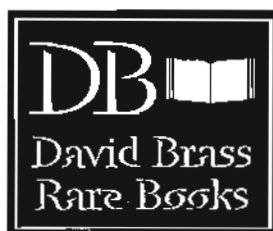


FINE & RARE BOOKS



ORIGINAL ART WORK

With Thirty Hand-Colored Aquatint Plates by Cruikshank

[CRUIKSHANK, George, illustrator]. [COMBE, William, imitation of]. *The Life of Napoleon*, A Hudibrastic Poem in Fifteen Cantos, by Doctor Syntax, Embellished with Thirty Engravings, by G. Cruikshank. London: Printed for T. Tegg, Wm. Aclason, & J. Dick, Edinburgh, 1815.

First edition. Octavo (9 7/8 x 6 1/4 inches; 250 x 159 mm.). 260 pp. No printed title or other preliminary matter. Thirty hand-colored aquatint plates by Cruikshank, including vignette title depicting emblems of Napoleon's rise and fall. Text watermarked 1813. No watermarks visible on the plates. Pages 109, 121, and 187 are numbered 107, 211, and 186. On Plate 14 (facing p. 94) the word "Siege" is misspelled "Seige" and on Plate 26 (facing p. 233) the word "Leipsic" is misspelled Liepsic."

Uncut, in the original drab boards. Spine and three corners neatly renewed. Board edges lightly rubbed. An excellent copy. Housed in a full red morocco book-back pull-off case. Laid in is a portrait silhouette of William Combe, with facsimile signature of William Combe, inscribed in pencil: "Dr. Syntax/The Author/I know no other portrait/of him."

"In 1815 the *Life of Napoleon, a Hudibrastic Poem in Fifteen Cantos*, by Dr. Syntax, appeared in parts, with fifteen illustrations by Cruikshank, and was reissued with the date 1817 on the title. The plates are coarse in sentiment and execution, and the verse mere doggerel, but the book is rare, illustrating events from the youthful Napoleon dreaming in the military college to the landing in Elba" (Martin Hardie).

Originally issued in fifteen weekly parts, beginning November 10, 1814, this typically anti-Napoleonic English work of the period depicts the fallen emperor as egoist, murderer, and tyrant. The plates show Napoleon in Egypt and before Moscow, as well as in various battle scenes. The text is not now considered to be by Combe, but the actual author is unknown.

Cohn 153. Martin Hardie, p. 196. Prideaux, p. 322. Reid 4651. Tooley 151.

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