

Objects, Literature, and Science

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- ‘The object of this work is to explain more minutely than has hitherto been done, the changes of structure arising from morbid actions in some of the most important parts of the human body’ (M. Baillie, *Morbid Anatomy*, p. i).
- ‘The subject in itself is extremely difficult, because morbid actions are going on in the minute parts of an animal body excluded from observation; but still the examination of morbid structure seems to be one of the most probable means of throwing light upon it.’ (*ibid*, p. ii).

P O E M S;

WHEREIN IT IS ATTEMPTED TO DESCRIBE

CERTAIN VIEWS OF NATURE

AND OF

RUSTIC MANNERS;

AND ALSO,

TO POINT OUT, IN SOME INSTANCES, THE
DIFFERENT INFLUENCE WHICH THE SAME
CIRCUMSTANCES PRODUCE ON DIFFERENT
CHARACTERS.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCKC.

A

SERIES OF PLAYS:

IN WHICH

IT IS ATTEMPTED TO DELINEATE
THE STRONGER PASSIONS OF THE MIND.

EACH PASSION BEING THE SUBJECT

A TRAGEDY AND A COMEDY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, JUN. AND W. DAVIES, IN THE STRAND.

1798.

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Joanna Baillie's 'Introductory Discourse' to a *Series of Plays*

- 'nothing has become so much an object of man's curiosity as man himself'
- 'tracing [the] varieties of understanding and temper which constitute the characters of men'
- 'extraordinary situations of difficulty and distress'

It is not merely under the violent agitations of passion, that man so rouses and interests us; even the smallest indications of an unquiet mind, the restless eye, the muttering lip, the half-checked exclamation, and the hasty start, will set our attention as anxiously upon the watch, as the distant flashes of a gathering storm

(Baillie's 'Introductory Discourse')

General Questions

- How might we use objects in text-based research and what would be gained by doing so?
- How could you use objects in your own research?

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