

Shorter Notes

'THE BEAUTIES OF MAGAZINES' AND AN ENGRAVING OF WILLIAM CULLEN

THE scholarly and interesting note by L. Jolley on the portraiture of William Cullen in the third number of *The Bibliothek* quotes an entry in H. Breun's typescript *A Catalogue of the engraved portraits of British Medical men*:

II. H. L. to r., Profile; oval. In *Beauties of Magazines* Line. R. Morrison exc. 1788.

It is incorrect to assume, as Jolley does, that the publication listed here is *The Beauties of the Magazines* of which BUCOP records a copy in the British Museum (Vol. I. 1828). It is, in fact, a monthly publication issued by the Morisons of Perth in the years 1788 and 1789 and there is a complete run of the magazine in the local collection of the Sandeman Public Library, Perth. The magazine is not listed in BUCOP; nor, what is more surprising, is there any mention of it in M. E. Craig's *The Scottish Periodical Press 1750-1789*. The complete title is *The Beauties of Magazines, Reviews, and other Periodical Publications* and it was published, according to the imprint, by George Mudie, Bookseller, Edinburgh; James Gillies, Glasgow; Angus and Son, Aberdeen; George Miln, Dundee; R. Morison and Son, Perth; and sold by all the other booksellers throughout the Kingdom. It was printed by the Morisons at Perth. The magazine was in existence for fifteen months from January 1788 to March, 1789 and presumably had a circulation in the five towns mentioned. As its name implies, it was largely made up of selections and extracts from books and magazines already published, but there are a few original contributions sent direct to the publishers. Volume One contains 7 numbers—January to June, 1788 and a supplement; Volume Two six numbers from July to December, 1788, and Volume Three three numbers from January to March 1789. In the first two volumes each number extended to 48 pages, while in the third they extended to 64 pages. This increase in size may have been intended to offset the fact that the last volume contained no plates, whereas the first volume had had 7, and the second 6. These engraved plates were regarded as being one of the most valuable features of the publication. In a note dated Perth,

April 15, 1789, the publishers say that since the plates were discontinued the subscription had so fallen off that they were obliged to cease publication. This must have been all the more disappointing as they had claimed in the number for April, 1788 that their circulation was now very considerable. They invited tradesmen to use their covers for advertisements at the same rate as the public newspapers. This would have presumably supplied a felt want in Dundee and Perth where there was no newspaper to carry local advertisements at this date. Unfortunately no covers have survived the binding of the Sandeman's run into a single volume, and we have no evidence as to whether advertisements actually appeared.

I append a list of the engraved plates which appeared in *The Beauties of Magazines*. They are mostly described as having been published in 1788 by the Morisons, but with two exceptions, no details of the original drawings or paintings are given nor the name of the engraver.

Plate One. Opposite title-page of Vol. I. A portrait of George Dempster, Esq. M.P. It is described as being by Birrell from a Wax Medallion by Tassie in the possession of Mr. C. Bell. I understand that this Tassie medallion is now in the hands of Mr. A. Deuchar, antique-dealer, Perth. Publication date, January, 1788.

Plate Two. Opposite p. 136. March No. A view of Invercauld. A seat of James Farquharson, Esq. No date of publication given.

Plate Three. Opposite title-page June No. A portrait of The Rt. Hon. Earl Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench. Publication date, March, 1788.

Plate Four. Opposite p. 264. June No. Portrait of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Published, April, 1788.

Plate Five. Opposite p. 289. Supplement. Portrait of Napier of Merchiston. Engraved from a drawing by Mr. Brown in the possession of the Earl of Buchan. No publication date given. Originally engraved for the *Account of the Life, Writings and Inventions of John Napier . . .* By the Earl of Buchan and W. Minto published by the Morisons in 1787.

Plate Six. Opposite p. 294. Supplement. Portrait of His Royal Highness, the Duke of York. Publication date May, 1788.

Plate Seven. Opposite p. 298. Supplement. Portrait of His Royal Highness Prince William Henry. Publication date, June, 1788.

Plate Eight. Opposite title-page Vol. II. Portrait of His Sacred Majesty George III. Publication date, July, 1788.

Plate Nine. Opposite p. 49. August No. Portrait of William Cullen, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh. The plate

corresponds to the description in Breun's *Catalogue*. Engraved underneath are the words: Published for the Beauties of Magazines &c by R. Morison Junr, Perth. There is no article concerning Cullen in the August number of the magazine, The name of the engraver is not given.

Plate Ten. Opposite p. 120. September No. A View of the River Brann in Athole, Scotland. Publication date, September, 1788.

Plate Eleven. Opposite p. 145. October No. Portrait of Her Majesty Charlotte Queen of Great Britain. Publication date, October, 1788.

Plate Twelve. Opposite p. 193. November No. Portrait of Adam Smith, LL.D. Author of the *Wealth of Nations*. Publication date, November, 1788.

Plate Thirteen. Opposite p. 241. December No. A View of Errol House, the seat of John Allan, Esqr. 'To whom it is respectfully Dedicated by his obliged humble Servant R. Morison Junr.' No date.

The Cullen engraving is of great interest to students of his portraits. I have seen the Martin, Cochrane and Hunterian portraits only in book reproductions but there is no doubt that the 1788 *Beauties* engraving bears little resemblance to the first two of these. Like the Hunterian portrait it is much less idealised and strongly stresses the protruding underlip, the large nose and long face, almost indeed to the point of caricature. It is of course in profile but the face has a strong resemblance to that in the Hunterian portrait and seems to strengthen the case made out by Jolley for the value of *that* portrait as a likeness. But I do not know what relationship there is, if any, between the Hunterian portrait and the original drawing which lies behind the engraving in *The Beauties of Magazines*.

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A NOTE ON SOME OLD BOOKS FOUND IN THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE

THE High School of Dundee received a Royal Charter which gave it its present form and name in 1859. Its antecedents, however, go back much further. The present building on Meadowside was opened in 1832 to house the Grammar School, the English School, and the Academy, the whole being known, until 1859, as the Public Seminaries. Of these three schools, the Academy with its trend towards a cultural curriculum, was founded in 1785, the English School, which taught English, writing, reading and arithmetic, in 1702, and the Grammar School, concentrating on Latin, Greek and mathematics, at a much earlier but unrecorded date. The Girls High School was built with money from a Dundee