

COTTONIAN COLLECTION

Library - Illustrated Books



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

As mentioned previously, a large number of books in the library are illustrated. Some volumes are books of illustrations or plates devoted to one artist, or theme. Other volumes are noted publications on specific themes or subject matter with illustrations to the text.



Baron Denon (1747-1825)
also Dominique Vivant, later Vivant-Denon
A Doorway at the Temple of Tentyris
engraving
Published: Baylis Cox and Sons, London
1809.
Ref No: CB406

An illustration from the book: 'Voyages dans la basse et la haute Egypte, pendant les campagnes de Bonaparte....' by Dominique Vivant, later Baron Denon.

Vivant was an artist and engraver who became a cultural advisor to Napoleon and later Director of the Louvre Museum when it opened in 1803. In 1798 he accompanied Bonaparte on a trip to India, to seize lands from the British. They travelled by way of Egypt where they were held up by the British fleet.

Whilst there they discovered the ancient tombs and ruins around Cairo. Vivant-Denon spent his time creating a visual record of the tombs and ruins, whilst other scholars and scientists catalogued the findings. A few years later they passed into British hands after the capture of Alexandria in 1801.

This illustration is of a doorway in the ancient temple at Tentyris, the ancient Greek name for Denderah (Dendarah), some 60 miles or so south of Abydos. It was dedicated to Hathor, the goddess of sky, love, mirth, beauty and fertility. At this particular temple she was worshipped in her role as a goddess of fertility, of women, and of childbirth.



James Gibbs (architect) (1682-1754)

Plate of Patterns

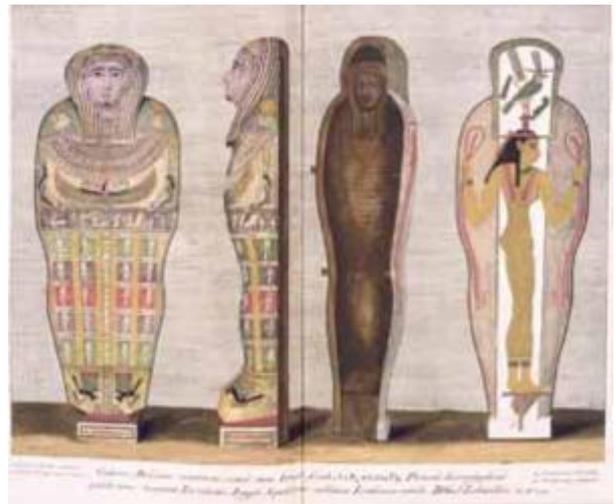
engraving; dated 1732

Ref No: CBI94

An illustration from the book 'Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture in a More exact and easy manner than has been heretofore practised, by which all FRACTIONS, in dividing the principal MEMBERS and their Parts are avoided..' published by W. Bowyer, London in 1732.

Prior to these publication ideas for architectural orders and decorative patterns were most frequently based on the work of the Italian classicist, Palladio.

However, the translation of Palladio's designs into Imperial measurements involved the use of fractions which were cumbersome and difficult to master, even for sophisticated London architects. In this publication Gibbs simplified the procedure and removed the use of fractions in the mathematical proportioning of designs. It followed Gibb's earlier 'Book of Architecture' in which he provided basic patterns for use in the embellishment of buildings.



Alexander Gordon (died c.1750)

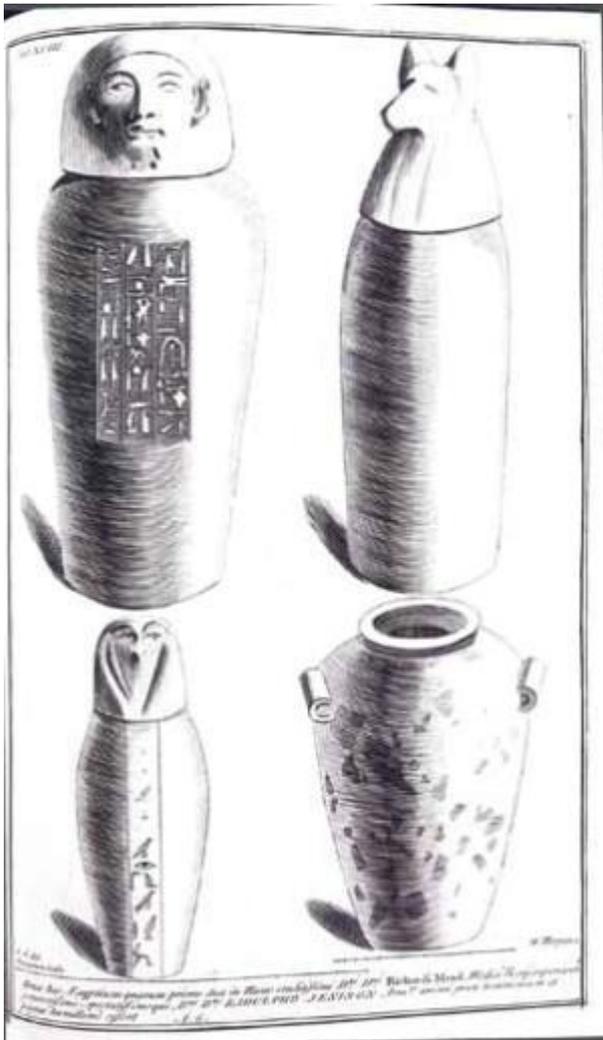
Egyptian Hieroglyphics of exterior of Mummy

coloured engraving; dated 1722

Ref No: CB108.1

One of the illustrations from the book "An Essay towards explaining the Hieroglyphical Figures on the coffin of the Ancient Mummy belonging to Capt. William Lethieullier" by Alexander Gordon. He printed the book privately in London in 1737.

The illustrations are taken from his drawings.



Alexander Gordon (died c.1750)
Plate of Egyptian Mummy and Jar
 engraving
 Ref No: CBI08.2

One of the illustrations from the book "An Essay towards explaining the Hieroglyphical Figures on the coffin of the Ancient Mummy belonging to Capt. William Lethieullier" by Alexander Gordon. He printed the book privately in London in 1737.

The illustrations are taken from his drawings, in this case engraved by W.Morgan.



William Hogarth (1697-1764)
 after William Hogarth (1697-1764)
Some of the Principal Inhabitants of the Moon...
 engraving; published 1794
 Ref No: CB395

An illustration from the book, 'Graphic Illustrations of Hogarth, from Pictures, Drawings..... in the possession of Samuel Ireland, author of this work; of a Picturesque Tour through Holland, Brabant and of the Picturesque beauties of the rivers Thames and Medway'. Published by R. Falder and J.Egerton, London, in 1744.

Drawn by Hogarth in 1724.



Jean-Baptiste Machaud

Ship pulled by horses

engraving

Ref No: CB88

From the publication 'Eloges et Discovrs sur la Triomphante Reception du Roy en sa ville de Paris, après la Reduction de la Rochelle, published P.Rocolet, Paris 1629.

The King referred to in the title is Louis XIII of France, known as 'Louis the Just' who reigned between, 1610-1643.

In 1598, Henry IV, Louis' father, had instituted the Edict of Nantes granting religious liberty to the Huguenots, French Protestants. However, by the 1620s the dissent of the Huguenots posed both a political and military threat. In October 1628, Richelieu, the king's chief minister laid siege to the Huguenot stronghold of La Rochelle. They were defeated and the Peace of Alès was signed on June 28, 1629.

The book centres on the triumphant return of King Louis XIII to Paris after the capture of La Rochelle, celebrated by fireworks on the Seine. The events were recorded in this publication of 1629, produced by the printer Pierre Cocollet of Paris, a strong royalist.



Henry Roberts (1747-96)

Chart of the Discoveries made in the South Atlantic Ocean

engraving; dated 1777

engraved by the cartographer J.Russell

Ref No: CB528



Pierce Tempest (1653-1717)
after Marcellus Laroon (1653-1702)
The Merry Milk Maid
engraving: dated 1711
Ref No: CBI82

This illustration is taken from 'The Cryes of the City of London, Drawn after the Life', by Pierce Tempest and published in 1711 by Henry Overton of London.

As the title might suggest the focus of the publication are the many street sellers whose 'cries' could be heard as they traded their wares on the streets of London during the 18th century.

Many of these traders or sellers were women forced into this line of work through the death of a spouse, or other social reasons. Financial hardship leaving widows with families to raise was common and little regard or concession was made to their lesser physical strength. They sold all manner of goods including pins, biscuits, vegetables and other foods, mops and other household utensils.

The original drawings were made by Marcellus Laroon, or Laroon (1653-1702), a Dutch artist born in The Hague who came to England and remained. There are two oil paintings by Laroon of Catherine Savery and her father, ancestors of the wife of the second William Cotton (1759-1816).