

PICKERING & CHATTO | ST. CLEMENT'S COURT LONDON EC4N 7HB  
 TEL: +44 (0) 20 7491 2656 FAX: +44 (0) 20 7499 2479 E-MAIL: rarebooks@pickering-chatto.com

I. [ANON]. WILL WHIMSICAL'S MISCELLANY. [Volume I, all published]. Chichester: Printed by J. Seagrave, [1799]. £ 850

**FIRST EDITION.** 8vo, pp. viii, 248; apart from some very light foxing and marking in places, a clean copy throughout; uncut in contemporary blue boards, expertly rebacked, boards abit dust-soiled, but not detracting from this being an appealing copy.

Scarce first edition of *Will Whimsical's Miscellany*, an anonymous literary 'hodge-podge' containing a number of entertaining pieces.

Dedicated to 'Admiral Lord Nelson' pieces include 'Jupiter's Lottery', 'A Drinking song', 'The Downfall of Dido' and 'Lines written upon being first urged to put some work to press'. However, most appealing are the 'Desultory Thoughts and Hints' providing pithy comment on, amongst other things, Cock-fighting, Novel-reading ('debauches the mind, as much as rich drams do the palate: after "Parfait-Amour" everything else tastes insipid' (p. 54), Lawyers, Whig Club Pensioner's and Bookseller's:

"Some of the high-priced London "Booksellers" and their authors, complain of the "Trade" at Edinburgh and Dublin, for publishing such cheap Editions: but, if they themselves demand five shillings for eighteen penny worth of Letter-press, is it to be wondered at that the Scotch and Irish, who are content with more moderate profits, should have more custom?" (p. 227).

We have been unable to identify the author of the work who notes in his preface 'I purpose to take up at hap-hazard what scribble I have by me, and intermixing it occasionally with new, to publish volume after volume, until I have exhausted my literary stores, or the reader's patience' (p. v). We can find no trace of any subsequent volume so perhaps the author did indeed exhaust his literary stores or his readers patience!

ESTC records three copies in the UK, at the Bodleian, BL and Brighton Central Library, and two in North America, at UCLA and Harvard.

