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Reader's digest history books

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Reader's Digest is an American general-interest family magazine that has been published ten times a year since its founding in 1922 by DeWitt Wallace and his wife Lila Bell Wallace. The magazine was initially based in Chappaqua, New York but is now headquartered in midtown Manhattan. It was once the best-selling consumer magazine in the United States but lost that distinction in 2009 to Better Homes and Gardens. Reader's Digest has been a published book since its inception. It featured regular sections such as "My Most Unforgettable Character," which was later discontinued, along with "Drama in Real Life" survival stories and more recent additions like "That's Outrageous." These articles were prominently listed on the front cover of each issue. Each article began with a simple line drawing before evolving into flashy graphics throughout the magazine. The table of contents was initially featured on the front cover but later moved inside. From 2003 to 2007, Reader's Digest had an additional monthly feature called "Our America" which showcased whimsical situations in paintings by artist C.F. Payne. Another recurring segment was "What [Profession] Won't Tell You," where different professions were highlighted each time. The first "Word Power" column was introduced by Wilfred J. Funk in the January 1945 edition. In December 1952, Reader's Digest published a series of articles linking smoking with lung cancer, which later became a recurring topic. The magazine also conducted a national vocabulary competition called the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge from 2002 to 2006. In recent years, Reader's Digest expanded into new markets such as Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Serbia between 2006 and 2007. However, it ceased publishing in China due to low sales and poor content quality in 2012. The US edition of the magazine reduced its publication frequency from 12 times a year to 10 times in 2010, also increasing digital offerings and cutting its circulation guarantee for advertisers. In 2013, the US edition increased back to 12 times a year, currently published 8 times annually. In 1990, Reader's Digest became a publicly traded corporation under The Reader's Digest Association Inc. (RDA). From 2005 through 2010, RDA reported net losses each year. A private equity deal in 2007 led by Ripplewood Holdings LLC resulted in the company being tripled in interest payments. Given article text here Reader's Digest is a global media company with a history dating back nearly a century. In 2009, it filed for bankruptcy and restructured its US debt before emerging from court with lenders exchanging debt for equity. The UK arm was sold to its management in 2010, but the edition closed in 2024. In 2013, RDA Holding filed for bankruptcy again and was purchased by Mike Luckwell for £1. To adapt to a changing media landscape, the company shifted towards electronic direct marketing. In the mid-20th century, Reader's Digest sold mail-order phonograph record albums and partnered with RCA to offer a music club. However, the company faced criticism over its sweepstakes promotions, which were accused of tricking elderly customers into buying products in exchange for a "guaranteed" chance at winning. As a result, Reader's Digest agreed to settle allegations with state attorneys general and expand notice requirements on packaging. The company also established a "Do Not Contact List" and improved transparency about its sweepstakes promotions. In 2008, the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that Reader's Digest's bulk mailings were irresponsible and misleading, particularly for the elderly. Following this ruling, the company was told not to use such mailings again. Despite these controversies, International editions of Reader's Digest have become highly successful, making it the best-selling monthly journal in the world with a global circulation of over Reader's Digest has a massive following with 17 million copies and 70 million readers worldwide. The magazine is published in 49 editions and 21 languages, making it accessible to over 70 countries, including Slovenia, Croatia, and Romania since 2008. Its international editions account for about half of its trade volume, with local editors selecting articles that are then translated and edited to match the "well-educated informal" style of the American edition. Over the years, the company has published unique editions tailored to local readers in various countries, often starting as translations of the US version but evolving over time. Some countries have since discontinued their editions, like Denmark (Det Bedste), which was replaced by Sweden's Det Bästa. The magazine first published its UK edition in 1938, but it ceased operations in 2010 due to a pension fund deficit. After several changes in ownership, the brand remains active today. Reader's Digest has had its fair share of ownership changes over the years.[35] The brand found a new home in 2018 with Gary Hopkins, its former chief executive, taking back the reins.[36] This marked the beginning of the end for the publication, which ceased printing after an impressive 86-year run in April 2024.[37] However, Reader's Digest's international presence continued to thrive. Its Arab World edition kicked off in Egypt in September 1943,[38] though it eventually lost its license and struggled to make a lasting impact. The franchise was later renegotiated through Frederick Pittera's efforts in 1976, partnering with notable figures like Lucien Dahdah and Ghassan Tueni to bring the publication to Arabic-speaking audiences under the title Al-Mukhtar.[38] In Canada, Reader's Digest started publishing in both French (1947) and English (1948), gradually shifting its focus towards more Canadian content. This localisation allowed it to thrive, but ultimately led to its demise as well. It was announced that the Canadian edition would cease publication in spring 2024.[39][40] The Indian edition, launched in 1954, initially boasted a circulation of 40,000 copies and later became a powerhouse under Tata Group ownership. It has since been published by Living Media India Ltd, selling over 600,000 copies with a readership peak of 3.94 million in 2009.[41] Despite this success, the magazine's readership numbers have declined significantly. Meanwhile, Reader's Digest Australia maintained an impressive average readership per issue of 362,000 as at September 2023.[42] In a bid to stay relevant, Trusted Media Brands has taken over publishing nonfiction books and yearly collections of the magazine's content through their website. The Reader's Digest brand also once published a series of hardcover anthologies containing abridged novels and nonfiction since 1950, which were later renamed in 1997 as Reader's Digest Select Editions.[43] The Thomas Y. Crowell Co. launched a mail-order book series called World's Best Reading in 1982, targeting magazine subscribers. In Germany, Reader's Digest operates its own publishing house, Verlag Das Beste, which not only publishes the German edition of the magazine but also releases Reader's Digest Auswahlbücher since 1955. The publisher gained fame for its science fiction anthology Unterwegs in die Welt von Morgen, comprising 50 hardcover volumes of classic novels published between 1986 and 1995. Recent series include Im Spiegel der Zeit and Klassiker der Weltliteratur. Reader's Digest Timeline Reader's Digest was initially halted in May, with a magazine launch from Riyadh being announced. On December 5 and 6, 2023, Reader's Digest Canada ended its run after 76 years, as reported by The Globe and Mail and The Montreal Gazette, respectively. According to Roy Morgan, the readership of magazines increased by 3.5% in November 2023. The following list provides information on various classic literature publications, including their ISBN numbers and release dates for different regions: 1984: * Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" (ISBN 0-89577-185-3) * Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" (ISBN 0-89577-184-5) * Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" (ISBN 0-89577-215-9) 1985: * Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (ISBN 0-89577-217-5) * Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations" (ISBN 0-89577-205-1) * Jack London's "The Call of the Wild and White Fang" (ISBN 0-89577-211-6) 1986: * Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (ISBN 0-89577-252-3) * Edgar Allan Poe's "Tales of Suspense" (ISBN 0-89577-225-6) * Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "A Study in Scarlet and The Hound of the Baskervilles" (ISBN 0-89577-254-X) 1987: * Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Tales" (ISBN 0-89577-255-8) * Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (ISBN 0-89577-277-9) * Marcus Clarke's "For the Term of His Natural Life" (ISBN 0-86438-048-8) 1988: * Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist" (ISBN 0-89577-258-2) * Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi" (ISBN 0-89577-275-2) * Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" (ISBN 0-89577-262-0) 1989: * E.M. Forster's "A Passage to India" (ISBN 0-89577-334-1) This collection contains classic novels and short stories from various authors, published in a series with multiple volumes. The books listed include: * Nathaniel Hawthorne's works (1989) * Betty Smith's A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1989) * Herman Melville's Moby Dick (1989) * Rudyard Kipling's Kim (1990) * Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas (1990) * James Hilton's Lost Horizon (1990) * Mark Twain's The Innocents Abroad and other works (1990) * Willa Cather's O Pioneers! (1990) * Boris Leonidovich Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago (1990) This list continues with: * Tales from the Arabian Nights (1991) * John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath (1991) * Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1991) * Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1991) * Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Return of Sherlock Holmes and other works (1991) Other books listed include: * Paul Creswick's The Adventures of Robin Hood (1991) * Jules Verne's A Journey to the Center of the Earth (1992) * Mark Twain's The Celebrated Jumping Frog and Other Stories (1992) * Lew Wallace's Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1992) * Pearl S. Buck's The Good Earth (1992) This list continues with: * Herman Wouk's The Caine Mutiny (1992) * L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables (1992) * Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows (1993) * Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1993) Other books listed include: * Frank Dalby Davison's Dusty and Man Shy (1993) * Clarence Day's Life with Father (1993) * Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' The Yearling (1993) * Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird (1993) * Lloyd Cassell Douglas' The Robe (1993) * O. Henry's Heart of the West (1993) * Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca (1994) This list continues with: * John Buchan's The Thirty-Nine Steps and Greenmantle (1994) * Jane Austen's Emma (1994) * Jack London's To Build a Fire and Other Stories (1994) * H. Rider Haggard's King Solomon's Mines (1994) A series of classic literature volumes was published in various years, starting from 1994. The books included were: * "Courageous" by Rudyard Kipling (1994) * "Roughing It" by Mark Twain (1994) * "Lorna Doone" by R.D. Blackmore (1995) * "A Town Like Alice" by Nevil Shute (1995) * "Tales of the South Pacific" by James Michener (1995) ...and so on, up to: * "Northanger Abbey" by Jane Austen (2008) The series appears to have been published in various years and editions, with some volumes being released in the UK/SA earlier than in the US. The ISBN numbers and publication dates for each volume are listed. The list appears to be a catalog of books published by Wordsworth Editions in various years from 2008 to 2013. The books are listed with their titles, authors, and ISBN numbers, along with publication dates for different regions (US/UK/Australia). Some books have multiple publication dates, indicating re-releases or updates. The list includes classic works of literature by authors such as Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Edith Wharton. The books seem to be part of a series known as the Wordsworth Editions Classics (WBR) series. There are variations in the edition of some books, including different covers, end papers, and bindings (e.g., cloth vs. smooth boards). These differences can include changes to the book's material, artwork, or design. Some examples of these variations include: * Different cover art: Some books have completely new cover designs compared to other editions. * End paper designs: Some books have patterned end papers with ribbon bookmarks, while others have plain colored end papers without ribbons. * Bindings: Books may have different bindings, such as cloth or smooth boards. The list is not complete, and readers are invited to contribute missing items. Moby Dick, Treasure Island, O Pioneers, The Sea Wolf, and Uncle Tom's Cabin are examples of books with varied cover designs. Another example is Silas Marner, which has plain white end papers in one edition and marble-patterned end papers with a ribbon bookmark in another. Some other titles, such as Pride And Prejudice and A Tale Of Two Cities, have the same artwork on their covers but differ in their colored paper and ribbon bookmarks. Other examples of book variations include The Call of the Wild/White Fang, The Scarlet Letter, and Tess of the D'Urbervilles. Paradise Lost by John Milton is a book safe as part of the WBR series. The exterior resembles other editions, but the interior has two separated compartments lined with light gray velvet and secured with velcro strips. Vivat Direct Limited's publishing division, t/a Reader's Digest, released World's Best Reading books starting in 2010. The titles include Kidnapped/Treasure Island, Wuthering Heights, Oliver Twist, Pride & Prejudice, A Study In Scarlet/The Hound Of The Baskervilles, Moonstone, Robinson Crusoe, The War of the Worlds/The Time Machine, Jo's Boys, Three Men in a Boat/Three Men on the Bummel, and Ivanhoe. These editions feature inserts with the World's Best Reading logo and contain the initials WBR. The books differ from original World's Best Reading publications due to their cloth binding and lack of faux quarter leather over the spine. They also have illustrations on both front and back covers.