

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

(note: not all questions may be relevant to your book)

More helpful terms: <http://www.abebooks.com/docs/HelpCentral/Glossary/>

1. Who is the author?
2. Are there other people associated with this book?
 - Editor:
 - Translator:
3. What is the title?
4. Call number?
5. Are there other people associated with this book?
 - Is the book dedicated to someone?
 - Did a person or group approve publication?
6. When and where was the book published?
 - Publisher (look for “printed for”)
 - Printer (look for “printed by”)
 - Bookseller (look for “sold at”)
 - Date/Year:
 - Location:
7. What is the size of the book? What does the size suggest (big books tend to be used for reference, etc.)?

Full info on book sizes: <http://www.trussel.com/books/booksize.htm>

Folio –A book that is up to 15" tall. (or larger)

Quarto (4to)- A book that is up to 12" tall.

Octavo (8vo) - A book that is up to 9 ¾" tall.

Duodecimo (12mo) - A book that is up to 7 ¾" tall.

8. What is the **condition** of the book?
 - **As New** describes a book that is immaculate and pristine -- just like it was when it rolled off the press. Its use includes the dustjacket.
 - **Fine** approaches the condition of As New, but without being crisp AND, additionally, there must be no defects to either the book or jacket.
 - **Near Fine** approaches Fine but has small, minor, described defects.
 - **Very Good** describes a book that shows some small signs of wear on the binding, text pages and/or dustjacket. Any defects must be noted and a book with significant defects such as a large tear in a page or a small tear on the jacket would be disqualified from this listing.
 - **Good** describes the average used and worn book that has all pages or leaves present. All defects must be noted. I suppose this is what someone who uses the phrase 'much loved' has in mind!
 - **Fair** is book whose binding, jacket and text pages are tired and worn. It possesses its complete text pages (including those with maps or plates) but may lack endpapers, half-title, etc. All defects must be noted.
 - **Poor** describes a book that is sufficiently worn that its only merit is as a Reading Copy because it does have the complete text, which must be legible. The book may be soiled, scuffed, stained or spotted and may have loose joints, hinges, pages, etc.

9. What was the binding made from? (paper? Full leather, or just on spine? Marbled paper on boards?)
10. What sort of paper is inside? Heavy, or thin? Yellowed or bright?
11. Is the book illustrated? Are they color or black & white? Do they appear to be printed or hand-drawn (or hand-colored)? How do the illustrations relate to the text?
12. Can you find evidence that this book was ever read? Can you tell anything about former owners of this copy of the book or how or when this copy of the book came to Auburn?
- **marginalia** = handwritten notes, scribbles, etc.
 - **bookplates** = pasted papers with owner's name, usually in the front cover
13. What type of text is it? (some possibilities include first person accounts, secondary sources, novels, etc.)
14. What parts of this book seem familiar? Different/strange?
15. Who is the intended audience of the book?
16. What else would you like to know about this book and how would you go about finding out more about it?