

# THE ORIGIN OF PAPERBACKS IN AMERICA

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## INTRODUCTON

The purpose of this project is to discover and discuss the development of American publishing, specifically the transition from hardcover books to paperback books. This project will look specifically at the change within the American publishing industry but will also mirror the changes made in other countries way of publishing books, seeing as having both hardcover and paperback books is a global practice. Focusing on the modern shift of the binding of books will also reveal the

## KEYWORDS

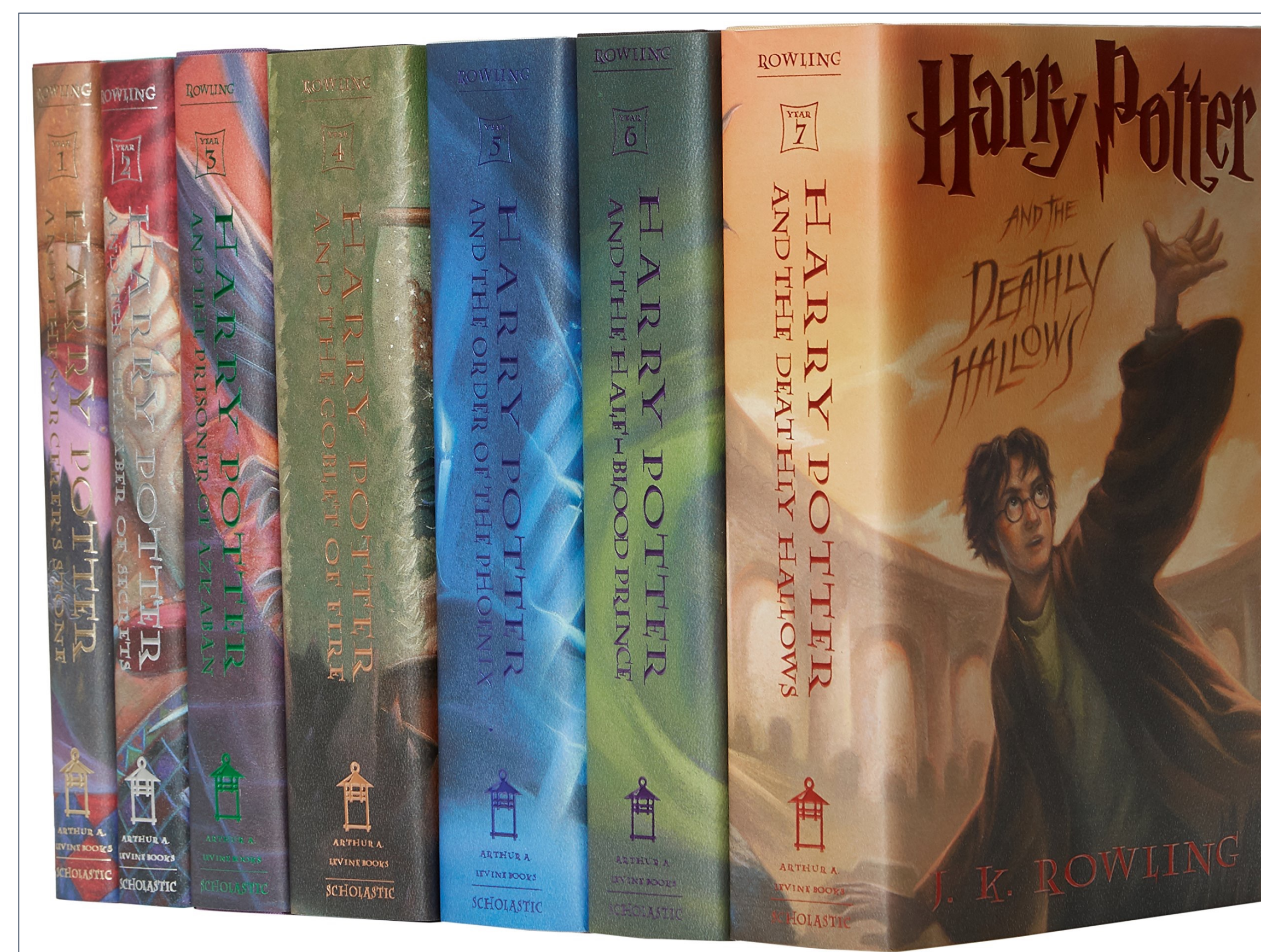
**Hardcover** – This describes the kind of binding that is inherently rigid, as the term suggests. This kind of binding is more durable and sturdier but is also more expensive to manufacture. The spine of the book is flexible but the front and back covers are not, something paperbacks can be. Hardcover books are usually made from cardboard or a form of heavy paperboard.

**Paperback** – Sometimes known as “softcover”, this describes a kind of book binding that’s more flexible. This kind of binding holds the pages together with glue, as opposed to the stitches or staples used in hardcover books. The covers of the books themselves are built of paper instead of plastic or leather.

## GENERAL HISTORY

In the 1950’s, American publishers joined in on the growing popularity of paperback production.

## VISUAL DIFFERENCES



HARDCOVER



PAPERBACK

## CONCLUSION

The shift in the making of books with hard covers to paper backs reveals sociological shift in both book and American culture of the time. While at first glance, then and now, the decision for change might seem solely financially motivated, the transition is actually based on...

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