

Sale Catalogues of Blake's Works

1791 December

J. TODD's | CATALOGUE | OF | ANCIENT and MODERN | Books, Prints, & Books of Prints, | FOR THE YEAR 1791. | [including] Lavater's Essays on Physiognomy, 16 Numbers - 10 13 0 ... | Which will begin to be sold extremely Cheap, at the Prices printed in the | CATALOGUE, on TUESDAY the 7th of December, 1790. | By J. TODD, | BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, AND PRINT-SELLER, | In STONEGATE, YORK. | ... | CATALOGUES, Price 6d. may be had of Mr. BALDWIN, Bookseller, Paternoster-Row, London, and at the Place of Sale.

129 "Beggar's Opera, as originally performed in 1727, after Hogarth, by Blake -- -- 0 12 6"

1791

John and Josiah Boydell,⁵ *Second Part: New Prints, Lately Published by John and Josiah Boydell* (London, 1791), p. 6

Hogarth's design for *The Beggar's Opera* engraved by "Blake" is listed in Hogarth's *Works*, the whole volume at £15.15.0.

1791

[William] Richardson's⁶ *Catalogue. A Large and Curious Collection of English and Foreign Portraits, Topography and Historical Prints [sic], by Ancient and Modern Masters; Drawings, Books, and Books of Prints, Now Selling, with the Prices Affixed to Each ... Catalogues to be had, One Shilling each* (London, 1791) <Princeton>

"Beggar's Opera, Act 3d. fine – Blake [£]1 1 0"

1793 October 10

[William Blake] *To the Public* (London, 1793)⁷

⁵ No. 90, Cheapside, and at the Shakespeare Gallery, Pall-Mall.

⁶ "At Mr. Richardson's Print Warehouse, Clements-Inn, Fore-gate, near Temple-Bar".

⁷ No copy of Blake's prospectus has been publicly recorded since it was printed in Alexander Gilchrist, *Life of William Blake*, "Pictor Ignotus" (1863), II, 263.

Sale Catalogues of Blake's Works

“The following are the Subjects of the several Works now published and on Sale at Mr. Blake’s, No.13, Hercules Buildings, Lambeth.

- “1. Job, a Historical Engraving. Size 1 ft. 7½ in. by 1 ft. 2 in.: price 11s.
- “2. Edward and Elinor, a Historical Engraving. Size 1ft. 6½ in. by 1 ft. price 10s. 6d.
- “3. America, a Prophecy, in Illuminated Printing. Folio, with 18 designs. price 10s. 6d.
- “4. Visions of the Daughters of Albion, in Illuminated Printing. Folio, with 8 designs,⁸ price 7s. 6d.
- “5. The Book of Thel, a Poem in Illuminated Printing. Quarto, with 6 designs,⁹ price 3s.
- “6. The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, in Illuminated Printing. Quarto, with 14 designs,¹⁰ price 7s. 6d.
- “7. Songs of Innocence, in Illuminated Printing. Octavo, with 25 designs, price 5s.¹¹
- “8. Songs of Experience, in Illuminated Printing. Octavo, with 25 designs, price 5s.
- “9. The History of England, a small book of Engravings.¹² Price 3s.
- “10. The Gates of Paradise,¹³ a small book of Engravings. Price 3s.

“The Illuminated Books are Printed in Colours,¹⁴ and on the most beautiful wove paper that could be procured.

⁸ *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* has 8 large designs; Blake was not counting all 11 leaves.

⁹ *The Book of Thel* has 6 large designs but 8 leaves.

¹⁰ *Marriage of Heaven and Hell* has 27 prints 13 substantial designs on 27 leaves, but copy B has an extra plate of “Our End is Come”.

¹¹ No copy of *Innocence* or *Experience* has 25 plates, and most copies of the combined *Songs* have 54 plates.

¹² Nothing more is known of “The History of England”.

¹³ *For Children: The Gates of Paradise* (1793), with 18 prints.

¹⁴ That is, printed in red or blue or green but not hand-coloured after printing.

Sale Catalogues of Blake's Works

“No Subscriptions for the numerous great works now in hand are asked, for none are wanted; but the Author will produce his works, and offer them to sale at a fair price.”¹⁵

1794

John and Josiah Boydell,¹⁶ *A Catalogue of Historical Prints, Various Subjects, Landscapes, Sea Pieces, Views, &c. After the Most Capital Pictures in England. Engraved by the Most Celebrated Artists. Part II* (London, 1794)

A Catalogue of the Original Works of William Hogarth

*104 Beggars Opera, - - - - 0 15 0"

"N.B. *The Prints marked * were never before inserted in this Collection*". The price of the collected works of Hogarth is £17.17.0

1794

[Thomas] Macklin, *Poetic Description of Choice and Valuable Prints, Published by Mr. Macklin at the Poets' Gallery, Fleet Street* (London: Printed by T. Bensley, 1794) <Princeton>

Miscellaneous Circles

"The Fall of Rosamond. Painted by T. Stothard, R.A. and Engraved by W. Blake. Size 12 inches, circle; Price 7s. 6d.

Plain, and 15s. in Colours", followed by a quotation (p. 62)

"Robinhood and Clorinda. Painted by J. Meheux, and

Engraved by W. Blake. Size eight inches and a half, circles;

¹⁵ In his letters of 9 June 1818 and 12 April 1827, Blake listed his works, mostly coloured

	1818	1827
<i>America</i>	£5.5.0	£6.6.0
<i>Europe</i>	£5.5.0	£6.6.0
<i>Visions of the Daughters of Albion</i>	£3.3.0	£5.5.0
<i>The Book of Thel</i>	£2.2.0	£3.3.0
<i>Songs of Innocence</i>	£3.3.0 }	
<i>Songs of Experience</i>	£3.3.0 }	£10.10.0
<i>First Book of Urizen</i>	£5.5.0	£6. 6.0
<i>Milton</i>		£5. 5.0
12 Large Colour Prints	£5.5.0 each	

¹⁶ No. 90, Cheapside, London.

Sale Catalogues of Blake's Works

Price 4s. Plain, and 7s. 6d. in Colours", followed by a quotation (p. 68)

Oval Prints

"Morning Amusements. Painted by Watteau, and Engraved by W. Blake. Size 12 inches by 10, oval; Price 7s. 6d. Plain, and 15s. in Colours." (p. 70)

"Evening Amusements. Painted by Watteau, and Engraved by W. Blake. Size 12 inches by 10, oval; Price 7s.6d.Plain, and 15s. in Colours." (p. 70)

[1797 Spring?]

[Richard] Edwards, No 142 New Bond-Street; [James] Edwards, Pall Mall, and [Robert Bowyer], Historic Gallery, Pall-Mall, prospectus for EDWARDS's | MAGNIFICENT EDITION | OF | YOUNG's | NIGHT THOUGHTS ... part the first [London, 1797?] <John Johnson Collection, Bodley>¹⁷

1798 February 19

John White,¹⁸ *A Catalogue of Rare, Splendid, and Valuable Books, in Every Branch of Polite Literature; Including the Entire Libraries of The Rev. Harvey Spragg ... also of The Rev Henry Putman ...* (London, 1798) <Bodley>

1,217 "Young's Night Thoughts, a magnificent edition, with Engravings from Drawings by Blake, 5l. 5s to subscribers, when completed, boards -- -- 1797"

1799

Thomas Payne, Bookseller, *A Catalogue of Valuable Books, in Various Languages, and in Every Class of Literature: Which Are to Be Sold, at the Prices affixed to each article* (London, 1799) <Bodley>

¹⁷ There were announcements of the publication of Young's *Night Thoughts* in *Monthly Magazine*, II (Nov 1796), 807, *Edinburgh Magazine*, N.S., VIII (Dec 1796), 447-450, and *Monthly Epitome and Catalogue of New Publications*, I (Jan 1797), 79.

¹⁸ Bookseller at Horace's Head, in Fleet-Street, London.

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777 “Young’s Night Thoughts, with engravings round each page from the designs of Blake, 2 numbers, boards, – 1797 & 98”

1799 February 18 plus 18 days

[William] Richardson,¹⁹ *Portraits, India Drawings, &c. A Catalogue of a Genuine and Valuable Collection of English and Foreign Portraits, India Drawings, &c. ... Which Will Be Sold by Auction* (London, 1799)
<Princeton>

Seventh Day

- 94 “Five [prints]—Gin Lane, Beggar’s Opera, Shrimps, &c.”
[£1.7.6]
101 “One—the Beggar’s Opera, by Blake—*proof*—“ [£1.13.6]

1800 May 5-9

Peter Coxe, Burrell, and Foster,²⁰ *The Catalogue of A most Valuable and truly Capital Collection of Modern Paintings, Prints, Plates, and Drawings, The Property of Mr. Macklin, And others concerned with him, Sold for the Purpose of facilitating the Adjustment of Partnership Accounts; and Comprising, in Painting, the Works of those Esteemed Masters of the British School ... A Choice Selection of Valuable Drawings by Bartolozzi, and others ... Engraved Plates by Bartolozzi, Sharp, Sherwin, &c. &c. Including Proof Prints Of their finest Works ... Which will be Sold by Auction ... (Without the least Reserve)* (London, 1800)

Second Day

Loose Prints

- 1 "Morning and Evening Amusement" [two prints engraved by Blake after Watteau], 165 ["Plain""Impressions"] 0
["Impressions""In Colours"] [£1.12.0 to Bryden]
3 "Robin Hood", 79 plain impressions, and 22 in "colours", £1.7.0

Fourth Day

¹⁹ ”At His House, No. 31, the Corner of Villiers-Street, in the Strand”.

²⁰ At Mr. Squibb's Great Rooms, Saville Row.