



THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATION PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submitting Publication Proposals

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 publications@bccbooks.org.

What Does the Book Club of California Publish?

The Book Club of California is a small but distinguished and adventurous publisher of work pertaining to the history, literature, art, and bibliography of California and the West. Respected for its focus on fine press printing, the Book Club has attracted an important list of authors whose work transcends traditional academic boundaries to speak to people everywhere. The Book Club publishes between one and three books annually. These are artfully designed and produced, and printed in limited editions by some of the foremost fine printers in California. The majority of these books represent the first and only appearance of their texts in printed form. 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. We do not generally publish religious texts, children's books, Festschriften, conference volumes, unrevised dissertations, or autobiographies.

How Do I Submit a Proposal?

Please send 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: publications@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, a your CV or resume, 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. Apparatus / 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?
- If illustrations are planned, please attach up to five examples in the form of 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?

5. Competition

- 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.
- Please discuss each competing book in a separate paragraph. If possible, please provide the publisher and date of publication as well.

6. Status of the Work

- What portion or percentage of the material is now complete? When do you expect to have a complete manuscript?
- Do you plan to include material requiring permission (text, illustrations)? To what extent? Please provide any relevant information about your progress towards or plan for obtaining such permissions.

7. 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.

The Review Process

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. During the waiting period, we will not respond to queries regarding the status of your proposal.

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.