they are not all HC first editions and worth thousands of dollars.

I just finished this book and I can't decide whether it was worth the time or not. Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone tell stories about their trips to rare book stores and auctions. They present some really interesting information about rare books they saw, tips about books from dealers, and the intricacies of what makes books rare. Unfortunately, most of this information is rather terse and quite amateur. The Goldstones seemed to have stumbled into the rare book world and they never manage to advance too far within it. They drive to a bookstore, talk to its owner, look at books they can't afford and almost never buy. They always seem to be broke or unwilling to shell out the dough required to build a valuable library. For them, almost anything over \$80-\$100 is out of the question. I'm sure they have ticked off a few dealers in their day. They even talk about one dealer who never allowed them to view her books, despite several different attempts to come to the store at a good time for browsing. The dealer must have spotted them the instant they walked through the door. Various excuses were given as to why they couldn't look at the collection including a lunch break that was never taken and an "appointment downtown." After the Goldstones were turned away, they noticed the dealer leaning back at her desk, taking a personal phone call. Obviously, they were being blown off. If you were hoping to read a story written by someone who invested \$100,000 in rare books, this is really not it. They buy a couple of \$700 books, but mainly stick to the \$10 bin. There are many amusing anecdotes in the book and it is really very well written; it became hard to put down by the halfway point. This may not be the case for everyone. You have to really be interested in books to enjoy this. I felt like I learned a little about the rare book world, and I feel this is a good introduction to the subject, but I would by no means say that this is an in-depth study of the trade. Jargon is well defined and the plot is very approachable, but I felt it was a little lacking in content. There was a lot of interesting information about Dickens books, some talk about bindings and trade information, but it just wasn't deep enough. It was a good book, but not great.

I can't believe how much I enjoyed this book. I wrote down books I knew of and never read or read long ago and long forgotten. The authors' relationship with each other made me feel like I was with them and enjoying the warmth and curiosity they had together. The babysitters, the romantic dates, dinner, hotels. All made the book fun to read. I have read the part of the husband-wife argument on the deserted beach to my husband and friends. It captured the truth of all couples. I have recommended it to everyone.

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