

The  
National Geographic  
Magazine

**100 “Best” Special Numbers**

*By: Edwin C. Buxbaum, ©1970*

**\*\*All issues prior to 1911 are highly collectible\*\* Issues in **YELLOW** are particularly desirable.**

1]	1911	July	Reptiles of All Lands
2]	1912	Sept.	Head-Hunters of Northern Luzon
3]	1912	Oct.	China
4]	1913	April	In the Wonderland of Peru [PIC Supp = Ruins of an Ancient Inca Capital, Machu Picchu]
5]	1913	Sept.	Ancient Egypt
6]	1913	Nov.	Non-Christian Peoples of the Philippines
7]	1914	Jan.	Northern Africa
8]	1914	May	Birds of Town and Country <sup>Ψ</sup> [MAP Supp = Mexico]
9]	1914	Aug.	Experiences of the Grand Canyon [MAP Supp = The New Balkan States and Central Europe – WW1 map]
10]	1914	Nov.	Young Russia
11]	1915	May	American Wild Flowers <sup>β</sup>
12]	1915	Aug.	American Game Birds →
13]	1916	June	Common American Wild Flowers <sup>β</sup>
14]	1916	Nov.	Larger North American Mammals * [PIC Supp = Alaska Brown Bear]
15]	1917	Oct.	Our Flag Number <sup>Ⓢ</sup>
16]	1918	May	Smaller Mammals of North America*

<sup>Ψ</sup> This issue was incorporated into the 1915 publication, "Common Birds of Town and Country" which also included the April-1911, June-1913, and March-1914 issues.

<sup>β</sup> Adapted into the 1924 "The Book of Wild Flowers", w/ 1933 revision.

→ This issue was incorporated into a revision of the "Common Birds", which also included material from the April-1917 issue. Issued as "The Book of Birds", 1918, w/ revisions in 1927, and in 2-volume set of 1937.

<sup>β</sup> See prior note

\* Special 100 # 's 14 & 16 were later reprinted in book form as "Wild Animals of North America", 1918 w/ Revised editions in 1930, 1960, and 1967.

<sup>Ⓢ</sup> Published in book format as "Flags of the World" in 1917, in two cover versions.

\* See prior note

[MAP Supp = Western Theater of War]

17]	1919	March	Dogs ( <i>"Mankind's Best Friend"</i> ) <sup>⊘</sup>
18]	1919	Dec.	The Romance of Military Insignia
19]	1920	May	Common Mushrooms of the United States
20]	1920	Dec.	Falconry, The Sport of Kings
21]	1921	June	Familiar Grasses and Their Flowers
22]	1922	July	Cathedrals of the Old and New World
23]	1923	May	At the Tomb of Tutankhamen
24]	1923	Nov.	Horses of the World <sup>Ω</sup>
25]	1924	Oct.	Goldfish <sup>Ϛ</sup>
26]	1925	May	Ferns as a Hobby
27]	1925	Dec.	Cattle of the World <sup>Σ</sup>
28]	1926	Jan.	Pigeons
29]	1926	Aug.	Jellyfish
30]	1927	April	Fowl
31]	1927	May	Wild Flowers of the West
32]	1927	July	Moths and Butterflies
33]	1929	July	Insects
34]	1931	March	Tropical Fish
35]	1933	July	Eagles, Hawks, and Vultures
36]	1934	May	Common Birds of North America

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<sup>⊘</sup> Reprinted as "The Book of Dogs" in 1919. Revisions in 1927, 1958, updated & repackaged in 1966 as "Man's Best Friend"

<sup>Ω</sup> "The Story of the Horse" is based on the November 1919 "Horses" issue. Later revised and published as "Horses of the World", 1923.

<sup>Ϛ</sup> Incorporated into the 1924 "The Book of Fishes". Revised in 1940, 1952, 1958, and 1961. Re-titled "Wondrous World of Fishes" in 1965, revised 1969.

<sup>Σ</sup> Also known as "The Taurine World" issue, this was published as "Cattle of the World" in 1926, in various cover versions.

37]	1934	Sept.	Flags of the World
38]	1934	Oct.	Wild Geese, Ducks, and Swans
39]	1937	Jan.	Field Dogs
40]	1937	April	Colonial Williamsburg
41]	1937	May	Butterfly Migrants
42]	1938	Nov.	Cats
43]	1938	Dec.	Canaries and Other Cage Birds [MAP Supp = Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization]
44]	1939	Dec.	Cathedrals of England [MAP Supp = Mexico, Central America and the West Indies]
45]	1940	Jan.	Whales, Porpoises, and Dolphins
46]	1940	March	Greece and Italy – Classic Lands [MAP Supp = Classical Lands of the Mediterranean]
47]	1940	July	National Gallery of Art
48]	1941	Oct.	Ancient Egypt <sup>△</sup>
49]	1941	Dec.	Working Dogs [MAP Supp = World]
50]	1942	Feb.	Dinosaurs [MAP Supp = Theater of War in the Pacific Ocean]
51]	1943	Feb.	Lions, Tigers, Leopards [MAP Supp = Africa]
52]	1943	June	Insignia of the U.S. Armed Forces <sup>▣</sup> [MAP Supp = Europe and the Near East]
53]	1943	Oct.	Decorations, Medals, and Service Ribbons <sup>▣</sup>
54]	1944	March	The Greek Way <sup>△</sup>

<sup>△</sup> Combined into the 1951 book “Everyday Life in Ancient Times”; consisting also of March 1944, November 1946, and January 1951 issues of NG.

<sup>▣</sup> Material from this article were contained in the 1943 book, “Insignia and Decorations of the U.S. Armed Forces”, along w/ the material from the October and December 1943 issues. Updated edition in 1945.

<sup>▣</sup> See above.

<sup>△</sup> *IBID*, above.

55]	1944	July	Indians of the Western Plains
56]	1945	Jan.	Indians of the North Pacific Coast
57]	1945	Oct.	Wrens of Australia
58]	1946	Nov.	The Roman Way <sup>△</sup>
59]	1947	July	The World in Your Garden <sup>✕</sup>
60]	1947	Sept.	Bird Dogs
61]	1948	Feb.	Indians of the Far West
62]	1948	March	Circus [MAP Supp = Australia]
63]	1948	Sept.	American Masters in the National Gallery [MAP Supp = Washington, D.C.]
64]	1948	Dec.	Prehistoric Paintings of Lascaux [MAP Supp = Southwestern United States]
65]	1949	April	The British Way [MAP Supp = British Isles]
66]	1949	May	Flags of the Americas
67]	1949	July	Shells
68]	1949	Aug.	Vegetables <sup>✕</sup>
69]	1950	June	The Vienna Treasures [MAP Supp = Northwestern United States and Neighboring Canadian Provinces]
70]	1950	Dec.	Gems [MAP Supp = Western Europe]
71]	1951	Jan.	Ancient Mesopotamia <sup>△</sup>
72]	1951	Feb.	American Paintings

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<sup>△</sup> *IBID, above.*

<sup>✕</sup> Combined into the NG book of the same name, published in 1957; further included the material from the August 1949 and September 1951 issues.

<sup>✕</sup> *Contributed to "The World In Your Garden", published 1957.*

<sup>△</sup> *See prior comment of same footnote mark.*

73]	1951	Sept.	Fruit <sup>ⓧ</sup>
74]	1951	Nov.	Minerals
75]	1952	Jan.	National Gallery of Art [PIC Supp = The Adoration of the Magi]
76]	1953	Sept.	Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
77]	1954	July	The Conquest of Mt. Everest (increased in value after sir Edmund Hillary's death in 2008)
78]	1955	May	Grand Canyon
79]	1955	July	Lhasa and Tibet
80]	1955	Sept.	Literary England [MAP Supp = Southeast Asia]
81]	1955	Nov.	Egyptian Archaeology
82]	1956	June	Alaska [MAP Supp = Alaska]
83]	1957	April	Modern Rome
84]	1957	Dec.	Old Testament Times [MAP Supp = Map of the Heavens]
85]	1958	Dec.	Dead Sea Scrolls [MAP Supp = Greece and the Aegean]
86]	1959	Sept.	Soviet Union [MAP Supp = Western Soviet Union]
87]	1960	Feb.	Drowned City of Port Royal [MAP Supp = South America]
88]	1960	Dec.	Japan [MAP Supp = Japan and Korea]
89]	1961	Jan.	The White House <sup>Ⓚ</sup>

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<sup>ⓧ</sup> See above.

<sup>Ⓚ</sup> This trailblazing and immensely popular issue inspired First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to persuade the N.G.S. to collaborate with The White House Historical Society, to publish in 1962, a public service book titled "The White House: An Historic Guide". Slightly updated editions were republished in nine editions over the years. This led to other public service books covering the nation's capital. This endeavor was the genesis of the Special Publications Division, which commenced in 1966, a series of 4 books per year, through to the present day!

- 90] 1961 April The Civil War  
[MAP Supp = Battlefields of the Civil War]
- 91] 1962 March Journey to Outer Mongolia
- 92] 1963 Aug. Disneyland
- 93] 1964 March President John F. Kennedy (Funeral)
- 94] 1965 Aug. Sir Winston Churchill (Funeral)  
[RECORDING Insert = "Excerpts from His Speeches" and "Sounds from the Funeral"]
- 95] 1966 March Moscow, U.S.S.R.
- 96] 1966 July National Parks  
[MAP Supp = Vacationlands]
- 97] 1966 Aug. Bayeux Tapestry  
[MAP Supp = Northwestern Africa]
- 98] 1967 Dec. Where Jesus Walked  
[MAP Supp = Lands of the Bible Today]
- 99] 1969 Dec. *APOLLO 11*  
[RECORDING Insert = "Sounds of the Space Age"]
- 100] 1970 March Japan (Kansai, World's Fair)

## A Supplemental List

Year	Month	Details
1979	January	Whales Record issue - with "Songs of the Humpback Whales" insert This is the third and final record insert issues (Aug. 1965 & Dec. 1969) Only valuable if record unremoved,
1984	March	Bald Eagle issue – Hologram Issue
1985	November	Human Skull - anthropological discovery – Hologram Issue
1988	December	Earth issue – with McDonald's Holographic ad on back cover. Solid gold front and back and quite unique. Hard to find. These are the only 3 hologram issue made
1985	December	There have been six Titanic issues following the discovery of the wreck. Not being a “news” magazine at the time, there was no mention of the Titanic disaster in the April or May 1912 issues
1986	December	
1987	October	
1998	August	
2004	December	
2012	April	
1993	November	The Water Issue (a special issue to make 13 for the year instead of 12)
1981	February	The Energy Issue (a special issue to make 13 for the year instead of 12) Often people are looking for both the “Water” and “Energy” issues together as a set.
1985	June	The Afghan Girl cover Probably one of the most iconic and famous cover photos of all time. Highly collectible.
1988	September	NGS Society “Centennial” issue – Special cover, with no photo.
1998	August	Return to Mars – with 3D photos and included pull-out 3D glasses * only valuable if 3D glass unremoved
2002	April	Afghan Girl is Found issue Pairs well with the 1985 issue as a set

## Some Helpful Websites

The NGS Collector's Corner Website

<http://ngscollectors.ning.com/>

NGS Society Collectors

<http://www.ngslis.org/archives/>

[Ebay NGS Collectors Guide](#)



<http://www.ebay.com/gds/A-Guide-to-Selling-National-Geographic-Magazines-/10000000019109329/g.html>

Downtown Magazine (Online US Used Magazine Dealer)

<http://www.dtmagazine.com/cmopg1924/natgeo1.html>