

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

**GEN MSS 566**



by Matthew D. Mason

May 18, 2007

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Existence and Location of Copies .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Esther Carpenter, circa 1790-1820 .....	5
Series II: Robert Ingram, circa 1790-1820 .....	6
Series III: Henry Perkins, circa 1790-1820 .....	7
Series IV: Unidentified artist, circa 1790-1820 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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](mailto: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.

---

### Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

---

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

## **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	<a href="#">"Here Eve in shape you may behold ..."</a> 1 sheet Missing top and bottom folds
b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">"A lion roaring from his den ..."</a> 2 sheets Missing bottom fold
b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">"Now I've escap'd the eagles claws ..."</a> 2 sheets Missing bottom fold
b. 1, f. 9	<a href="#">"Now I've got gold enough in store ..."</a> 4 sheets 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	<a href="#"><u>"When Adam first came on the stage ..."</u></a>
-------------	--

b. 1, f. 11	<a href="#"><u>"A lion roaring from his den ..."</u></a>
-------------	--

b. 1, f. 12	<a href="#"><u>"I have escaped the eagles claws ..."</u></a>
-------------	--

b. 1, f. 13	<a href="#"><u>"Here is gold and silver store ..."</u></a>
-------------	--



## **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