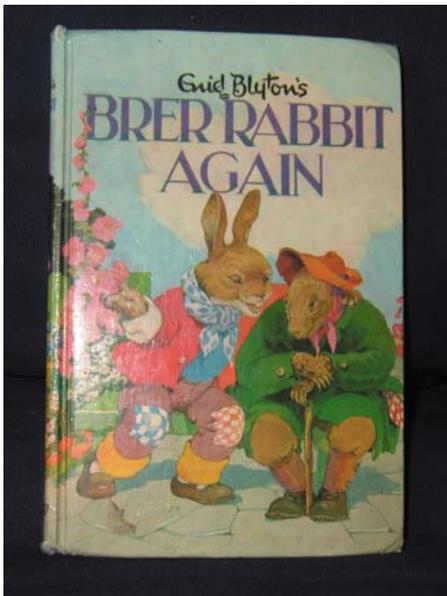
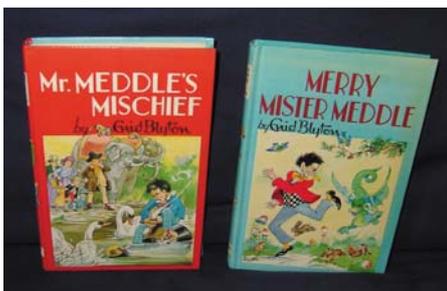


'Children of Cherry Tree Farm' this edition published by Dean & Son 1972. This was the first in a series of books set on farms. First published in 1940, the original edition is scarce and worth £120.



Enid Blyton's 'Brer Rabbit' published by Dean & Son 1963. Brer Rabbit featured in Blyton's stories throughout her entire writing career.

This edition was bought from a charity shop for 25p. A similar edition recently sold at an internet auction for £11.50.



'Mr Meddle's Mischief' and 'Merry Mister Meddles', Dean & Son, 1971. This comical, busybody pixie appeared in three books and a number of short stories during the 1940s and 50s.

Enid Blyton Books

Part 2. Stories for younger children

By Zita Thornton

Enid Blyton's writing career began with poetry, gradually moving into short stories, mainly published in magazines, whilst she continued the day job as a teacher of young children. It is, therefore, no surprise that her first stories were tales of fairies and fantasy that would be appreciated by her young charges.

However, one of her first full length books, published in 1924, was an account of the zoo and its inhabitants, who became models for some of her later fictional creatures. In this way, Blyton constantly drew on earlier ideas and developed them in later stories. So 'The Enchanted Wood' which first appeared in 'The Yellow Fairy Book' later became central to 'A Faraway Tree Adventure' and Toyland, home of Noddy, appeared first in 'The Enid Blyton Book of Brownies'.

Blyton was a prolific and varied writer publishing around 15 books a year as well as contributing to magazines, annuals and anthologies. She wrote books about mischievous animals, both those on the farm and those in the circus. Her output included nature books for young children as well as fictional stories. It is said that it took her less than a week to finish writing one book. Moreover, her stories also appeared under various pseudonyms in annuals. In the 1920s and 30s, Blyton wrote as Audrey Saint Lo as well as Christopher and Becky Kent, and later, in 1943, published a novel 'The Adventures Of Scamp' using the name Mary Pollock. However, it was five years after her first story was published before she bought a typewriter!

After a decade of writing short stories, Blyton's first full-length fictional novel for children was 'Adventures of the Wishing Chair' published in 1937, having previously been serialised in the 'Sunny Stories' magazine. This magazine started life as 'Sunny Stories for Little Folk', a twice monthly magazine published by Newnes for which Blyton wrote original tales and retold old favourites such as 'Hiawatha' and 'The Ugly Duckling'. It was essentially a vehicle for Blyton's work and by the time it changed its name in 1937 it contained only her original tales. The magazine ended abruptly in 1953 and Enid Blyton's Magazine was launched by rival publisher Evans a few weeks later.

The second 'Wishing Chair' book did not appear for another thirteen years, when 'The Wishing Chair Again' was published in 1950, but meanwhile 'The Faraway Tree' fantasy series of novels had been published. 'The Enchanted Wood' appeared in 1939, 'The Magic Faraway Tree' in 1943 and 'The Folk Of The Faraway Tree' in 1946.

As well as being a talented writer, Blyton was a wise businesswoman. Her books were published by over twenty different publishers, so overcoming any war time quotas imposed on each one of them and allowing her to take her ideas elsewhere if she disagreed with terms. She liked to maintain complete control over the illustrations, cover design and layout. She wanted some of her books to have an identifying feel to them, such as the train full of toys running around the bottom edge of Noddy book covers and the inclusion of her signature on covers after 1942. She experimented with different formats, such as the strip books published by Sampson Low and Brockhampton.

It is in part this business acumen that has allowed Blyton's fictional character Noddy to become such an enduring and popular image since his conception fifty five years ago.

Blyton wrote the first book 'Noddy Goes To Toyland' in 1949, choosing Harmsen van der Beek for the illustrations. An immediate success, she wrote other books in a variety of formats, including annuals, picture books, pop-up books, strip and tall books, alphabet and number books as well as a Noddy strip in the Evening Standard.

In 1954 Blyton wrote a stage script and the play was released over the lucrative Christmas period selling out at every performance. A year later Noddy made his TV debut for Independent Television. Blyton quickly realised the marketing potential of Noddy merchandise and within a decade there were more than fifty licensees of Noddy memorabilia in Britain, including figurines, toys, games and toiletries. Worldwide publication with a big following in Australia meant that within ten years over twenty million Noddy books had been sold there and in the UK alone. The sheer volume of Noddy books published has kept the price down for collectors today and interest in these books still remains high in Australia.

There is difficulty dating many of the Noddy books as some do not contain a reissue date, only a first printed date and some of the older ones have no publication date at all. A clue to the age of some Noddy books can be gleaned from the picture of the train running along the bottom, as in the 1980s Noddy was purged of any perceived sexist or racist overtones. This resulted in the Golly in the train being substituted by a teddy and in the text by Mr Sparks, a garage owner.

If Noddy books are the most common of Blyton's books, the rarest have to be any undiscovered 'Birn Brothers' books. These were cheaply produced with anonymous illustrators and no credit to Enid Blyton on the cover. It is known that Blyton wrote a large amount of these books early in her career but only a few have yet been found.

The following guide prices are offered by David Schutte. [NB: please note that these should not be taken as values, rather as retail prices offered by David Schutte].

Children's Books

'Noddy' first editions with dustwrappers from the 1950s: £20-£40

'Noddy Goes To Toyland' early reprint 1952 with dustwrapper: £15

'Noddy And The Magic Rubber' No 9 in series with dustwrapper reprint 1956: £10

Noddy strip books: £15-£20

'Children Of Cherry Tree Farm' scarce 1940 first edition with dustwrapper: £120

'Children of Cherry Tree Farm' 1958 reprint: £30

'The Yellow Fairy Book' first edition 1936 dustwrapper: £300

'Enid Blyton's Brer Rabbit' book 1948 dustwrapper: £65

'Clicky The Clockwork Clown' strip book 1954: £12

'The Green Goblin Book' first edition dustwrapper 1935: £165

'The Fourth Bedside Book' dustwrapper 1953 first edition: £15

'Fifteen Minute Tales' 1942: £45

'Billy Bob Tales' 1953: £30

Copies of 'Sunny Stories' magazine: £3-£6 ea

'Enid Blyton's Magazine': £3.50 each

David Schutte Children's Books
Waterside
119 Sussex Road
Petersfield
Hants
GU31 4LB.
Tel: 01730 269115

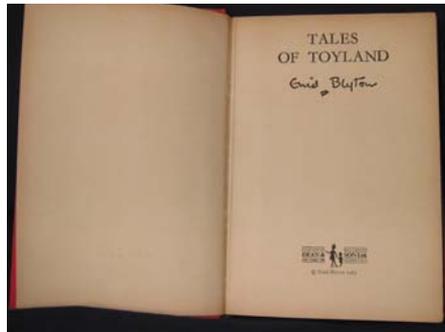
Further information

'Enid Blyton: A Biography' by Barbara Stoney, published by Hodder & Stoughton.

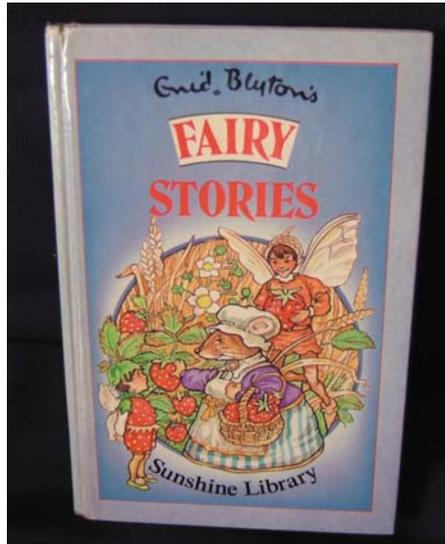
'Enid Blyton: A Comprehensive Bibliography' by Tony Summerfield, published by The Enid Blyton Society

www.upthefarawaytree.50megs.com: a well produced website primarily for children but would be enjoyed by all fans of 'The Faraway Tree' books.

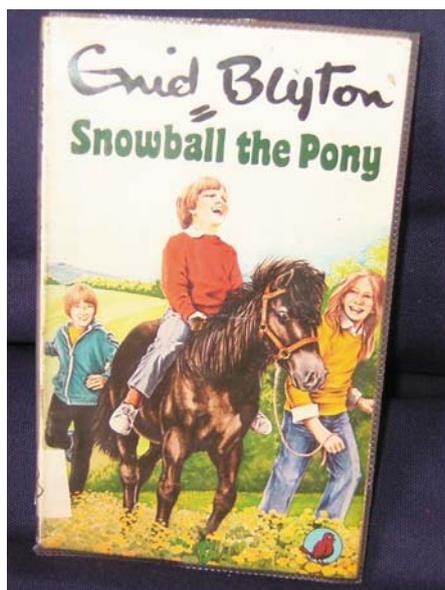
www.enidblytonsociety.co.uk, 93 Milford Hill Salisbury Wilts SP1 2QL: articles and links to other Enid Blyton sites. [NB The Enid Blyton Society cannot provide valuations].



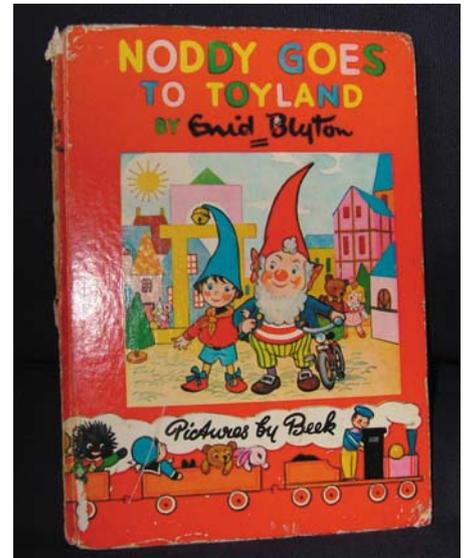
This collection of 'Toyland Tales' demonstrates how Blyton had a habit of developing previous ideas into later books.



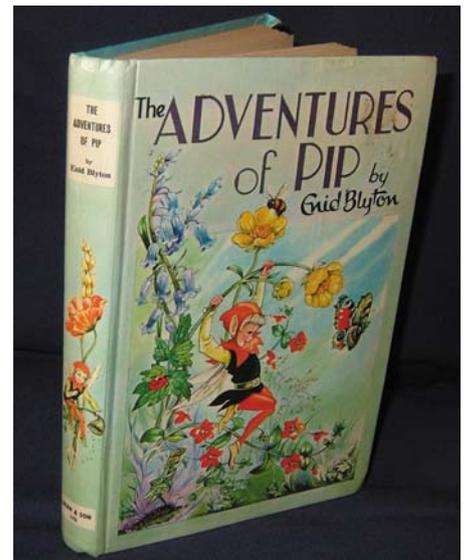
'Fairy Stories', Purnell Sunshine Library, 1982 one of a series of omnibus bringing together a variety of Blyton titles such as 'Toyland Tales' and 'Little Animal Stories'. During her lifetime, Blyton maintained strict control over the layout, format and illustrators of her books. However, after her death, the way was open for many different interpretations of her work.



'Snowball The Pony', 1970s paperback edition, Arrow Books. After writing about mischievous dogs, Blyton introduced 'Snowball the Pony' to younger readers in 1953.



'Noddy Goes To Toyland' was the first Noddy book Blyton wrote. Published by Sampson Low, Marston & Co. Noddy books were illustrated by Beek and had a signature train full of toys running along the bottom edge. In the 1980s the golly was replaced in the train by a more politically correct teddy. Early reprints are worth £15



Car boot sales are a good source for Blyton books published by Dean & Son in the 1960s and 70s 'The Adventures of Pip', Dean & Son, 1968 was bought for 50p at a car boot sale. Pip the Pixie is an example of a character that moved from short stories to full length books in the 1940s.



'The Wishing Chair Again' by Enid Blyton, 1950.