

The Tale of PETER RABBIT.

THE BOOK

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

Privately printed for the author by Strangeways, London, 1902. One of 200 copies of the second private issue. Original Olive green boards. 5.25 inches x 4 inches. Colour frontispiece and forty-two line drawings by the author, each opposite a page of text.

THE CONDITION

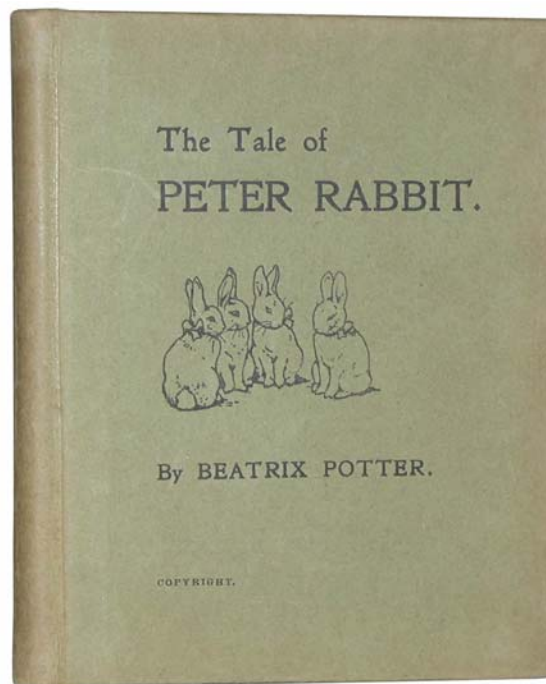
A fine copy in remarkable condition, covers and contents crisp and clean, with minor spotting to page edges. Due to the limited print run and the fragility of the privately printed edition of Peter Rabbit copies of this book are now very rare indeed. To find such an important children's tale as this in such remarkable condition is very rare.

THE AUTHOR

[HELEN] BEATRIX POTTER (1866 - 1943) was born in London and from an early age developed a love of animals and nature. In the summer of 1889 the twenty four year old Beatrix took it upon herself to buy a Rabbit. "I brought him home from a London bird shop in a paper bag". She christened him Benjamin Bouncer, and he was to be the model of much of her early work.

In 1889 Miss Potter sold some of her first paintings, for use as Christmas and New Year cards and other as illustrations to a little booklet of verses by Frederic E. Weatherly, entitled "A Happy Pair".

In 1893 Potter sent a story letter to a little boy called Noel Moore. The letter told of the adventures of Peter Rabbit and was illustrated with small ink drawings. Noel and his siblings were so delighted with the tale that Potter set about expanding the text and adding a whole series of drawings to accompany it.



THE BOOK'S HISTORY

In 1901 Beatrix Potter sent her manuscript of the Tale of Peter Rabbit to at least six publishers only to have it refused by each of them. She made the decision to print the book herself whilst continuing the search for a publisher who would issue the book in accordance with her wishes. 500 copies of the colour frontis were printed and she arranged for an initial print run of 250 copies of her book to be completed. These were on sale by December 1901 and in January 1902 she ordered another 200 copies, which contained the same illustrations, but had a few textual modifications and a rounded, rather than flat, spine.

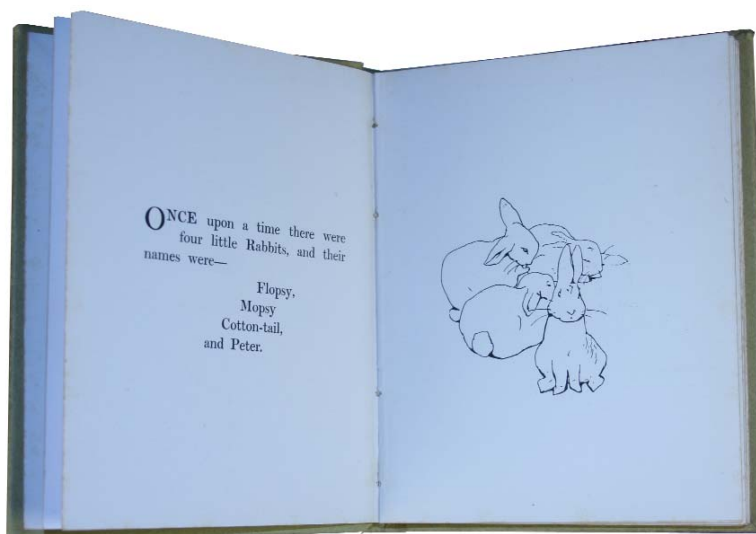
"The size of the book being in accordance with Potter's own ideas of what a child's books should be like -

small enough for little hands to hold, and printed on stout paper."

The Tale of Peter Rabbit was an immediate hit. Indeed, one of the privately printed copies was owned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who had a copy for his children and had a good opinion of the story and words. In 1902 F. Warne & Co. agreed to publish the tale, although in a slightly shortened version. The subsequent success of the story is well known and has been in print ever since, in many languages.

RARITY

Due to the small limitation copies of this book have always been inherently rare. The composition of the book has also meant that most surviving copies are in poor condition. Copies in fine condition such as this are very seldom made available.



PRICE
£25,000