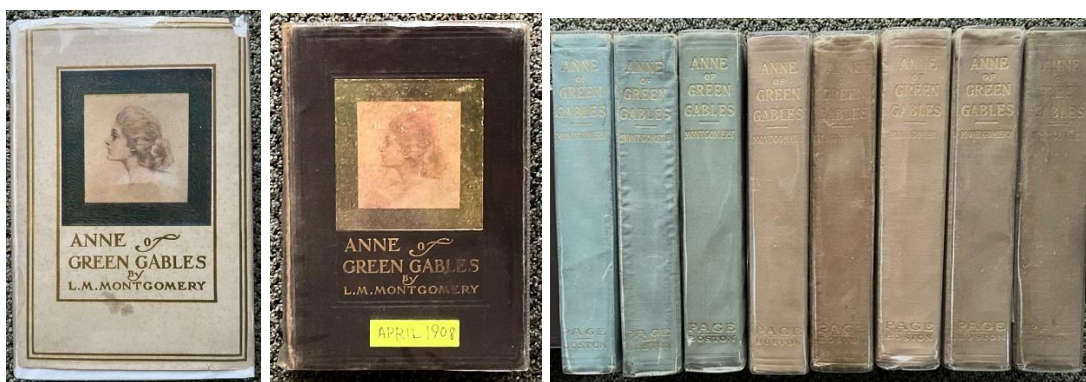


THE FIRST TO THE LAST: L.C. Page Editions of L.M. Montgomery Books

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

From [The Shining Scroll 2025](#)

I have stopped collecting early and first editions of Montgomery books because I feel ready to find homes for most of them elsewhere, but I did make one last acquisition. I already collected one true first edition of *Anne of Green Gables*, in the rarer dark brown boards, and one of every impression for the first year of publication, April 1908 to April 1909, plus fifty more. The most-rare books in my collection are a 1909 edition of *AGG* with the original dustjacket and *The Watchman* in its dustjacket. However, it has been almost as difficult to find the last L.C. Page edition of *Anne of Green Gables* as it has been to find the first ones!

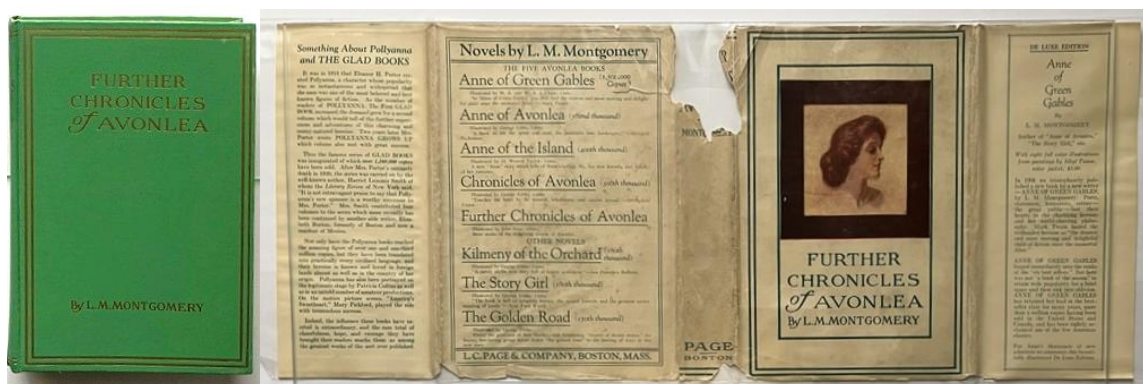


Recently I collected a 1951 edition in a very rare dustjacket, so I feel like I might be done collecting. It reveals some of the small changes made by the publisher and more information about how many books were published by L.C. Page. Starting in 1915, with *Anne of the Island*, Page listed his titles of Montgomery “Avonlea” books and the number of copies printed on the back panel. The back jacket for this 1951 edition states that L.C. Page had published 1,250,000 *Anne of Green Gables* books! That means there may be a million to find, even today!



Ten years ago, I bought this Montgomery-Page book, printed in 1953, *Further Chronicles of Avonlea*, the book Page wrongfully published in 1920 which earned him a lawsuit. On the back

panel, *Anne of Green Gables* shows publication of 1,500,000 copies. None of these dustjacket lists, 1921-1953, mention George F. Gibbs as the illustrator for the cover art of *Anne*. None of the million and a half editions of *AGG* ever credit Gibbs as the cover artist either.



Copyrights

Page bought the Knight publishing company and re-named it L.C. Page & Company in 1896; after 1914 he re-named it The Page Company, which is found on the copyright page of his books. However, the company name is not always consistent, because he appeared to revert to L.C. Page & Co. in 1923. The company was acquired in 1957 by Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, Inc., Page died in 1959. In 1964, Robert Giroux became a partner and the last *Anne* book was published by the former Page company that year with the publisher's new name, Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

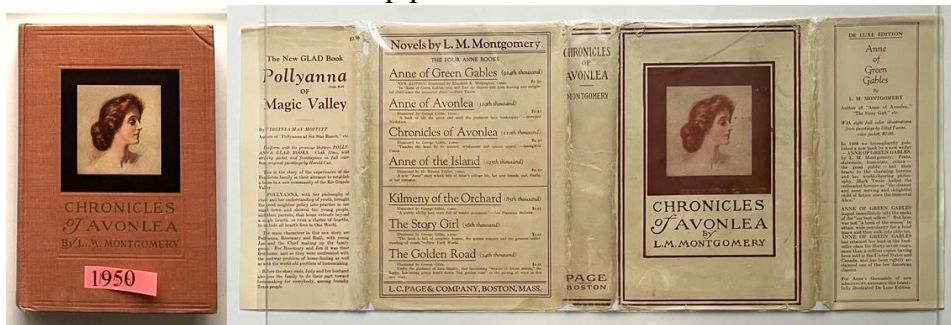
Page published only five of Montgomery's books, and a sixth one illegally, prompting the years-long lawsuit between them. Even though the author eventually sold her rights to Page, he still had to declare copyrights for them to prevent piracy. He sometimes included Montgomery's name in copyright renewals even though she received no benefit from the sales. Her name (as well as L.C. Page & Co.) is listed in Catalogues of Copyright Entries for *Green Gables* as Lucy M. Macdonald in 1935, 1947, and 1951, for example. She is listed as Mrs. Ewan Macdonald in 1940 for renewals of *Chronicles of Avonlea*. The renewal dates by Page correspond to new printings of *AGG* in 1933, 1935-37, 1940, 1944, 1947, and 1951.

Color

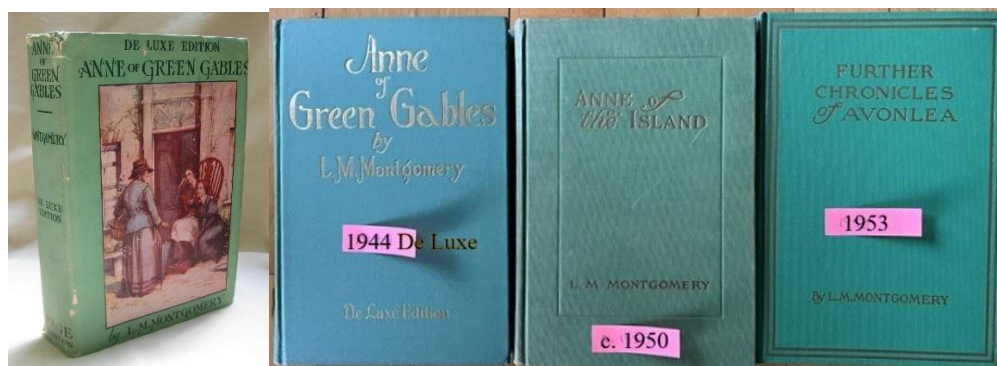
Almost all of the Page dustjackets border the cover, all the edges, and the art with near-gold lines. After the 1940s, the border color became a reddish brown, and on the 1953 dustjacket, the lines are bright green. The printers began to use whatever material was available for the boards, especially during the war years, so Montgomery books became available in colors other than the traditional beige, light green, and blue. Information about board colors on the first editions is on my [Collecting L.M. Montgomery](#) web page.



One of the more unusual binding colors is this *Chronicles of Avonlea* from 1950; the photo may not show it but the color is close to a deep pink.



Later printings of Montgomery books did not include the frontispiece illustration and a few did not have cover art.



Collectors and readers can find great joy in owning and reading older Montgomery books and they do not have to be first editions to be treasured!