

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Printing and Publishing History

The interface between authors and their readers is a fascinating subject in its own right, revealing a great deal about social attitudes, technological progress, aesthetic values, fashionable interests, political positions, economic constraints, and individual personalities. This part of the Cambridge Library Collection reissues classic studies in the area of printing and publishing history that shed light on developments in typography and book design, printing and binding, the rise and fall of publishing houses and periodicals, and the roles of authors and illustrators. It documents the ebb and flow of the book trade supplying a wide range of customers with products from almanacs to novels, bibles to erotica, and poetry to statistics.

Bibliomania

‘A passion for possessing books, not so much to be instructed by them, as to gratify the eye by looking on them’: thus is described ‘bibliomania’ by one of the characters of Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1776–1847), in this humorous novel first published in 1809. Introduced in English at the end of the eighteenth century, the term ‘bibliomania’ – or ‘book-madness’ – gained popularity with the publication of Dibdin’s eponymous work. Using the entirely revised 1811 edition, this reissue brings back to life Dibdin’s bibliomaniac characters and their playful dialogues on the nature and history of book collecting, and, most importantly, on the dangers of the ‘fatal disease’ that is bibliomania, its strange manifestations – such as the ‘vellum’, ‘first edition’, and ‘unique copies’ symptoms – and its possible cure. The author of numerous bibliographical works, Dibdin provides erudite comments and clarifications to his characters’ dialogues in a parallel narrative of footnotes.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Bibliomania

*Or Book Madness;
a Bibliographical Romance,
in Six Parts*

THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108015806

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1811
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01580-6 Paperback

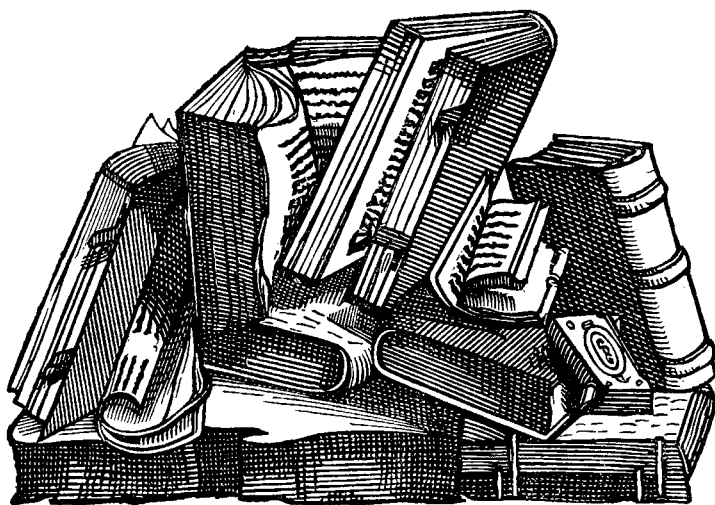
This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

BIBLIOMANIA.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



*Libri quosdam ad Scientiam, quosdam AD INSANIAM,
deduxére.*

GEYLER; Navis Stultifera: sign. B. iij. rev.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

BIBLIOMANIA;
OR
Book Madness:
A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ROMANCE,
IN SIX PARTS.
Illustrated with Cuts.

BY THE REV.
THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN.



LONDON: PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
By J. McCreery, Blackhorse-court, Fleet-street;
AND SOLD BY MESSRS. LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME,
AND BROWN, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1811.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



TO THE READER.



S H O R T
time after the
publication of
the first edi-
tion of this
work, a very
worthy and
shrewd Bib-
liomaniac, accidentally meeting me, ex-
claimed that 'the book would do, but that
there was not 'gall enough in it.' As he
was himself a Book-Auction-loving Bib-

vi *TO THE READER.*

liomaniac, *I was resolved, in a future edition, to gratify him and similar Collectors by writing PART III. of the present impression: the motto of which may probably meet their approbation.*

It will be evident, on a slight inspection of the present edition, that it is so much altered and enlarged, as to assume the character of a new work. This has not been done without mature reflection; and a long-cherished hope of making it permanently useful to a large class of General Readers, as well as to Book-Collectors and Bibliographers.

It appeared to me, that notices of such truly valuable, and oftentimes curious and rare, books, as the ensuing pages describe; but more especially a Personal History of Literature, in the characters of Collectors of Books; had long been a desideratum even with classical students: and in adopting the present form of publication, my chief object was, to relieve the

TO THE READER. vii

dryness of a didactic style by the introduction of Dramatis Personæ.

The worthy Gentlemen, by whom the Drama is conducted, may be called by some, merely wooden machines or pegs to hang notes upon; but I shall not be disposed to quarrel with any criticism which may be passed upon their acting, so long as the greater part of the information, to which their dialogue gives rise, may be thought serviceable to the real interests of Literature and Bibliography.

If I had chosen to assume a more imposing air with the public, by spinning out the contents of this closely-printed book into two or more volumes—which might have been done without violating the customary mode of publication—the expenses of the purchaser, and the profits of the author, would have equally increased: but I was resolved to bring forward, as much matter as I could impart, in a convenient and not inelegantly exe-

viii *TO THE READER.*

cuted form; and if my own emoluments are less, I honestly hope the reader's advantage is greater.

The Engraved Ornaments of Portraits, Vignettes, and Borders, were introduced, as well to gratify the eyes of tasteful Bibliomaniacs, as to impress, upon the minds of readers in general, a more vivid recollection of some of those truly illustrious characters by whom the HISTORY OF BRITISH LITERATURE has been preserved.

It remains only to add, that the present work was undertaken to relieve, in a great measure, the anguish of mind which arose from a severe domestic affliction; and if the voice of those whom we tenderly loved, whether parent or child, could be heard from the grave, I trust it would convey the sound of approbation for thus having filled up a part of the measure of that time, which, every hour, brings us nearer to those from whom we are separated.

TO THE READER. ix

And now, BENEVOLENT READER, in promising thee as much amusement and instruction as ever were offered in a single volume, of a nature like to the present, I bid thee Farewel in the language of Vogt; who thus praises the subject of which we are about to treat:—‘ Quis non AMABILEM eam laudabit INSANIAM, quæ universæ rei litterariæ non obfuit, sed profuit; historiæ litterariæ doctrinam insigniter locupletavit; ingentemque exercitum voluminum, quibus alias aut in remotiora Bibliothecarum publicarum scrinia commigrandum erat, aut plane pereundum, a carceribus et interitu vindicavit, exoptatissimæque luci et eruditorum usui multiplici felicitur restituit?’*

T. F. D.

Kensington; March 25, 1811.

* *Catalogus Librorum Rariorum*, præf. ix. edit. 1793.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
 Thomas Frognall Dibdin
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)



CONTENTS.

- PART I. THE EVENING WALK. *On the right uses of Literature* - - - - p. 3—25.
- II. THE CABINET. *Outline of Foreign and Domestic Bibliography* - - p. 29—133.
- III. THE AUCTION-ROOM. *Character of Orlando. Of ancient Prices of Books, and of Book-Binding. Book-Auction Bibliomaniacs* - - - - p. 137—185.
- IV. THE LIBRARY. *Dr. Henry's History of Great Britain. A Game at Chess. Of Monachism and Chivalry. Dinner at Lorenzo's. Some Account of Book Collectors in England* - - p. 189—275.
- V. THE DRAWING ROOM. *History of the Bibliomania, or Account of Book Collectors, concluded* - - - p. 279—621.
- VI. THE ALCOVE. *Symptoms of the Disease called the Bibliomania. Probable Means of its Cure* - - - - p. 625—746.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01580-6 - Bibliomania
Thomas Frognall Dibdin
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

SUPPLEMENT.

CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INDEX.

GENERAL INDEX.

Errata.