Finding Aid for the An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank 1808-1877

Processed by Margaret Phung.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, 1808-1877
Collection number: MS.1917.002
Creator: Thackeray, William Makepeace 1811-1863
Extent: 7 volumes
Repository: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library

Abstract: "An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank by W.M. Thackeray; and additional memoirs by Hamilton, Stephens, Wilson, Bates and others" is in seven volumes dating from 1808 to 1877. The collection was purchased by William Andrews Clark from George M. Millard in 1917. The books are bound in green morocco by Rivière. The compiler is unidentified; John B. Gough (1817-1886), an eminent collector of Cruikshankiana, is possibly the creator.

Physical location: Clark Library
Language of materials: Collection materials in English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
The collection was purchased by William Andrews Clark from George M. Millard in 1917. A detailed inventory written by Millard is available in the Clark Library's Institutional Archive.

Processing History
Processed by Margaret Phung, June 2009


Publication information and expanded content description by Margaret Phung, June 2009.

Biography
The artist George Cruikshank was born in London in 1792. He is often considered a humorist, satirist and caricaturist of British political and social life. His father Isaac Cruikshank (1756-1811) also worked as an artist and engraver, and it is he who encouraged and nurtured the talent of his son from an early age. George Cruikshank died in London in 1878.

Scope and Content
"An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank by W.M. Thackeray; and additional memoirs by Hamilton, Stephens, Wilson, Bates and others" is in seven volumes dating from 1808 to 1877. The collection was purchased by William Andrews Clark from George M. Millard in 1917. The books are bound in green morocco by Rivière. The compiler is unidentified; John B. Gough (1817-1886), an eminent collector of Cruikshankiana, is possibly the compiler.

The artwork featured in this volume includes original pen and pencil sketches; woodcuts, wood engravings, steel engravings, etchings and lithographs by Cruikshank. A majority of these prints consist of title pages to various publications, in addition to illustrations created for chapbooks, original wrappers, magazines, pamphlets and books. Each volume includes a frontispiece portrait of Cruikshank, except the sixth volume with Cruikshank's original autograph on the frontpiece and his portrait following the volume's title page. A written memoir on George Cruikshank by Frederic G. Stephens (1828-1907) and William Bates (d. 1884) immediately follows the title pages in Volumes III and IV.

Of particular note is a series of plates titled The Bottle (1848), The Drunkard's Children (1848), and The Drunkard's House (1860), which portray moralistic stories on the negative effects of alcoholism while demonstrating Cruikshank's allegiance to the Temperance movement. Numerous prints from other series, such as My Sketch Book (1833-1836), Bentley's
Miscellany (1837-1843) and The Comic Almanack (1835-1853) are included. Additionally, illustrations to Oliver Twist (1838) and Sketches by Boz (1839) by Charles Dickens, Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) by Harriet Beecher Stowe, and fairy tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk (1854), are just several of the many published works featuring the artwork of George Cruikshank that were selected for inclusion in this collection.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Bates, William, d. 1884
Cruikshank, George, 1792-1878
Gough, John B. (John Bartholomew), 1817-1886
Hamilton, Walter, 1844-1899
Stephens, Frederic George, 1828-1907
Wilson, John, 1785-1854
Social history--19th century.
Temperance in art.

Genres and Forms
Caricatures--19th century.
Festschriften--19th century.

Volume 1

An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. I 1808-1823

Physical Description: [200] leaves

Scope and Content Note
Volume 2

An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. II 1824-1829

Physical Description: [194] leaves

Scope and Content Note


Volume 3

An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. III 1830-1835

Physical Description: [201] leaves

Scope and Content Note

### Volume 4

**An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. IV 1836-1839**

**Physical Description:** [218] leaves

**Scope and Content Note**


### Volume 5

**An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. V 1840-1842**

**Physical Description:** [195] leaves

**Scope and Content Note**

An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. VI 1842-1847

Physical Description: [212] leaves

Scope and Content Note

An Essay on the Genius of George Cruikshank, Vol. VII 1848-1877

Physical Description: [227] leaves

Scope and Content Note
