

The Market for Kelmscott Press Publications

from Thompson, Susan. "Kelmscott Press: Golden Type's Golden Touch?" *Book Collectors Market 2* (August 1976): 12-14.

Just after the Press closed, "taste turned away from these ornate things" and prices "dropped severely" by 1903 (12).

It was not until 1921 when interest in Kelmscott "thoroughly revived" (12).

After a drop in prices during the Depression, prices did not immediately improve after World War II, but rose slowly until the boom of the 1960s (13).

The sale price of a Kelmscott Chaucer as an indicator for the book trade (12):

	Cost of a Chaucer	→ Today's Dollar
1898	\$157.50	\$3,960.80
1901	\$500	\$13,393.99
"a long period" after 1901	\$250	\$6,697
1921	\$850	\$10,076.20
	\$700	\$8,298.05
1931	£275 (original boards)	\$17,827.74
	£395 (pigskin binding)	\$25,607.12
1939	\$575 (red morocco)	\$8,777.77
1948-1949	\$450 (slightly defective)	\$4,012.05
1972	\$2,000	\$10,152.78
1975	\$9,000	\$35,496.97
	\$15,000 (pigskin binding)	\$59,161.62

Quoting Ben Weinreb in *AB Bookman's Weekly* (13):

	Cost of a Chaucer	→ Today's Dollar*
1928	£400	\$22,992.08
1938	£100	\$6,091.78
1958	£200	\$4,483.26
End of 1960s	£2,000	\$31,568.99

The following data is from Frederick Hopkins in *Publisher's Weekly* (12):

	Cost of a Complete Set	→ Today's Dollar*
When Published	paper: £144 4s 6d	about \$23,956.74
1898	paper: £225	\$23,919.53
1899	paper: £431	\$46,294.54
1900	paper: £255	\$26,334.47
1921	paper: £1,000 or more	\$42,325.94

Today, Kelmscott Prices have more or less quadrupled in value since 1921 (14).

The Kelmscott Press Collection

Ingalls Library, Cleveland Museum of Art

27 March 2009