

Basic Detail Report



The Book Case of Instruction

Medium

Varnished pine, cardboard, pasteboard, paper

Description

A rectangular storage box of varnished yellow pine, with a front sliding lid. A hand-painted woodcut print of a young boy and girl in front of bookshelves with the title "BOOK CASE OF INSTRUCTION" along the bottom of the print is glued to the front of the lid. A small crest panel is glued to

the top of the sliding lid. The lid lifts off, revealing the interior of the box, which was originally fitted with a medial shelf, central divider panel, and small drawer beneath, all now missing. Portions of the original pink paper box lining remain. Inside the box are nine small children's books, all with various marbelized cardboard covers. In one instance, the paper used appears to have been a page from an older book, as printing is visible beneath the marbelizing pattern. All books include different colored bindings (red, maroon, green, dark green, yellow, and brown.) Eight of the nine books include printed pink paper title plates glued to the front covers. The books include "History of England, from the Conquest to the Death of George II." Printed on the title page is "London: printed for J. Wallis, No. 42, Skinner Street, Snow Hill; By F. Vigurs, 14, York Street, Covent Garden, 1813." The book contains entries for each English ruler, with a simple woodcut portrait and highlights of each reign. The "Old Testament" and "New Testament" volumes contain selected biblical figures, with simple woodcut portraits and brief biographies. "Grammar: Short and Easy Rules for Attaining a Knowledge of English Grammar" includes basic grammar principles. "Beasts: The Good Childs Cabinet of Natural History, Volume 1," "Birds: The Good Childs Cabinet of Natural History, Volume 2," "Fishes: The Good Childs Cabinet of Natural History, Volume 3," and "Insects: The Good Childs Cabinet of Natural History, Volume 4" all include charming and simple woodcuts and brief descriptions of habitat and behavior. The ninth volume, "Mythology: or Fabulous Histories of the Heathen Deities," has a publication date of 1800 and does not include the pink title plate on the front cover.

Dimensions

Case: 6.5 × 4.25 × 3.5 in. (16.5 × 10.8 × 8.9 cm) Book: 4 × 2.5 in. (10.2 × 6.4 cm)