

The Epic of Gilgamesh

The *Epic of Gilgamesh* is the oldest book in our collection and indeed it is the oldest written story in the world. It dates from 2100 BCE making it 4100 years old! It was first written in cuneiform writing on clay tablets & includes the first version of the Biblical Flood



We have two versions available for loan. One is very easy to read (it is shorter and the story flows better than the more complete modern academic version) and was translated back in 1960. It looks rather tatty. The more modern version makes use of recent cuneiform tablet translations – so it is more complete but feels ‘fractured’ – just like many of the tablets it is translated from!

The Only Book in the Library Which Wears Underpants!

It is called *Shirokuma no pantsu* by Tupera Tupera and tells the story of Polar Bear who has lost his underwear and asks his friend, Mouse, to help him find it.



Perhaps not the most informative book in our collection but it is certainly one of the cutest!

Books with Print Types made for Easier Reading

In our 'Bold Collection' we have books in Large Print and also books written in special type font which is suitable for people who may have dyslexia, which is where some people see letters in a somewhat jumbled fashion on the page thereby making it hard to read.

The field stretched out before them. They were alone. Anything could happen, anything at all, but Archie couldn't think about that and keep a clear head, so he jogged up to the ball, did a neat step-over and flicked it high into the air.

"You're good," Tia said. The ball dropped and Archie smashed it into the top left corner of the goal. "Nice."

Archie grinned. "Cheers. What lesson are you missing?"

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Easy to read font types

Janine knew that there wasn't a moral difference between the embryo you used to be and the person you were today. So the unborn were smaller than toddlers—did that mean adults deserved more human rights than children? That men were due more privileges than women?

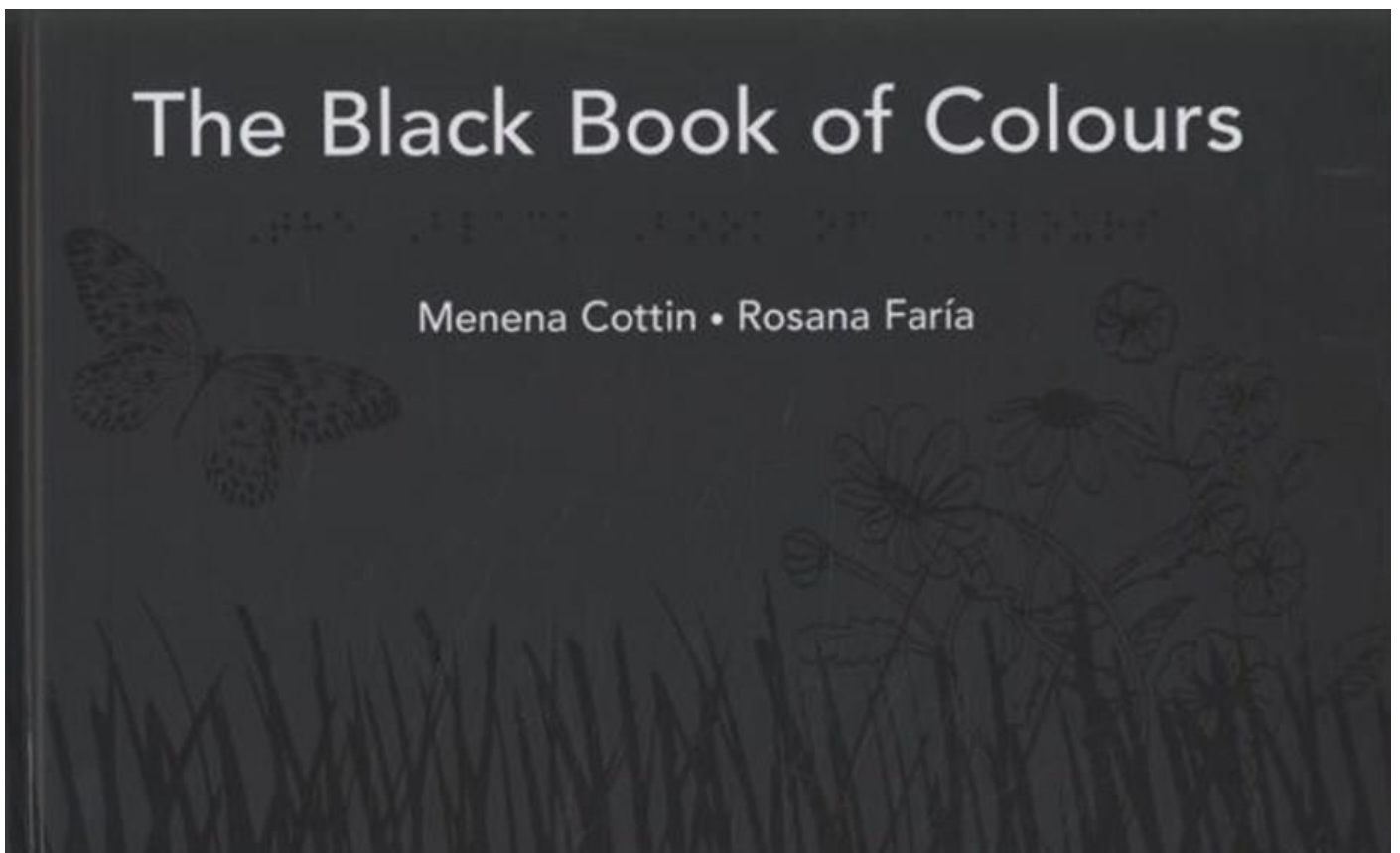
"Tonight, darling, we are going to right a lot of wrongs. And we are going to wrong some rights. The first shall be last; the last shall be first; the meek shall do some earth-inheriting. But before we can radically reshape the world, we need to shop." I pulled into the Publix then, the parking lot almost entirely empty, and parked.

Bold type

Braille

The Black Book of Colours by Menena Cottin is our only book printed in Braille.

Thomas can't see colours, but he can hear them and smell them and touch them and taste them. Now you can try to see the world the way Thomas sees it.

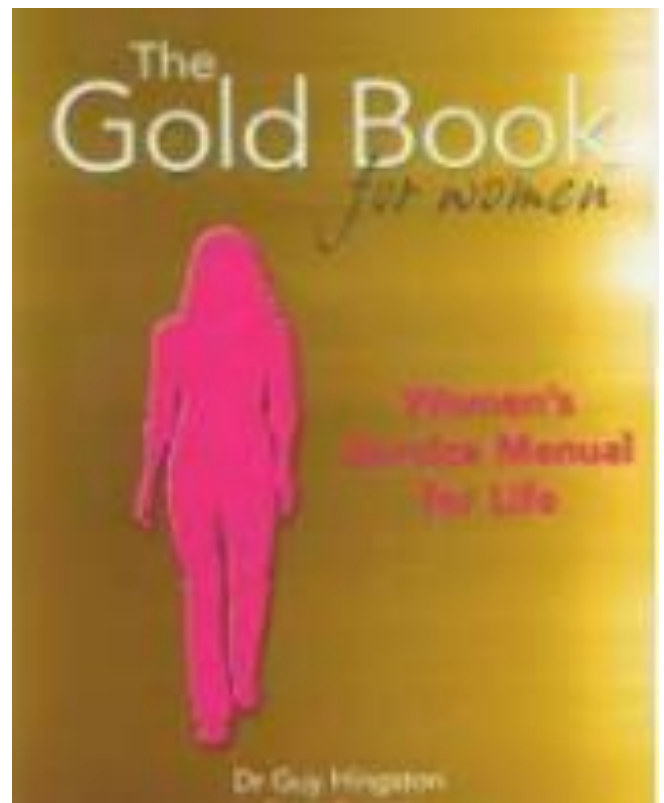
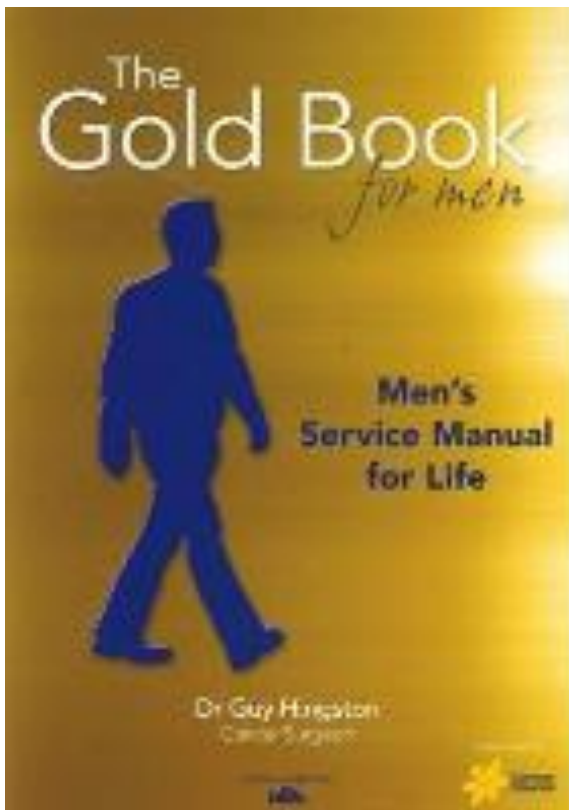


Try to tell the difference by touch between the letters!

The Gold Book for Men and for Women

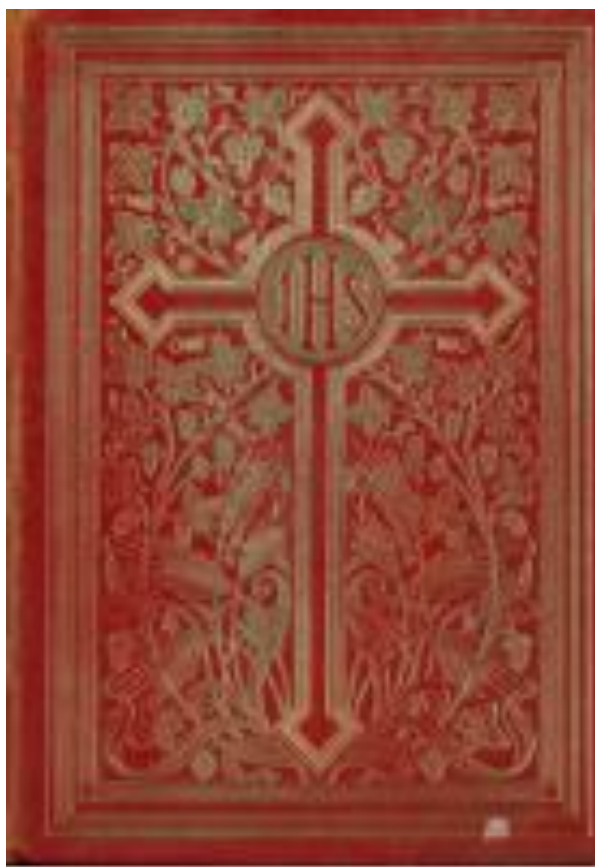
These books answer the questions of How Many of the people born in the same year as you, your parents or grandparents are still alive and how can you all try and stay that way?

These two books make for interesting, but grim, reading



Missale Romanum

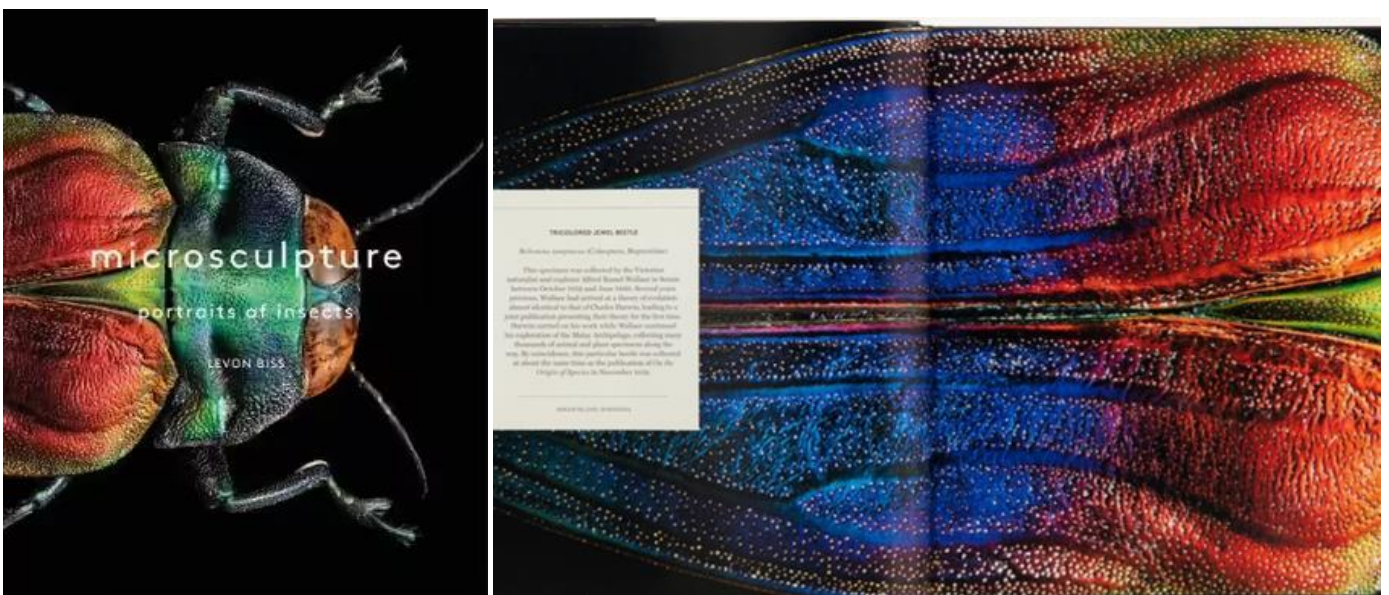
The only book we have that is written in Latin. This pre-dates Vatican II and was published around the early 1950s. *“A missal is a liturgical book containing instructions and texts necessary for the celebration of Mass throughout the liturgical year. Versions differ across liturgical tradition, period, and purpose, with some missals intended to enable a priest to celebrate Mass publicly and others for private and lay use.”*



Thank goodness that these instructions are now available in English.

No Spiders in this One! We Promise.

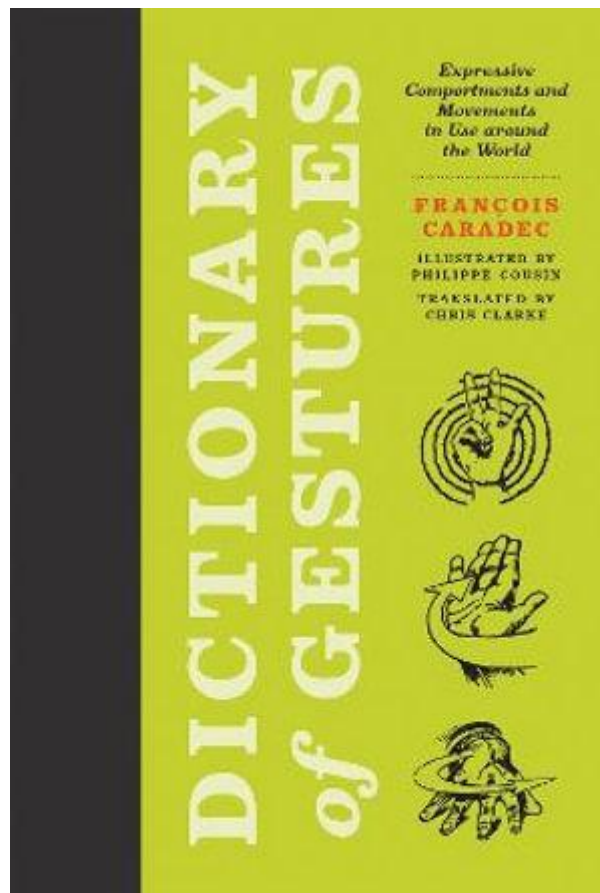
Just amazingly beautiful and weird intricate photographs of insects. *Microsculpture : portraits of insects from the collections of the Oxford University of Natural History* by Levon Biss.



The author uses the painstaking process of microsculpture to create a unique photographic study of insects from the entymology collection of the Oxford of Natural History.

A Very Strange Dictionary

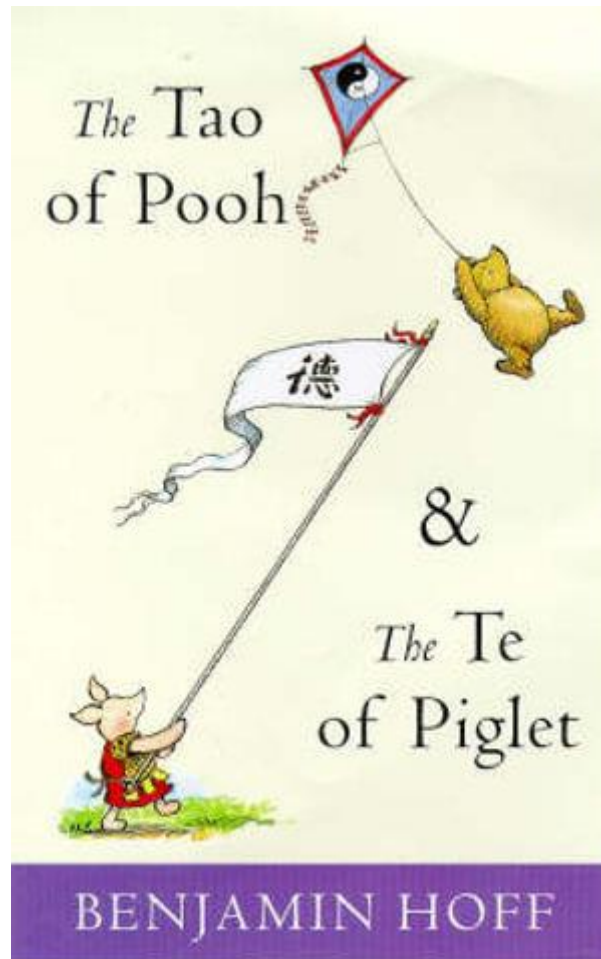
The *Dictionary of gestures* or “Expressive comportments and movements in use around the world”



We all make gestures. Some can get us in trouble. This book is both serious and funny.

The Tao of Pooh (and the Te of Piglet)

This book is included because it uses a child's well loved and well known story book to explain Buddhism – and it does it brilliantly!



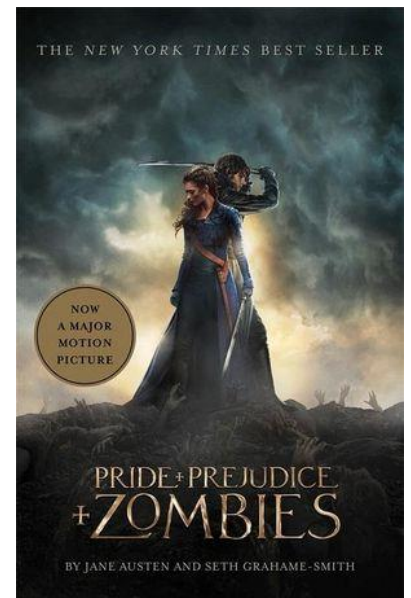
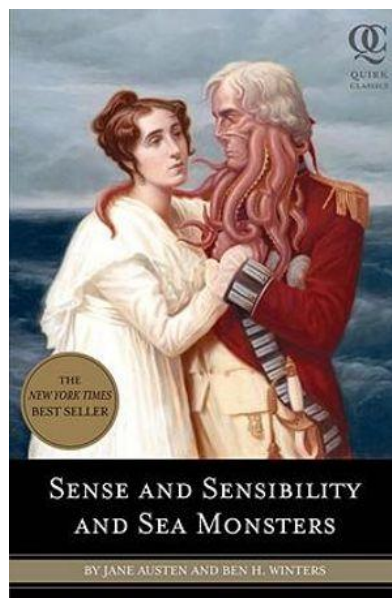
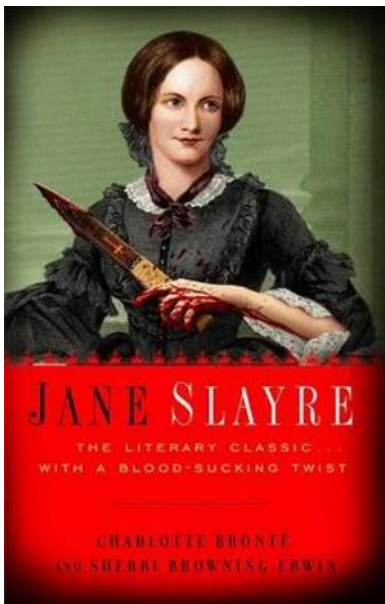
This volume actually contains two books; *The Tao of Pooh* which is insightful and quite funny, and *The Te of Piglet* which is a bit more serious.

The ideal way to learn about Buddhism!

Classic Books Made More Interesting by Adding Monsters!

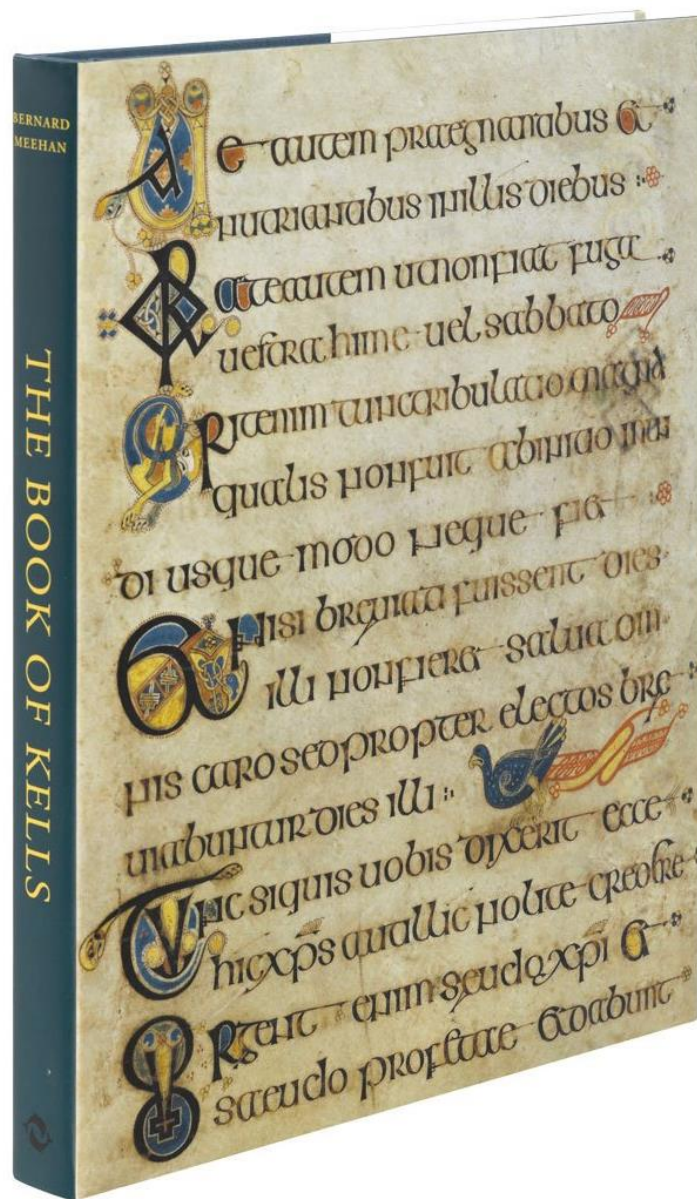
This is a whole subgenre

You take a boring classic and add Vampires, Zombies, Werewolves or Sea Monsters and they immediately become more interesting...



These are three examples in our collection

How Books Used to Look in 800AD



We recently bought an annotated version of *The Book of Kells*. We bought this partly because it supports the Year 8 RE curriculum (illustrated manuscripts) and partly because every library should have something this old, strange and beautiful!