



THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATION PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Initial inquiries about publication should be made directly to the chairperson of the Publications Committee at the Book Club of California. Please do not send complete manuscripts. Correspondence and proposals should be sent by email to publicationschair@bccbooks.org.

What does the Book Club of California publish?

The Book Club of California is a distinguished and adventurous publisher of work pertaining to the history, literature, art, and bibliography of California and the West. Since 1912 The Book Club has published one to three books a year on printing history, typography, photography and book art along with fiction, poetry and biography by a stellar list of authors. We pride ourselves on our outstanding productions, many printed in limited editions by succeeding generations of fine printers in California and across the country. The Book Club seeks original illustrated manuscripts; we also will consider works which deserve a second life. The Book Club is particularly interested in work which reflects the highly diverse history and culture of San Francisco, California and the West. We welcome proposals from new authors as well as from seasoned writers. We value originality, vision and work that helps to fill out a more complete view of the community in which we live and work.

All manuscripts undergo an editorial peer-review, which includes outside readings by field experts. The imprint of the Book Club of California is controlled by an editorial committee, which has the authority to approve or deny acceptance of all books published by the Book Club.

The Book Club publishes general interest and scholarly books in the following broad categories: California history, history of the West, photography, architecture, literature, art, natural history, and the history of the book and book art. We do not generally publish religious texts, children's books, Festschriften, conference volumes, unrevised dissertations, or autobiographies.

How do I submit a proposal?

Please submit a book proposal rather than a full-length manuscript. This will allow us to quickly assess our interest in your work. If we decide to pursue consideration of your project, we will either request the full manuscript or send the prospectus out for external review.

Please address your submission to the chairperson of the Publications Committee who will review it or pass it to other committee members as appropriate. To facilitate review, proposals should be sent electronically, as attachments to email messages, to the following address: publicationschair@bccbooks.org. Please do not send original materials.

What should be in a proposal?

Your initial submission should include the materials listed below, plus a letter of introduction, your CV or resumé, and a sample chapter if available.

1. Brief description

- In a few paragraphs, describe the work. Be sure to include what you consider to be the outstanding, distinctive, or unique features of the work. This narrative description should explain the proposed book's purpose, themes, arguments, scope, contribution to scholarship, and place in the literature. Please state your argument concisely and clearly.

2. Outline/Table of Contents

- Include a detailed outline of the book with paragraph-length descriptions of each chapter.

3. Book length/illustrative materials

- What do you estimate to be the length of the completed book?
- Approximately how many photographs and/or line drawings (charts, graphs, diagrams, etc.) do you plan to include? Will this material require permission? Have any permissions been secured?
- If illustrations are planned, please attach up to five examples as jpegs.

Please note: if your proposal is approved, you must agree to obtain all necessary permissions or assignments of copyright for text and illustrations used in the publication.

4. Market considerations

- For what type of reader is your book intended? (Specialists in your field, or in some particular area of a larger field?) Is it intended for general readers without specialized knowledge? How would your work be important to Book Club of California members?
- Describe existing books in this field and spell out how your book will be similar to, as well as different from, these works. Discuss specifically their strengths and weaknesses, and how your coverage would vary from the competing titles. Include author, title, publisher and year of publication.

5. Status of the work

- What portion or percentage of the material is now complete? When do you expect to have a complete manuscript?

6. Collaborative partnerships

- If you would like to work with specific designers, printers, artists or other collaborators please list them, along with their websites and contact information.

7. Additional information

- Please include any additional information that would help us evaluate your proposal.

8. Reviews

- Please provide the names and contact details for two or three people whom you feel would be competent to review your material and whose opinion you would find valuable. We will try to use some of these along with our own selection. Naturally, we do not reveal the names of reviewers without their permission.

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After receipt of your proposal, the chairperson of the Book Club Publications Committee will review your materials and consider whether it is a good fit for the Book Club list. We make every effort to ensure that editorial decisions are made in a timely manner, but because the Publications Committee receives many book proposals each year, it may take up to six months for a response to this initial submission.

If we are interested in your project, we will notify you of our interest and then commission outside reviewers to read and evaluate your proposal. At this stage, we may ask for additional materials. We will, of course, obtain the best available reviewers to consider your work. The review process typically takes up to four months, depending on, among other things, the nature of the project and the availability of reviewers.

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we cannot respond to all proposals. We appreciate your patience and understanding of this process, and sincerely thank you for your interest in the Book Club of California publications program.