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Get 'Em While They're Rare

Tastes change and fashion is fickle, but the most prized 20th-century American authors among collectors continue to be William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway. "Both are still as hot as a pistol," according to Allen Ahearn of Rockville, Md., a co-author of "*Collected Books: The Guide to Values*," a handbook, to be published in July, that lists current prices for 20,000 first editions. "A mint copy of '*The Sound and the Fury*' is about as rare a modern book as there is; I know people who would pay \$15,000 to get one." Today, "*Gone With the Wind*" in a first-issue dust jacket sells for \$3,000. "Just last year, we sold one at the New York fair for \$2,000."