COLLECTION OF WOODCUTS

"Said to be the only copies in existence"

26. (ART). BEWICK, THOMAS (et al). Pictures of Pleasant Histories, as printed in Newcastle. With a full page woodcut frontispiece depicting, in ascending and descending steps, the life of a man from the cradle to the grave, each step accompanied by a rhyme and a picture of an animal symbolizing each stage of life. Printed title-page; no text. 56 leaves on which are mounted, on both sides of each leaf, some 1,000 woodcuts of varying sizes, depicting a great variety of subjects, made by Thomas Bewick and others (those by Bewick have been so noted in pencil in the lower margins of the impressions). 2 blank leaves at end. Small folio. Blind-tooled 19th century calf, gilt-tooled panelled spine, worn and rubbed; expertly rehinged. With 3 bookplates of former owners (2 armorial, 1 bearing a charming Bewick woodcut of a woodland scene). (Newcastle, 1811).

There is a holograph note on verso of title-page: "This volume contains all the woodcuts in the office of Geo. Angus & Son, Printers, foot of the Side, Newcastle / July 20th, 1811 / Geo. Angus" and a further notation: "preserved by my friend G. Angus / Geo. Bell / July 20, 1811 / This is the only copy of these cuts, there being only one impression of each printed!". On verso of front fly-paper is a penciled notation: "About 1000 woodcuts by T. Bewick and others as published in the Chap Books and Penny Histories issued by Angus of Newcastle". On recto of front fly-leaf is a former owner's signature in ink together with the penciled notation "This is said to be the only copy in existence!". Whether or not each and every woodcut in this volume can be termed "the only copy in existence" is perhaps debatable, but it is safe to say that this particular compilation is undoubtedly unique.

More than likely the John Bell to whom this volume was given was the well-known publisher and bookseller (1745-1831), "the pioneer in that kind of publication so much in vogue in later days, by which the multitude is taught to feel an interest in the best literature by means of prints and illustrations executed by good artists". (DNB). According to Leigh Hunt, Bell's "taste in putting forth a publication, and getting the best artists to adorn it, was new in those times and may be admired in any". Hence the interest his collection of woodcuts would hold for such a man. Bell's signature appears again in the center of the final woodcut, a victor's laurel wreath.
This is said to be:
The only copy in existence.

David Hunter, Jr.
No Danger can his Courage quail,
But Lion-like he will prevail.

Force now begins to fail, therefore with Wit,
Fox-like he helps to manage it.

Weak Asks are made to bear,
And Age must suffer everywhere.
PICTURES

OF

PLEASANT HISTORIES,

AS PRINTED IN

NEWCASTLE.
This volume contains all the
Writs that are in the Office of the
Esq. & Ser. Cor. on the part of the Side Newcastle,
July 20, 1781.

Presented by My Friend G. Annes

This is the only Copy of these Writs, there being
only one impression of each printed!
THE CATECHISM;
That is to say,
An Injunction to be learned of every person before he be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop.
To which are added,
Morning and Evening Prayers, &c.
FOR CHILDREN:
Morning & Evening Hymns;
Together with
Discourses for the Lord's Day, &c.

NEWCASTLE:
PRINTED BY M. ANGUS & SON
THE ABC WITH THE CATECHISM

This is to say, An Inquirer to be leased of every Nation before he be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop.

LONDON
Printed for the Company of Stationers.

ELIZABETHA REGINA
Whitehead's
Prognostication
This Indenture
The true Portraiture of Captain JAMES HIND, the Robber, who died for Treason.