Image and Enlightenment: Illustrated Books from the Age of Reason to the Romantic Era

Trinity College
This exhibition grew out of an art history class taught by Professor Alden Gordon entitled “The Sublime, the Picturesque and the Romantic,” which focused on 18th century art with special emphasis on the book arts and printing. Supported by a Mellon Foundation course development grant for information literacy, the class aimed at developing the students’ visual literacy as the ability to understand art images and objects in their broader cultural and intellectual context.

Students were asked to select an illustrated book from the Watkinson Library printed during the 18th or early 19th century as the subject of their research project. Digital photographs were taken of selected illustrations and made accessible to students through the College network. The students could then refer to their images anytime online as well as consult the object directly in the Watkinson Library.
CHECKLIST

Musical Instruments


Science


Charles Owen. An essay towards a natural history of serpents ...the whole intermix'd with variety of entertaining digressions, philosophical and historical... illustrated with copper-plates, engraved by the best hands. London: Printed for the author, sold by John Gray, at the Cross-Keys in the Poultry, near Cheapside, 1742.
Travel and Exploration


James Stuart and Nicholas Revett. *The antiquities of Athens measured and delineated by James Stuart ... and Nicholas Revett*. London: Printed by J. Haberkorn, 1762-1830. 5 v.

John Hawkesworth. *An account of the voyages ... for making discoveries in the Southern Hemisphere ... performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook, in the Dolphin, the Swallow, and the Endeavor ... illustrated with cuts and a great variety of charts and maps...* 3 v. London: Printed for W. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1773.

Thomas James. *The history of the Herculean Straits, now called the Straits of Gibraltar ... illustrated with several copper plates*. 2 v. London: Printed by C. Rivington for the authour, 1771.


Picturesque Scenery and Architecture of the British Isles


Iron works at Colbrook Dale


Phillippe-Jacques de Loutherbourg. *The romantic and picturesque scenery of England and Wales, from drawings made expressly for this undertaking by P.J. de Loutherbourg ... with historical and descriptive accounts of the several places of which views are given*. Engraved by William Pickett, and coloured by John Clark. London: Printed for R. Bowyer by T. Bensley, 1805.
Literature, Caricature and Satire


William Hogarth and John Trusler. *Hogarth moralized: being a complete edition of Hogarth’s works... with an explanation...and a comment on their moral tendency*. (1st edition) London: S. Hooper...and Mrs. Hogarth, 1768.


Metropolitan grievances, or, A serio-comic glance at minor mischiefs in London and its vicinity ... by One who thinks for himself. London: Printed by Charles Squire ... for Sherwood, Neely, and Jones, 1812.


CREDITS

Books and illustrations were selected and described by students in Art History 255 “The Sublime, the Picturesque and the Romantic” and co-curators Sally Dickinson, Special Collections Librarian, Watkinson Library, and Alden Gordon, Gwendolyn Miles Smith Professor of Art History. Philip Duffy, Director of Media Technology Services and Classroom Technology, photographed the illustrations and, along with Scott Vanek, Computing Resource Specialist in the Humanities, provided technical support. Special thanks to Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for Collection Services and Instruction, and Jeffrey Kaimowitz, Head Librarian, Watkinson Library, for their support.