

Guide to the Metamorphosis, Amateur Drawings and Paintings that Replicate the Publication by Benjamin Sands

GEN MSS 566



by Matthew D. Mason

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 566

CREATOR: Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000

TITLE: Metamorphosis : amateur drawings and paintings that replicate the publication by Benjamin Sands

DATES: circa 1790-1820

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Four discrete groups of drawings and paintings by amateur artists, probably created in North America, circa 1790-1820, that pay homage to the illustrations and text of "Metamorphosis, or A transformation of pictures, with poetical explanations: for the amusement of young persons," by Benjamin Sands, first published in North America in 1789. The groups of drawings and paintings are attributed to Esther Carpenter and Henry Perkins, as well as an unidentified artist. The groups replicate the original publication, in most of the examples the sheets holding the illustrations each possess an upper and lower flap that allows for the transformation from one figure to another by various foldings.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.metamorphosis>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.metamorphosis>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

From the collection of Lisa Unger Baskin and Leonard Baskin. Purchased from Cumberland Rare Books on the Jockey Hollow Fund, 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Metamorphosis, Amateur Drawings and Paintings that Replicate the Publication by Benjamin Sands collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Metamorphosis, Amateur Drawings and Paintings that Replicate the Publication by Benjamin Sands. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Scope and Contents

Discrete drawings and paintings by vernacular artists, probably created in North America, circa 1790-1820, that pay homage to the illustrations and text of "Metamorphosis, or A transformation of pictures, with poetical explanations: for the amusement of young persons," by Benjamin Sands, first published in North America in 1789. The groups of drawings and paintings are attributed to Esther Carpenter and Henry Perkins, as well as an unidentified artist. The groups replicate the original publication, in most of the examples the sheets holding the illustrations each possess an upper and lower flap that allows for the transformation from one figure to another by various foldings.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically by attributed author and therein by the order of illustrations in the original publication.

Collection Contents

Series I: Esther Carpenter, circa 1790-1820

8 ink drawings on 4 folded sheets, 9 x 10 cm

- | | |
|------------|---|
| b. 1, f. 1 | "When Adam first came on the stage..." |
| b. 1, f. 2 | "A lion roaring from his den..."
Signature, "Esther Carpenter" on the verso of sheet |
| b. 1, f. 3 | "Now I've escap'd the eagles claws..." |
| b. 1, f. 4 | "Now I've got gold enough in store..." |

Series II: Robert Ingram, circa 1790-1820

9 watercolor paintings in bound volume with roan-backed marbled boards, 16.5 x 10.0 cm

Inscription on front free endpaper: "Robert Ingram, Part Street"

All leaves and fold detached, some sequences missing

b. 1, f. 5

[Volume](#)

Series III: Henry Perkins, circa 1790-1820

9 ink drawings on 9 sheets, 11.5 x 9.5 cm.

All sheets and folds detached; some sequences missing

b. 1, f. 6	"Here Eve in shape you may behold ..." <i>1 sheet</i> Missing top and bottom folds
b. 1, f. 7	"A lion roaring from his den ..." <i>2 sheets</i> Missing bottom fold
b. 1, f. 8	"Now I've escap'd the eagles claws ..." <i>2 sheets</i> Missing bottom fold
b. 1, f. 9	"Now I've got gold enough in store ..." <i>4 sheets</i> Signature, "Henry Perkins" on the verso of sheet

Series IV: Unidentified artist, circa 1790-1820

8 watercolor paintings on 4 folded sheets, 16 x 10 cm.

b. 1, f. 10 ["When Adam first came on the stage..."](#)

b. 1, f. 11 ["A lion roaring from his den..."](#)

b. 1, f. 12 ["I have escaped the eagles claws..."](#)

b. 1, f. 13 ["Here is gold and silver store..."](#)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Children's poetry
Conduct of life -- Juvenile poetry
Toy and movable books -- Specimens

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Juvenile literature
Metamorphic pictures
Metamorphosis books
Watercolors (paintings)

Names

Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000 -- Ownership
Baskin, Lisa Unger -- Ownership
Carpenter, Esther
Ingram, Robert
Perkins, Henry
Sands, Benjamin
Sands, Benjamin (Metamorphosis)

Contributors

Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000
Baskin, Lisa Unger
Carpenter, Esther
Perkins, Henry