

[Richard Johnson] (Master Michael Angelo, pseud.), *Juvenile Sports and Pastimes*. (2nd ed.) London: T. Carnan, 1776. 4 3/8 inches x 2 7/8 inches (112 mm x 74 mm), 104 pages, 22 woodcuts.

Juvenile Sports and Pastimes begins with the author's memoirs detailing the clever and incremental way in which his father undertook his early education, all of which seems to be an elaborate advertisement for the publisher. There is mention of square alphabet cards purchased from a bookseller (such as those for the *Little-Lottery Book*), the *Royal Primmer*, a *History of England*, *Description of Beasts*, *Description of Birds*, and other publications of Thomas Carnan.

The author explains that as "... it should be the study of every one, while he is at his book, to employ his time to the best advantage, so should he not suffer those leisure hours devoted to play to pass idly away. He should choose such sports as are manly, and require activity or ingenuity; if both, so much the better." He therefore devotes the remainder of the book to refinements for such activities as making counters, choosing and using tops, wrapping a cricket bat, making bows and arrows, and playing games of marbles.

This book was published by Thomas Carnan who was the stepson of John Newbery (1713–1767), the Englishman considered by some to be the inventor of children's literature and by others to have been the first to recognize its commercial potential. After Newbery's death in 1767, the publishing business was continued by two separate firms, one headed by Newbery's son Francis and Thomas Carnan, and the other by Newbery's nephew Francis and Francis' wife Elizabeth. Relations between the competing firms were not friendly, and Carnan and Newbery's partnership dissolved after a time, with Carnan continuing to publish and Francis selling patent medicines, which were part of his father's business.

This children's book is now in the Douce Collection of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Francis Douce (1757–1834) was a British antiquary and the Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1807 to 1811. His bequest of more than 19,000 volumes contained

printed books from various periods, including nearly 500 incunables, as well as roughly 425 manuscripts. Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century children's books numbered among Douce's wide range of collecting specialties. This copy of *Juvenile Sports and Pastimes* is in a contemporary binding of boards covered with Dutch floral paper. On the front free endpaper is the inscription "Lydia Heaton | Dec^r. 29 1790"; the title page is also signed by Lydia Heaton and bears the stamp "EX DONO FR. DOUCE | BIBL. BODL."

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