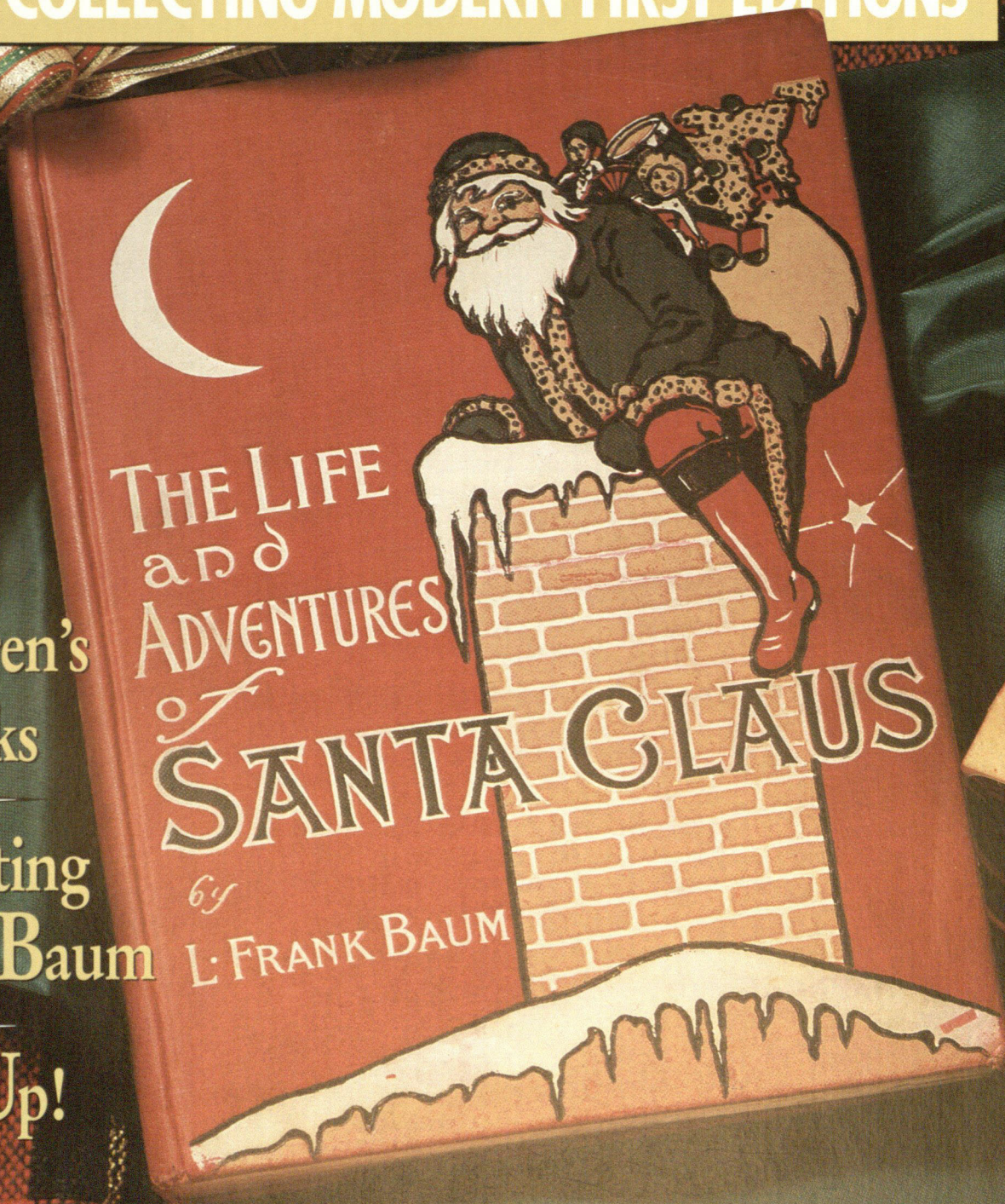


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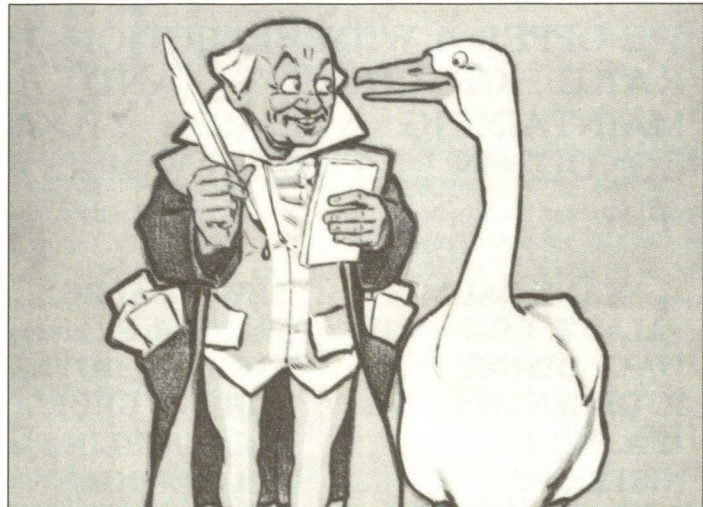
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Delightful and instructive, pop-up books bring to life three-dimensional fantasies.

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Finding a first of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in dust jacket may be a futile quest, and the wizard Baum wrote about much more than Oz.

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UPDATE

COLLECTABLE BOOKS

NOT MUDHEAD KIVA

Sacred Clowns
Tony Hillerman
NY: Harper Collins, 1993,
305 pages, \$23
States "10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1"

This, the eleventh in the Joe Leaphorn/Jim Chee Navajo police series, took a while to be written. Originally scheduled for release well over a year ago, Harper Collins announced the upcoming Hillerman mystery in their Winter/Spring 1992 brochure—apparently without Hillerman's consent—as *Mudhead Kiva*. That brochure

may turn out to be a real collector's item, since *Mudhead Kiva* was not written, although the story outline contained in the brochure bears some slight similarity to the finished version of *Sacred Clowns*.

The good news is that *Sacred Clowns* is a first-rate Hillerman novel. In this one, Jim Chee has been assigned, rather reluctantly, to work in Leaphorn's special investigation section. Neither of their lives are settled in any way. Chee's involvement with lawyer Janet Pete is still tentative and more friendly than romantic; Leaphorn has not yet recovered

Among our Fine-condition Children's and Illustrated Books are first editions (without dust wrapper) of Baum's *Sea Fairies* and *Lost Princess of Oz*; firsts in dust wrapper of Thompson's *Captain Salt in Oz* and Snow's *Who's Who in Oz*; and Twenties-era colorplate editions of other Oz titles; plus very collectible copies of Kay Nielsen's *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, Rene Bull's *Arabian Nights*, and several titles featuring Warwick Goble or Willie Pogany. Beautiful books for the child in all of us!

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from the loss of his wife, Emma.

The plot involves a ceremonial that includes *koshare*—the sacred clowns—of a fictional pueblo people, the Tano. Despite the necessary disclaimers, Tano is loosely based on Hopi culture—Hopi mixed with some other pueblo rituals—so that there are no secrets revealed. Hillerman accomplishes this touchy amalgamation skillfully; he gives an authentic feel to the religious ceremonies without violating any group's privacy.

The machinations of the plot provide only the catalyst for a Hillerman book. The true value of the series lies in its characters, and Hillerman's casual drawing on a lifetime of experience in the Southwest. Here he has no peer; his books get better and better.

The first printing of *Sacred Clowns* is reportedly 350,000 copies, a number too large for the book to

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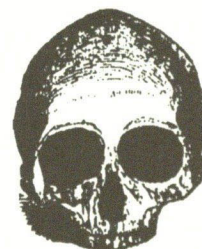


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be a collector's item on its own. The softcover advance reading copy—given away at the American Booksellers Association convention last spring—has some marked textual differences. That volume also had a huge printing, a reported 25,000 copies, and has been offered for upwards of \$100 in dealers' catalogues. Hillerman completists will want both.

Hillerman is not scheduled for a signing tour for *Sacred Clowns*. He did sign some bookplates, and these have been seen at various locations. There is a rumor that Harper Collins used an autopen to create many more of these than Hillerman signed. Collectors should take special care when these bookplates are represented as genuine; autopen signatures are worth no more than any other printed signatures, and these phony bookplates might, in fact, diminish the value of a collectable book.

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