

Another Fascicle of Moses Harris'
An Exposition of English Insects (1776)

By DR. RONALD S. WILKINSON *

In his *Bibliography of British Lepidoptera, 1608-1799* (1960), the late Arthur A. Lisney was able to substantiate the suggestion of Hagen (1862) that the first edition of Moses Harris' *An Exposition of English Insects*, a well-received eighteenth-century work which went through at least two editions and a number of issues, was first published in parts.

Lisney reported that he had "recently identified two copies of the first decade [the first ten plates with their text], one of which is in my own library, and this discovery throws new light on the problem. Both of these copies are bound in contemporary boards and each contains the title-page to the entire work dated 1776. Separate copies of the later decades are not known" (Lisney, 1960, p. 170). Lisney described his own copy in the *Bibliography*. It was acquired by the British Museum (Natural History), and in 1966 I obtained from E. W. Classey the fascicle which was almost certainly the other copy examined by Lisney. Miss Pamela Gilbert, Entomological Librarian, BM(NH), has recently assisted me with information to enable a comparison of the two copies.

The *textual* collation of my fascicle is the same as in the ex-Lisney copy, but a more bibliographically precise notation follows; as pagination is irregular, signatures are given rather than pages: frontispiece; [A₁^r] English title; verso blank, with three coloured drawings of Lepidoptera pasted to the page, surely by a very early owner of the fascicle; [A₂^r] French title, with single coloured drawing of a lepidopteron pasted on; verso blank; B₁^r-[C₂^v] Preface; D₁^r-[L₂^v] text. Pagination: [i-iv], [i]-viii, [9]-40 pp. After the frontispiece, the plates in my copy are placed as follows: anatomical plate opp. p. ii; "Scheme of Colours" opp. vi; Tab. I opp. 10; Tab. II opp. 12; Tab. III opp. 14; Tab. IV opp. 18; Tab. V opp. 20; Tab. VI opp. 24; Tab. IX (misplaced) opp. 28, followed by Tab. VII; Tab. VIII opp. 30; Tab. X opp. 38. My copy, like Lisney's, has the slip ("Muscae, Order III") pasted on p. 40.

Both copies are indeed in contemporary boards, covered with paper, marbled in the BM(NH) copy and a medium grey in mine. My spine is covered with different contemporary paper of lighter shade, while the BM(NH) copy has a leather spine apparently applied at a later date. Absent on the ex-Lisney copy but present on mine is an oval pink label on the front board, lettered in an eighteenth-century hand "Harris's No. 8/English Insects". This is presently inexplicable as this part has been supposed to have been the first issued; but the discovery of additional fascicles or other data about the publication history might lead to an explanation of the label. A varied number of watermarks is present in each fascicle, indicating that Harris' printer used various stocks of laid paper

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in making up the first part. As in the former Lisney copy, none of the watermarks in my copy are dated. My investigations since 1966 have substantiated Lisney's statement that there are no other known fascicles.

References

- Hagen, H. A., 1862. *Bibliotheca entomologica*. Leipzig.
Harris, M., 1776. *An exposition of English insects*. London.
Lisney, A. A., 1960. *A bibliography of British Lepidoptera, 1608-1799*. London.
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EARLY IMMIGRANTS IN SUSSEX. — I am indebted to Mr. Colin Pratt for the following records: *Heliothis peltigera* (D. & S.), April 10th 1980, Ninfield, one fresh in trap before mid-night, by M. Parsons; *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel), Peacehaven, April 3rd (1), 10th (2), in trap; *Nomophila noctuella* (D. & S.), April 7th, one in trap; *Cynthia cardui* (L.), between Seaford and Alfriston, April 2nd, one seen. Records of immigrants in April are not numerous. Let us hope these augur a good year in 1980. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LE.

EUPITHECIA PUSILLATA D. & S. (SOBRINATA HBN.) AWAY FROM NATURAL JUNIPER. — We are rather accustomed to seeing odd examples of this moth in gardens and locations well isolated from wild Juniper, and usually explain its spread and occurrence by introduction with container grown plants and gardens I have taken the moth each year in woodland where garden centres. In addition to its occurrence in Lincolnshire there was no juniper at all, but instead a range of western American conifers that included Lawson Cypress and Thuya. — G. M. HAGGETT.

FOODPLANT OF THE CINNABAR (TYRIA JACOBÆAE L.). — I read with interest Dr. Neville Birkett's Note in *Ent. Rec.*, 92: 25. When I was living at Banstead, Surrey in the 1920's and 1930's, the larvae of *jacobæae* were great favourites, and we always searched for our examples on Banstead Downs on Coltsfoot which seemed to be its regular foodplant there. — W. E. MINNION, 40, Cannonbury Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.

TYRIA JACOBÆAE L. (CINNABAR) ON COLTSFOOT, ANOTHER RECORD. — Like Dr. Birkett (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, 92: 25), we have found Cinnabar larvae feeding on Coltsfoot only once. On August 5th 1976 many large larvae were observed feeding extensively on Coltsfoot leaves along a mile of beach at Hauxley, near Amble, Northumberland. The plants were growing at the top of the beach just below a low boulder clay cliff. Ragwort on the cliff top was also being eaten but did not seem to be seriously depleted. Females may have laid on the Coltsfoot or wandering larvae could have fallen on to the plants from the cliff top Ragwort. Regrettably none were taken to test their viability on this foodplant, but a photograph was taken to record the event. — B. and I. D. WALLACE, Merseyside County Museums, Liverpool.



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