

INEBRIETY,

A POEM,
In THREE PARTS.

If, when the more you drink, the more you care,
Is your Complaint? If when the more you care,
The more you want, why not with equal care,
Consume as well the Pelly, as the Dale?
The Master of this matter is a voice,
"Men only feel the fault but not the Vice."



Printed and Sold by C. PUNCHARD, Bookbinder, in the Market-Place,
and by the Book-Sellers, 1775.
(Printed by the Author & the Printer)

THE TITLE page of the Turnbull Library copy of
"Inebriety"

Rare First Edition

AT the forthcoming Fifth Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts, to be held at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, from June 12 to 20, an exhibition is being held to mark the bicentenary of the poet George Crabbe, who is mainly remembered these days for writing the poem on which Benjamin Britten based his opera *Peter Grimes*. The Crabbe exhibition has once again pointed to the rarity and value of some of the books held by the Turnbull Library in Wellington, which was asked the other day by those connected with the Festival for information relating to its copy of the first edition of Crabbe's first separately published poem, *Inebriety*.

The Turnbull Library has the only known perfect copy of this book in British countries. Two other copies exist, one in the Bodleian Library at Oxford (this copy lacks a title page) and the other in the private possession of J. A. Spoor, of Chicago, though the condition of the latter is not known. The Ipswich Public Library, on behalf of the Earl of Cranbrook, who is arranging the Crabbe exhibition, has asked the Turnbull Library for a photostat copy of the title page of *Inebriety*. It will be included in a bibliography of Crabbe first editions which is being published in connection with the Festival, and which will reproduce the title pages of all Crabbe's works. The Bodleian Library has also written for a copy of this very rare title page (which is shown at left) in order to complete its own collection.

Crabbe was born in Aldeburgh in 1754, and though he was a minor poet he was famous as a realistic painter of life as he saw it, in all its ugliness. One of his most notorious poems, *Sir Eustace Grey*, is a hair-raising account of a patient in a madhouse of his decline from worldly prosperity and happiness. Crabbe was apprenticed when young to a doctor in Woodbridge, near Ipswich, where his first work, *Inebriety*, was published in 1775. In 1780 he went to London and was befriended by Edmund Burke, the orator, who advised him to publish in 1781 *The Library*.

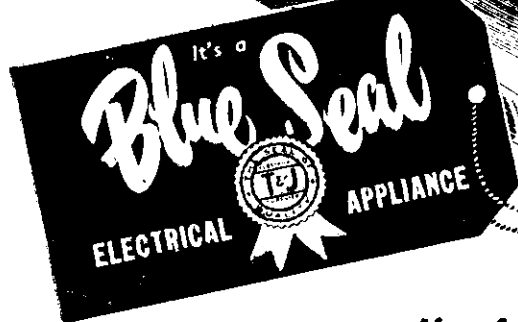
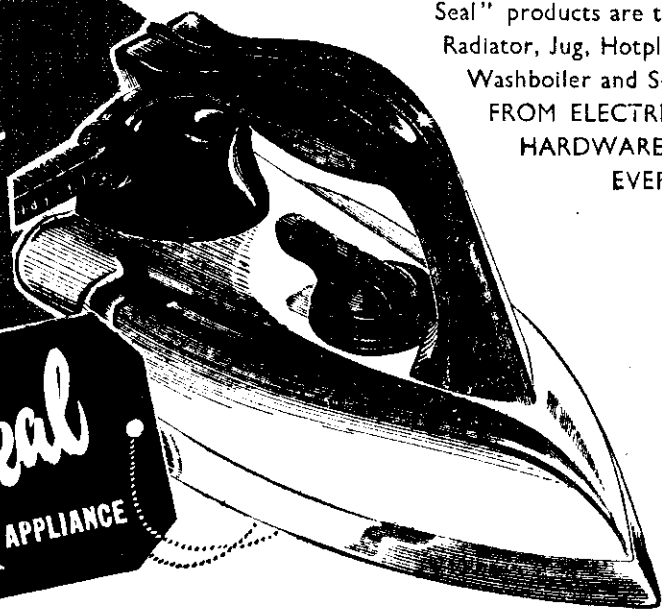


GEORGE CRABBE
Benjamin Britten borrowed from him

a poem in heroic couplets. In the same year Crabbe took holy orders and became curate of Aldeburgh. After *The Village* appeared in 1783 Crabbe published nothing for over 20 years. He was a dutiful clergyman for the rest of his life, enjoying the patronage of

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