
Although not a descriptive bibliography in the strict sense of the term, this book partly fills a long-standing void by ably presenting the authors' many years of searching out and establishing those details that will allow collectors of L.M. Montgomery's books to determine whether they have found a genuine first edition (i.e., first impression). As the authors note in their foreword, when they compare the use of this book to that of the Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds series, their aim was to enable readers "to compare the features of any of Montgomery's twenty-two books ... [and] then verify whether it is a genuine Canadian or US first edition."

In an easy-going and anecdotal style, the authors begin by reviewing their own "quest for LMM firsts," outlining the various directions taken, experts, materials and databases consulted, and theories developed along the way. Although not all of their tales seem relevant (their misadventure at the Charlottetown Mall comes to mind), the story of their quest demonstrates both their determination and a good systematic approach towards finding and carefully examining many copies of early publications of each of Montgomery's books. As noted above by the authors themselves, they limited their quest by including only US and Canadian publishers. There is virtually no mention of other English-language Montgomery first editions, such as those produced in Britain and Australia. Despite this limitation the...

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Montgomery was named an Officer of both the Order of the British Empire and the Literary and Artistic Institute of France. She was the first Canadian woman to be made a member of the British Royal Society of Arts and she was declared a Person of National Historic Significance in Canada. Early Career. Montgomery once wrote in her journals, “I cannot remember a time when I was not writing, or when I did not mean to be an author. To write has always been my central purpose around which every effort and hope and ambition of my life has grouped itself.” She began writing poetry and keeping journals when she was nine, and started writing short stories in her mid-teens.