

One of the Rarest of All Color-Plate Caricature Books

[WOODWARD, George Moutard, and Thomas Rowlandson, illustrators]. Matrimonial Comforts.
London: Pubd... by R. Akerrman [sic], 1799.

Quarto (8 9/16 x 7 9/16 inches; 217 x 193 mm.). Twelve numbered hand-colored etched plates by Thomas Rowlandson after George Moutard Woodward. The plates have the imprint "Pubd.... by R Akerman No 101 Strand."

The plates are captioned: "The DINNER SPOIL'D!"; "LATE HOURS!"; "AN ANONYMOUS LETTER!"; "A RETURN from a WALK!"; "KILLING with KINDNESS"; "A FASHIONABLE SUIT"; "WASHING DAY"; "A CURTAIN LECTURE!".

Late nineteenth century full red morocco by Wood of London (stamp-signed on front turn-in). Spine lettered in gilt in compartments. Marbled endpapers. An excellent copy of this legendary color-plate rarity

George Moutard Woodward (1760?-1809), "caricaturist, son of William Woodward of Stanton Hall, Derbyshire, was born in that county about 1760. He received no artistic training, but, having much original talent, came to London, with an allowance from his father, and became a prolific and popular designer of social caricatures, much in the style of Bunbury, which were etched chiefly by Rowlandson and Isaac Cruikshank. Although their humour was generally of a very coarse and extravagant kind, they display a singular wealth of imagination and insight into character, and some are extremely entertaining. Among the best are 'Effects of Flattery,' 'Effects of Hope,' 'Club of Quidnuncs,' 'Everybody in Town,' 'Everybody out of Town,' and 'Specimens of Domestic Phrensy.' Woodward... was of dissipated and intemperate habits, spending much of his time in taverns, and died in a state of penury at the Brown Bear public-house in Bow Street, Covent Garden, in November 1809" (D.N.B).

OCLC/KVK locates only three copies worldwide, at Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan. No copies at auction within the last thirty-five years.

Grego II, pp. 13-14.

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\$17,500

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