



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Hogarth moralized

Hogarth, William

London, 1831

Night.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-62527](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-62527)

NIGHT.

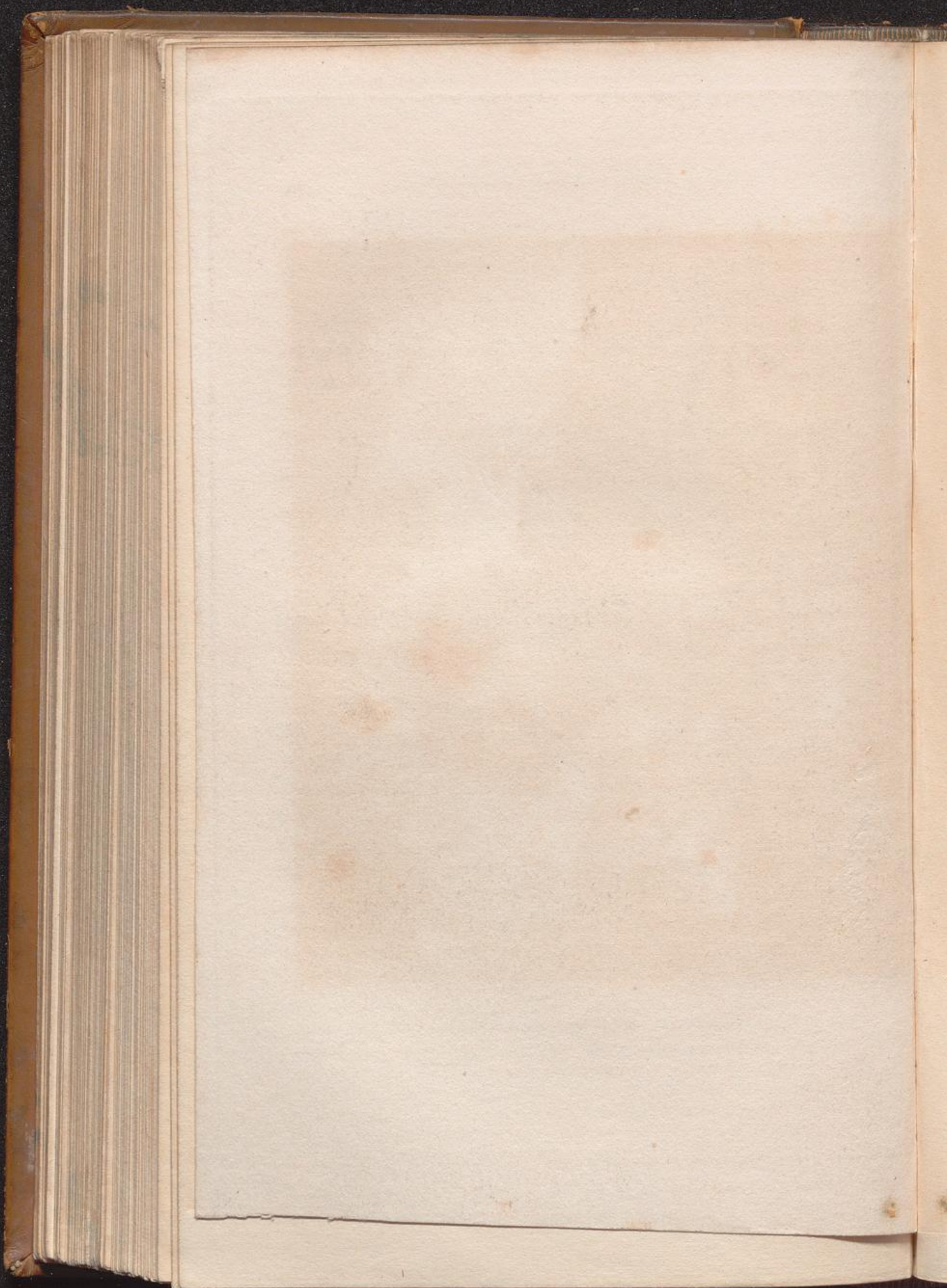
THE last plate in this set is a description of Night, and that a rejoicing one, viz. the 29th of May; evident from the bonfires, the oaken bough upon the barber's pole and the oak leaves some have fixed in their hats. The scene is taken from the narrow part of Charing-Cross, as it formerly stood before the way was widened, looking from Whitehall; and exhibits to view the Rummer tavern on one side, and the Cardigan's head on the other; at that time two noted bagnios. We see here the Salisbury flying-coach, just set out from the inn, overturning, and its passengers in the utmost fright, encreased by the entrance of a burning serpent into the coach, thrown by some unlucky boy. Though on these nights of festivity such things are countenanced, many and great are the accidents that have attended them, houses set on fire, people burnt, and limbs broken. 'Tis true, indeed, the law of this country is particularly careful of the general good, but in attending to greater evils, it unfortunately overlooks the less, and gives the unbridled populace an opportunity of doing a great deal of mischief, under the idle pretext of mirth and diversion. On the other side is a free mason in his apron and ensign of his order, (whom the waiter of the public-house is leading home from his lodge) described as overpowered with liquor, and by the cut on his face, as having been in some fray. Scarce out of one dilemma but into another, a maid from a window above empties a chamber-pot into the street, and its contents fall just upon his head; another nuisance too often met with in



A. Duncan sc.

NIGHT

Published by John Major, 50, Fleet Street, Sept. 11, 1831.



some parts of London. On the right of this man is the house of a barber-surgeon, illuminated with candles, whose sign is—a hand drawing a tooth; the head in exquisite pain: beneath is written, “Shaving, bleeding, and teeth drawn with a touch. *Ecce signum*, i. e. behold the sign.” An emblem of the operator’s abilities. Nay, through the window we discover the joint operation of shaving and bleeding by a drunken ’prentice. Beneath is a beggar’s bagnio, one of the places where such poor wretches as cannot find any better lodging are obliged to pig in together, in common. Though dark, we are able to discern them perfectly by the light of the boy’s link, which he is blowing, in order to set fire to a squib. Many are the hardships the poor in London are reduced to, which the opulent have no idea of; for beside the want of necessary food, they are frequently in distress for a night’s lodging, even in the coldest and worst of weather. Each parish indeed provides, in some measure, for its own poor, but there are many objects* at such distances from their respective parishes, as to be wholly out of the reach of their assistance; constrained therefore through want of this necessary care, they are often obliged to throw off every sense of virtue and honour, and become little better than the brutes of the creation; a circumstance that calls loudly for the attention of the public, as well in relation to its own safety, as with respect to the care it is indebted to the necessitous; want being found to nurse up vice, till it grows and ripens into villainy. Behind is a nightman employed in his profession; and further back a

* [Within the last ten or fifteen years, various places of shelter for the “*houseless poor*” have been provided in different parts of London—they owe their first institution to the active benevolence of a gentleman of the name of Hicks, in the city.]

family carrying off their goods by stealth, fearing that they should fall a prey to their landlord,

Upon the whole, though there are many other circumstances to be met with in London streets, that might serve to distinguish the various parts of the day, yet these, which Mr. Hogarth has noticed, seem to be the most striking, and are sufficient to declare him a proficient in his art, and well skilled in the knowledge of the town.*

* ["Mr. Walpole truly observes, that this print is inferior to the three others; there is, however, broad humour in some of the figures.

The wounded free-mason, who, in zeal of brotherly love, has drank bumpers to the craft till unable to find his way home, is under the guidance of a waiter. This has been generally considered as intended for Sir Thomas de Veil, and, from an authenticated portrait which I have seen, I am inclined to think it is so, notwithstanding Sir John Hawkins asserts that 'he could discover no resemblance.' When the knight saw him in his magisterial capacity, he was sober and sedate; here he is represented a little disguised.

The original pictures of Morning and Noon were sold to the Duke of Ancaster for fifty-seven guineas; Evening and Night to Sir William Heathcote for sixty-four." J. I.