

Biographical Note: Willa Cather is considered a preeminent author of Nebraska. Several of her novels and stories take place on the frontier of the Midwest, and deal with themes relatable and significant to the region. Her works are of considerable importance to researchers and students of Midwest history and literature.

A Note on Cather's Works: *April Twilights*, a collection of poems, was Cather's first published work in 1903. Most copies of the original printing were destroyed when Cather heavily revised and added to the collection for a 1923 publication. *The Troll Garden* was Cather's first collection of prose short stories published in 1905. In 1912, while working for the New York magazine *McClure's* Cather published her first novel *Alexander's Bridge* initially serialized in the magazine. She then published *O Pioneers!* which she considered her real first novel. After *The Song of the Lark* Cather's voice truly emerged in *My Antonia*, considered to be an improvement on her prairie storytelling from *O Pioneers!* It was after *My Antonia* that Cather began publishing with Alfred A. Knopf, beginning with *Youth and the Bright Medusa*, a collection of stories including several revised versions that had appeared in *The Troll Garden*. Her novel, *One of Ours*, followed and won a Pulitzer prize. Her next book *A Lost Lady* is considered to be constructed as a clearly feminist message, and is part of a series of books she wrote in the 1920's that were meditative and philosophical in looking back on her past. *The Professor's House* continues that trend in a pseudo-autobiographical fashion. The year after she published *My Mortal Enemy*. Her next books, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* and *Shadows on the Rock* both won awards leading into the early 1930's. At this point, though, critics began to point to her age and her political concerns as looking too far into the past. *Obscure Destinies*--short stories--and *Not Under Forty*--three essays--were reflective of Cather's struggle to stay relevant. To do this she inverted the themes and characters of *The Song of the Lark* to write *Lucy Gayheart* and began work on what would be her final novel, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*.

1. *April Twilights and other poems* - 1903 [PS3505 .A87A6 1903]
 - a. The 1903 edition is a rare first edition presentation copy printed through a vanity press by Willa Cather. When she began publishing with Alfred A. Knopf, it is reported that Cather collected copies of the 1903 edition and destroyed them.
2. *April Twilights and other poems* - 1923 [PS3505 .A87A6 1923a] 2 copies
 - a. The first copy of the 1923 edition is a first printing of the standard version.
 - b. The second copy is a special first edition autographed and numbered 33 out of 450 copies.
3. *The Troll Garden* - 1905 [PS3505 .A87T7 1905] 2 copies
 - a. Both copies are first editions, first printings.
4. *The Troll Garden* - 1961 [PS3505 .A87T7 1961]
 - a. This copy is a first printing in paperback.
5. *Alexander's Bridge* - 1912 [PS3505 .A87A7 1912]
 - a. A first edition.
6. *O Pioneers!* - 1913 [PS3505 .A87O6 1913 c. 3]
 - a. A first edition with a colored frontispiece.
7. *The Song of the Lark* - 1915 [PS3505 .A87S6 1915] 2 copies

- a. Our first copy is a first edition first printing containing a typo. The second copy is a corrected version.
8. *My Antonia* - 1918 [PS3505 .A87M82 1918]
 - a. An illustrated first edition, first printing.
9. *My Antonia* - 1926 [PS3505 .A87M82 1926]
 - a. An illustrated edition.
10. *One of Ours* - 1922 [PS3505 .A87O5 1922b]
 - a. This copy is an autographed first edition, numbered 286 out of 345 and printed on Perugia handmade Italian paper.
11. *A Lost Lady* - 1923 [PS3505 .A87L6 1923a]
 - a. An autographed first edition numbered 31 out of 200 and printed on Printed on Borzoi all-rag paper.
12. *A Lost Lady* -1925 [PS3505 .A87L6 1923b]
 - a. A special edition using stills from the 1924 film adaptation to illustrate the novel.
13. *A Lost Lady* - 1923 [PS3505 .A87L6 1923c]
 - a. A first edition printed on English Featherweight paper.
14. *The Professor's House* - 1925 [PS3505 .A87P76 1925b]
 - a. An autographed first edition numbered 101 out of 225.
15. *My Mortal Enemy* - 1926 [PS3505 .A87M828 1926]
 - a. This is an illustrated first edition, autographed, and numbered 39 out of 220.
16. *Death Comes for the Archbishop* - 1927 [PS3505 .A87D4 1927]
 - a. First edition, numbered 26 out of 175, autographed, and printed on Borzoi all-rag paper.
 - b. There is an additional copy (PS3505 .A87D4 1927b) that is also a first edition.
17. *December Night: A Scene from Death Comes for the Archbishop* - 1933 [PS3505 .A87D5 1933]
 - a. Illustrated special edition (a first edition for this format).
18. *Shadows on the Rock* - 1931 [PS3505 .A87S4 1931b]
 - a. This copy is a first edition autographed copy numbered 367 out of 619, and printed on Croxley handmade paper.
19. *Shadows on the Rock* - 1931 [PS3505 .A87S4 1931c]
 - a. This second copy is a first edition autographed copy numbered 129 out of 199, and printed on Shidzuoka Japan vellum.
20. *Lucy Gayheart* - 1935 [PS3505 .A87L8 1935]
 - a. This is a first edition, autographed, numbered 462 out of 749 and printed on Croxley rag paper.
21. *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* - 1940 [PS3505 .A87S3 1940]
 - a. A special first edition, first printing, autographed, numbered 28 out of 520, and printed on Rives Llampre all-rag paper.
22. *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* - 1940 [PS3505 .A87S3 1940b]
 - a. First edition.
23. *Not Under Forty* - 1936 [PS3505 .A87N7 1936b]

- a. First edition, autographed, numbered 215 out of 335 and printed on Nihon Japan vellum.
- 24. *Youth and the Bright Medusa* - 1925 [PS3505 .A87Y6 1925]
 - a. Sixth printing of the first edition.
- 25. *Youth and the Bright Medusa* - 1930 [PS3505 .A87Y6 1920b]
 - a. First printing of the trade edition.
- 26. *Obscure Destinies* - 1932 [PS3505 .A87O2 1932]
 - a. An autographed first edition, numbered 205 out of 609 printed on Nihon Japan vellum.
- 27. *Obscure Destinies* - 1965 [PS3505 .A87O2 1965]
 - a. The first British edition.
- 28. *The Old Beauty and others* - 1948 [PS3505 .A87O4 1948]
 - a. First edition, first printing.
- 29. *The Fortunate Mistress* by Daniel Defoe - 1924 [PR3403 .F6 1924]
 - a. Willa Cather wrote the introduction for this novel, of which our copy is a first edition with the introduction.
- 30. *Five Stories* - 1956 [PS3505 .A87 1956]
 - a. A first edition of the Vintage Book series, these stories were first published by Willa Cather's estate in 1956.
- 31. *Willa Cather: A Biographical Sketch* - 1940 [PS3505 .A87Z69 1940]
 - a. A small book published by Alfred A. Knopf.
- 32. *Early Stories of Willa Cather* edited with commentary by Mildred R. Bennett - 1947 [PS3505 .A87A6 1957]
- 33. *Willa Cather: The Woman and Her Works* by Marion Marsh Brown and Ruth Crone - 1970 [PS3505 .A87Z585]
- 34. *The Kingdom of Art: Willa Cather's First Principles and Critical Statements, 1893-1896* by Bernice Slate, editor - 1966 [PS3505 .A87A16 1966]
 - a. An advance copy
- 35. *Willa Cather: The Emerging Voice* by Sharon O'Brien - 1987 [PS3505 .A87Z746 1987]