



## Runaway Slaves in eighteenth-century Britain 'For Sale' Advertisements

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of the presence of enslaved people in eighteenth-century Britain are the newspaper notices advertising men, women and children for sale. While many white Britons were bound labourers, required by contract and law to serve masters for set periods of time, these people were not owned by their masters, and they could not be bought or sold. However, in Britain's colonies local laws and customs recognised that enslaved people were legally the property of their owners, who had the right to sell their human property. The 'for sale' advertisements in British newspapers show that masters who brought enslaved people to Britain believed that their right to buy and sell enslaved people was not restricted to the colonies.

To be S O L D,

*Covent Garden Journal*, 15 February  
1752, p.4.

**A** Negro Servant about Seventeen Years of Age, born on the Gold Coast, from which Place he was brought five Years since. He is about five Foot four Inches high, well made, and very streight; speaks English well, and understands the Business of a Family Footman. Any Person wanting such a Servant, may be further informed by applying to the Universal Register Office, opposite Cecil-Street in the Strand.

Perhaps what is most striking about these advertisements is their unabashed affirmations of the existence of racial slavery in Britain. Advertisements describing livestock for sale were often close or even adjacent to these notices offering enslaved people for sale, and the language within these notices was shockingly similar. More often than not slave owners did not appear to feel at all ashamed of owning enslaved people.

**A** Negro Boy about 12 years of age, that speaks English, is to be sold. Enquire of Mr Step. Rayner, a Watchmaker, at the sign of the Dial without Bishopsgate.

*Post Man and the Historical Account*, 5  
May 1705, p.2.

When we read newspapers today we often notice advertisements offering all kinds of products and services for sale, and our eyes pass over these notices without really taking them in. Perhaps the people who read eighteenth-century newspapers were the same, and their eyes passed over notices offering enslaved people for sale without really noticing or caring about them. While not common (as it was in the colonies), slavery, slave-ownership and the buying and selling of enslaved people were relatively normal in the British Atlantic World, and the reader of a newspaper may well have paid little attention to these notices advertising enslaved people for sale. Newspaper editors do not appear to have had reservations about publishing these advertisements, and we have not found a single case of a reader writing in and complaining about these notices.

To be Sold,  
A healthy NEGRO SLAVE,  
Named P R I N C E,  
Seventeen Years of Age, five Feet ten Inches high, and extremely well grown,  
Enquire on JOSHUA SPRINGER, in St. Stephen's-Lane.

*Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 16 January  
1768, p.3.

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Post Man and the Historical Account, 5 May 1705 p.2.

A Negro Boy about 12 years of age, that speaks English, is to be sold. Enquire of Mr Step. Rayner, a Watchmaker, at the sign of the Dial without Bishopgate.

Tatler, 11 February 1710, p.2.

A Black Indian Boy, 12 Years of Age, fit to wait on a Gentleman, to be disposed of at Denis's Coffee-house in Finch-Lane near the Royal Exchange.

Evening Post, 20 November 1716, p.3.

TO be dispos'd of a likely young Negro Man, about nineteen Years of Age, that speaks English and Shaves well, being fit for a Footman, or to wait on a Gentleman. Also a light plain Serviceable Chariot lin'd with grey Cloth (with or without a pair of Harness) fit for Town or Country. Inquire of Mr. Syddall at George Alehouse in New North-street, near Red Lyon-Square.

Daily Courant, 26 August 1719, p.2.

A handsome Negro Boy, about 12 Years old, fit to wait on a Lady or Gentleman, can do any Business in the House, to be disposed of; to be seen at the Old Red-Lyon on Cockhill, near Ratcliff-cross.

Daily Courant, 28 August 1721, p.2.

To be disposed of for a Term of Years, advantagiously [sic] for any Captain or Master of a Ship,  
A Negro Boy about 14 Years of Age; speaks very good English and French, he can shave, &c. Enquire at the Blue-Coat Coffee-house in Sweetings-Alley, near the Royal-Exchange.

Daily Courant, 15 October 1719 p.2.

A likely Negro Man, about 22 Years old, fit for a Footman, being brought up to a House and Stable, to be disposed of. Enquire at Mr. Spurrell's at the old Red-Lion on Cockhill, near Ratcliff-Cross.

Daily Courant, 20 November 1719, p.2.

There is a Negro Boy of 8 or 9 Years old, to be sold, of a very good black Complexion. Enquire at Mr. Perchard's, Pewterer, the Corner of Abchurch-lane, Cannon-street.

Daily Post, 2 June 1721, p.2.

A very handsome shaped Negroe Boy, speaks very good English, about 12 Years of Age, to be Sold at the Old Bird House in Channel-Row, Westminster.

Daily Post, 26 May 1725, p.1.

A beautiful Negro Boy about eight Years of Age, lately come from Barbadoes [sic], to be dispos'd off [sic], any Person that pleases may see the Boy at Mrs Eades, at the Cabinet on Ludgate Hill near Fleet Bridge; who likewise sells Right Barbadoes [sic] Citron Water, and true French Hungary Water.

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Evening Post, 25 March 1727 p.3.

A Well set Negro Girl, about ten Years of Age, has had the Small Pox, and speaks very good English; it is the Desire of the Person to whom she belongs to part with her to a good Family on Reasonable Terms. Particulars may be had at Mr. Tabery's a Cabinet-maker near Clerkenwell Bridewell.

Daily Journal, 26 September 1728 p.2.

*To be Sold,*

A Negro Boy, aged about Eleven years. Inquire at the Virginia Coffee-House in Threadneedle-street, behind the Royal-Exchange.

Daily Journal, 3 February 1729, p.2.

*To be Sold,*

A Negro Girl, about 14 Years of Age. Inquire at N<sup>o</sup> 18, in Prince's-street, near the Church in Rotherhith [sic].

Daily Post Boy, 14 June 1732, p.2.

*To be sold cheap*

AN Indian Boy about nine Years old, speaks very good English, and is fit for Service. Enquire of Mr. Thomas Chambers in the Rope Walk near three Mariners Stairs, Rotherith; or of Mr. George Thompson, Notary Publick, under the Royal Exchange.

Daily Advertiser, 15 October 1733, p.2.

To be Dispos'd off,

A Negro Boy about 11 or 12 Years old; if any Gentleman or Lady wants one, may by directing a Line to Mr. John Graves, at the Woolpack in Birch-in-lane, have the Boy wait on them.

London Daily Post and General Advertiser, 13 September 1740 p.1.

ANY Person disposed to buy a Negro Boy or Girl; the Boy about 14 Years old, the Girl about eight, both well-proportion'd; the Boy is able to wait at a Gentleman's Table, the Girl handy in the House, and works with her Needle. For further Particulars, enquire of Mr. Samuel Downes, Distiller, in Deptford.

Daily Advertiser, 12 March 1741, p.2.

To be SOLD

A Very clever Negro Boy, about nineteen Years of Age, has had the Small-Pox, if any Gentleman or Lady has a Mind to see him, by directing a Letter to Mr. Kemp, in West-Smithfield, where to come, they will be waited on.

Note, a House at Highgate, having a very pleasant Prospect, to be let [sic]. Enquire at the Castle at Highgate, or at the above Mr. Kemp's.

Daily Post, 16 February 1742, p.2.

ANY Gentleman that has occasion for a Black Servant, a Native of Guiney, late from South Carolina, about twenty Years of Age, having been brought up in a sober Family as a Butler and to work in the Gardens, who can have sufficient Recommendations for

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his Honesty, by applying to John Sabb, at Mr. Burdon's at the Wheat-Sheaf in Leadenhall-Street, may see the aforesaid Person and agree on Conditions.

Daily Advertiser, 15 March 1742, p.3.

*To be SOLD,*

THE Time of a little Black Boy, between five and six Years old, and bound till of Age, a pretty sharp Child, and speaks nothing but English. Any Person minded to purchase him, may be further inform'd by the Owner, next Door to the Salutation Tavern in Cowley-Street, Westminster.

Daily Advertiser, 4 October 1743, p.2.

For Sale by the CANDLE, // AT the Marine Coffee-House in Birchin-Lane, near the Royal Exchange, Cornhill, on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, the following Goods, Viz.

36 Hogsheads of Rum,  
22 Bottles of Cherry Brandy,  
Pieces of Britannias,  
Men and Womens [sic] Silk and Thread Hose,  
Cotton and Linnen [sic] Trowsers [sic],  
Pieces of Silk,  
Sewing Silk and Ribbons,  
Checks,  
White Thread,  
Brown Linnen [sic],  
Wax and Tallow Candles,  
Cambricks [sic] and other Goods,  
One negro Boy,

Taken as a Prize by the Guard Sloop St. Philip, in his Majesty's Service at Georgia, off St. Augustine Bar.

To be seen on Monday next, and till the Time of Sale, at a Warehouse, No. 108, up two Pair of Stairs at Cox's Key.

Catalogues to be had, when the Goods are to be seen, at the Place of Sale, and of  
*John Simson, Broker, in Seething-Lane.*

Daily Advertiser, 2 August 1744, p.2.

*To be Sold Cheap,*

THE Nancy Pleasure-Yacht, Lute stern'd, Burthen about twenty Tons, with very good Accommodations, sails very well, and exceedingly well sound, now lying near the King's Mills, Rotherhith [sic].

Also a Negro Boy, about fifteen Years old, every Way qualified to attend on Gentlemen or Ladies.

For further Particulars enquire at the Bar of the Jamaica Coffee-House in St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill.

Daily Advertiser, 9 October 1744, p.2.

IF any Person wants a Negro Boy, about sixteen Years of Age, who can shave, dress Wigs, take Care of Horses, and do the Business of a Footman, having been bred up in

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that Way these four Years, during which Time he has behaved himself soberly and faithfully, direct for C. D. at Mr. Comyns's, Bookseller, under the Royal Exchange.

Amended advertisement:

Daily Advertiser, 24 October 1744, p.2.

IF any Person wants a Negro Boy, about sixteen Years of Age, who can shave, dress Wigs, take Care of Horses, and do the Business of a Footman, having been bred up in that Way these four Years, during which Time he has behaved himself soberly and faithfully, direct for C. D. at Mr. Comyns's, Bookseller, under the Royal Exchange.

Note, He is very capable of learning the French Horn, having a good Ear for Musick [sic].

[Repeated Daily Advertiser, 25 Oct. 1744 p.2]

Daily Advertiser, 11 December 1744, p.2.

To be SOLD,

A Pretty little Negro Boy, about nine Years old, and well limb'd. If not disposed of, is to be sent to the West Indies in six Days Time.

He is to be seen at the Dolphin Tavern in Tower-Street.

[Repeated Daily Advertiser, 13 Dec. 1744 p.2 - image in repeats]

Daily Advertiser, 21 January 1746, p.3.

*To be dispos'd of,*

A Black Boy from Guiney, about fourteen Years of Age, well made, &c. who came from Jamaica to wait on a Lady, and is very desirous of staying in England, and his Mistress will dispose of him.

For farther Particulars enquire of Mrs. Hall, in St. Dunstan's Court, Fleet-Street.

Daily Advertiser, 30 May 1748, p.3.

*To be dispos'd of,*

A Fine Negro Lad, about sixteen or seventeen Years old.

Enquire at the Bar of Mr. Wenman's Punch-House, behind the Royal Exchange.

Note, At the same Place a genteel airy Apartment, three Rooms on a first Floor, furnish'd, with the Use of a Kitchen, &c. may be heard of, near the Royal Exchange.

Daily Advertiser, 2 February 1750, p.2.

*To be dispos'd of,*

A Pretty well-shaped Negro Boy, very healthy, fourteen Years old, speaks good English, has had the Small Pox, always used to go on Errands, attend at Table, &c. the [illegible] good. The Boy to be seen at Mr. Alexander Sutor's, Peruke-Maker, at New-Round Court in the Strand.

Daily Advertiser, 20 July 1750, p.3.

*To be dispos'd of,*

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A Black Boy, about thirteen Years of Age, can talk good English. Any Gentleman wanting such a one, may be more fully inform'd by sending a Line to E.C. at the Ropemakers Arms in New-Street, Deptford.

Repeated 23 August 1750, p.3

General Advertiser, 25 June 1751, p.2.

To be SOLD,

(At a reasonable Price)

A Negro Boy, about eleven Years old, strong and healthy, without a blemish, speaks English freely, is well qualified for waiting upon a Gentleman.

Whoever wants such, applying at the Jamaica Coffee-house, will be further informed.

Covent Garden Journal, 15 February 1752, p.4.

To be SOLD,

A Negroe Servant about Seventeen Years of Age, born on the Gold Coast, from which Place he was brought five Years since. He is about five Foot four Inches high, well made, and very streight [sic]; speaks English well, and understands the Business of a Family Footman. Any Person wanting such a Servant, may be further informed by applying to the Universal Register Office, opposite Cecil-Street in the Strand.

Daily Advertiser, 6 March 1752, p.3.

IF any Gentleman wants a young Negro Man, between seventeen and eighteen Years old, well made, tractable, honest and sober, and who has been some Time in England, he may be supply'd for a proper Consideration, by enquiring of Thomas Kirkhouse, at the Blue Boar in Long-Acre. A Coffee-House and good-accustom'd Publick [sic] House to heard of at the same Place.

Public Advertiser, 3 February 1753, p.2.

To Be DISPOS'D of

A Very Likely young Negro Fellow; he is good-natur'd and faithful, has been used to Business both by Land and Water, very valuable to any Merchant or Captain trading Abroad, or to any Gentleman or Lady at Home. Any whom he may suit, are desired to leave a Line for F. R. at the Union Coffee-house, near the Royal-Exchange, and shall be waited on.

Public Advertiser, 22 June 1754, p.2.

To be SOLD,

A Negro Boy, about thirteen Years of Age, who has lived six Years in one-Family, and is very handy at waiting at Table, and other Business of a Foot-boy.

Enquire of John Fielding, Esq, at the Universal Register Office, in the Strand.

Public Advertiser, 16 June 1756, p.3.

To be SOLD,



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A Negro Boy, about 14 Years of Age, well look'd, speaks English pretty well, has been bred to wait at Table. and other Parts of a Footman's Duty. Enquire at Colin Donaldson's in the Haymarket.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser and Mercantile Register, 17 June 1757, p.4.

To be SOLD,  
Ten Pipes of Rasin WINE, a Parcel of Bottled  
CYDER, and a Negro BOY.  
Apply to Mr. Joseph Dahera, Merchant, in Union Street.  
Who sells, at his Warehouse near the Salthouse Dock gates,  
FINE, SECOND, and COARSE FLOUR,  
In Parcels, or by the single Sack, for the Convenience of private Families.  
Repeated 24<sup>th</sup> June; 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> July; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> August 1757.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser, 24 June 1757, page unknown.

For SALE immediately,  
ONE stout NEGRO young Fellow, about 20 years of Age, that has been employed for  
12 Months on board a Ship, and is a very serviceable Hand. And  
A NEGRO BOY, about 12 years old, that has been used since Sept. last, to wait at a  
Table, and is of a very good Disposition, both warranted Sound. - Apply to  
Robert Williamson, Broker.  
N.B. A Vessel from 150 to 250 Tons burden, is wanted to be purchased.

Repeated 24th June 1757.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser and Mercantile Register, 17 February 1758, p.3.

Who keeps the  
Universal REGISTER OFFICE,  
Near the exchange in Liverpool, where  
...  
For SALE,  
A Healthful NEGRO BOY,  
About 5 Feet High, well Proportioned, of a Mild, Sober, Honest Dispo-  
sition; has been with his present Master 3 Years, and used to wait on a  
Table, and to assist in a Stable.

Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser, 21 June 1759, p.3.

To be Sold,  
A likely Negro BOY,  
About ten Years old, has had the Small Pox. For Particulars enquire at the Bar of  
Jamaica Coffee house.

Felix Farley's Bristol Journal, 2 August 1760, page unknown.

To be Sold,  
A Negroe Boy, about ten Years old,  
He has had the SMALL-POX.  
For Particulars enquire at the *Printing-Office* in *Small Street*.

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Daily Advertiser, 17 November 1760, p.3.

To Be SOLD,

A Negro Servant 21 Years of Age, has had the Small-Pox, is perfectly healthful, and honest. He has been used to wait at Table, and take Care of Horses.

Enquire for Particulars at Mr. Fielding's Office in the Strand

Public Ledger, 14 January 1761, p.2.

A NEGRO SLAVE for SALE. A Hearty, Stout Young Fellow, about Twenty Years of Age; is honest, tractable, and sober, and has been used to wait at Table.

For farther [sic] Particulars, enquire of W. BRISTOW, Publisher of this Paper.

Daily Advertiser, 27 April 1761, p.3.

TO be hired or disposed of, a stout, well-made, strait-limbed Negro Man, about five Feet ten Inches high, nineteen Years of Age, speaks good English, has been used to wait on a Gentleman as a Footman five or six Years. Any Nobleman or Gentleman, having Occasion for such a one, please to enquire of Mr. Rake, in Coventry-Street, the Corner of Oxendon-Street, near the Hay-Market.

Daily Advertiser, 22 May 1761, p.3.

TO be disposed of, a beautiful black Girl, a Native of Bengal, and nineteen Years of Age: She is perfectly good natured, and can talk the English language: Is well qualified to wait upon a Lady. Enquire at the Bar of St. Martin's, Le Grand Coffee-House.

The Public Ledger, Or, Daily Register of Commerce and Intelligence, 23 May 1761, p.4.

Daily Advertiser, May 22

Notice is given that there are to be SOLD

A Black Girl

Public Ledger, 1 December 1761, p.3.

For SALE by the CANDLE,

At LLOYD's Coffee House, in Lombard-Street, On Thursday, the 3d December, At Twelve o'Clock at Noon precisely, The good Brigantine MADEIRA MERCHANT, An excellent fine Sailor, Square Stern, Plantation built, and sheathed, Burden 130 Tons, more or less, mounts four Carriage Guns, having good Dimensions for any Trade where Burden is required, and draws an easy Draught of Water, and shifts without Ballast; is exceeding well found in every respect, and will go to Sea for a trifling Expence, now lying at the Swinging Chain, off the Tower.

Inventories to be had on board, at the Place of Sale, and of

JOHN TIVITOE, Broker,

In Angel-Court, Throgmorton-Street.

Who has sundry Ships to sell by private Contract or to let to Freight.

N.B. Any Person incline to treat by private Contract, may apply to the Broker; or of Mr. Benjamin Fletcher, on board said Brigantine. –





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Also a fine healthy straight [sic] able-bodied Negro, about twenty Years of Age, named Resolution, now on board the said Brigantine, for Sale, for Particulars, enquire on board of Mr. Benjamin Fletcher.

Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser, 24 January 1764, p.3.

ANY PERSON wanting an EAST INDIA GIRL, a Native of Bombay, may be informed of one who has been Eight Years in England, who works well at her Needle and who is very handy in the Business of a House; by enquiring at the Bar of the East-India Coffee-House, in Cornhill. She is 22 Years old, and has had the Small-Pox.

Public Advertiser, 23 August 1764, p.3

A Negro Youth of about fifteen Years of Age, to be disposed of for Thirty Guineas; he has had the Small Pox, is handy at Household Business, and fit either for a Family here or going to reside in the West Indies, or can wait on a single gentleman, and look after a Horse.

For farther [sic] Particulars enquire for W. H. at the Bar of the New-Inn Coffee-house in Wych-street, any Time between Eleven and Two This Day, tomorrow, or Saturday.

Public Advertiser, 13 Oct 1764, p.3

ANY Person wanting a handy Negro BOY, about 15 Years of Age, may hear of one to be disposed of, by enquiring at the Bar of Mundy's Coffee-house in Maiden Lane.

Public Advertiser, 19 July 1764, p.3.

A likely handy black BOY, 14 Years old, to be disposed of: He came from the West Indies with his Master twelve Months ago, has been all the Time since at a Gentleman's House in the Country learning domestick [sic] Business; has no Vices, has had the small-pox, and is fond of Children: His Master intended to take him back with him, but is detained in England longer than expected, which is his Reason of his parting with him. // For farther Particulars, enquire for I.G. at the Hungerford Coffee house in the Strand between the Hours of Twelve and Three, any Day of the Week.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser and Mercantile Register, 11 January 1765, p.3.

*This is to acquaint the Publick,*

THAT Thomas Gorstidge, Woollen-Draper, in Castle-Street, having engaged himself in a different Branch of Business, is declining the Woollen Branch.

*Is now Selling off all his STOCK in TRADE,*  
Consisting of

Woollen Drapery and Mercery Goods, at Prime Cost. The sale to continue till all are sold: Who has to dispose of, the SALLY and BETTY Brig, burthen about 80 Tons. Likewise a Quantity of FUSTICK and a BLACK NEGRO MAN.

Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, 11 April 1765, p.2.

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TO be Sold, a Black Negroe Boy, fourteen Years of Age, who has lived with a Family two Years in England: he is to be seen at the New-York Coffee-House, in Sweeting's-Alley, on Monday next, between the Hours of One and Three.

Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, 25 May 1765 p.2.

TO be disposed of, a Creole Negro Girl, about twelve years of age; has been in England a year in an English family, during which time she has had the small-pox, can speak English very well, and is very tractable in household affairs. Please to direct or enquire at the Cherry-garden coffee-house in Cherry-garden-street, Rotherhithe, where the principal and the girl may be seen.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser and Mercantile Register, 17 August 1765, p.3.

TO be Lett, and Entered on, the 20<sup>th</sup> of August Inst.  
near the Exchange, Liverpool. A well furnished Dining Room  
[] Lodging-Rooms for a Gentleman and Servant: Also, a Stable for a  
[].  
[F]or Further Particulars, enquire of Mr. Williamson, at his Office,  
[a]t the Exchange.

Who has for Sale,  
A WINDWARD COAST BLACK BOY,  
[Ap]pears to be under 14 Years old, well looking and tractable, having  
been three Months in England.

Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, 26 Aug 1765, p.3.

To be Sold, A Negro Boy, from the Gentoo nation, in the East Indies; he is handsome and well made, talks English, having always been in an English family, is of an affable and active disposition, and is about thirteen years old; he would be very fit to wait upon a lady, and would be handy and useful in a family. Enquire of Mr. Ledger, at Symond's-wharf, Tooley-street, Southwark, where the boy may be seen.

Caledonian Mercury, 10f April 1766, p.3.

*To be SOLD,*

THE following MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS, in good condition, and executed after the nearest manner, under prime cost. 1mo, A two feet reflecting telescope, with two eye pieces, and rack work – 2do, A pair of 17 inch globes, from Senex's plates, improved by Martin, with quadrants of altitude, and the hour circles under the meridian, by which either pole may be elevated, without taking the globe out of the frame. – 3tio, A portable electrical machine. – 4to, A barometer, with a Nonius and a Farenheit thermometer, both in one frame. Persons intending to purchase any of the above articles, and several others too tedious to mention, of the same nature, may enquire at Peter Thomson auctioner, at his shop opposite to the Cross, Edinburgh, who will shew the premisses, and has full power to dispose of the same.

Likewise, to be sold, by the said Peter Thomson, a HANDSOME EAST INDIAN BLACK BOY, sixteen years old. He can wait at table, and is very ready at learning any thing.

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Edinburgh Evening Courant, 30 August 1766, p.3.

To be disposed of

A NEGRO WOMAN, named Peggy, about nineteen years of age, born and brought up in Charlestoun, in the Province of South Carolina, speaks good English, an exceeding good House-wench, and washer and dresser, and is very tender and careful of children. She has a young Child, a Negro boy, about a year old, which will be disposed of with the mother. For particulars inquire at the publisher of this paper.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser, 12 September 1766, page unknown.

To be sold at the Exchange Coffee House, in Water Street, this day 12 September instant at one o'clock precisely ELEVEN NEGROES imported by the Angola.  
George Drinkwater, Broker.

Edinburgh Evening Courant, 27 September 1766, p.3.

TO BE SOLD,

A Smart NEGRO BOY, eleven years old. He was brought over from North Carolina about four months ago. For particulars apply to Mr James Thom vintner, old Assembly Close, Edinburgh.

Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser, 23 January 1767, page unknown.

To be SOLD, A NEGRO MAN, about 22 Years of Age, an excellent House Servant, and perfectly Skilled in the Business of a BARBER and HAIR DRESSER, the Property of a Gentleman lately return'd from the West-Indies.

The Slave was bought at Guadeloupe [sic] from a famous French Barber, with whom he learn'd the Trade.

N.B. He understands the CARE of HORSES. Apply to James Campbell, Broker.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 27 November 1767, p.2.

To be Sold by Auction,

At Richard Robinson's Office in High-street, near the Exchange, on Tuesday the 1st of December next, at One o'Clock precisely,

One Negro Man, and Two Boys.

They will be brought up to the Place of Sale to be view'd. For further particulars enquire of

Richard Robsinson, Broker.

Felix Farley Bristol Journal, 9 January 1768, page unknown.

TO BE SOLD,

A healthy NEGRO SLAVE,

Named PRINCE, 17 Years of Age,

Me[ ]ing Five Feet and Ten Inches, and extreamly [sic] well grown. – Enquire of JOSHUA SPRINGER, in St. Stephen's Lane.

Who likewise has to sell A Four-Wheel CHAISE.

Felix Farley Bristol Journal, 16 January 1768, p.3.

To be Sold,

A healthy NEGRO SLAVE,

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Named PRINCE,  
Seventeen Years of Age, five Feet ten Inches high, and extremely well grown.  
Enquire on JOSHUA SPRINGER, in St. Stephen's Lane.

Edinburgh Evening Courant, 18 April 1768, p.3.

A BLACK BOY to sell.

TO be sold a BLACK BOY, with long hair, stout made, and well limb'd, is good tempered, can dress hair and take care of a horse indifferently. He has been in Britain near three years.

Any person that inclines to purchase him, may have him for 40 l. He belongs to Captain Abercrombie at Broughton.

This advertisement not to be repeated.

Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, 30 August 1768 p.2.

TO be SOLD, A stout, well made NEGRO BOY, about ten years old, from the Coast of Guinea; has been in England three months, and speaks tolerable good English. Please to enquire for particulars at Mr. Gibson's in New Round-court, Strand, where the boy may be seen.

N.B. A genteel first floor to be lett [sic], furnished or unfurnished.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 23 September 1768, p.2.

To be SOLD, // A NEGRO BOY, // From Angola, about Nine Years Old. // For Particulars enquire of the Publisher.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 7 October 1768, p.2.

To be sold by Auction,

On Wednesday next, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. October, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the House of William Stainton, the Sign of the Custom-House, in Brooks's Square, Liverpool,

A Handsome NEGRO BOY,

From ANGOLA, about 9 Years of Age.

Apply to the said Mr. Stainton.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 2 December 1768, p.2.

To be sold by Auction,

On MONDAY next, the 5<sup>th</sup> instant *December*,

At Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon;

At the House of Mr. WILLIAM STAINTON,

The Sign of the *Custom-House*, in *Brooks's-Square*,

A very handsome NEGRO BOY,

About 11 or 12 Years of Age;

And very suitable for a Gentleman's Family.

Enquire of the said Mr. *Stainton*.

Edinburgh Evening Advertiser, 20 January 1769, p.44.

To be SOLD,

## Runaway Slaves in eighteenth-century Britain 'For Sale' Advertisements

A BLACK-BOY, about 16 years of age, healthy, strong and well made, has had the measles and small-pox, can shave and dress a little, and has been for these several years accustomed to serve a single gentleman, both abroad and at home. For further particulars, enquire of *Mr. Gordon*, Bookseller, Parliament-close, Edinburgh, who has full powers to conclude a bargain [sic].

Repeated Edinburgh Evening Courant, 28 January 1769, p.3.

Edinburgh Evening Advertiser, 20 January 1769, p.45.

To be DISPOSED OF, A HANDSOME BLACK-BOY, about thirteen years of age, very well qualified for making a household servant, serving a table well, &c. of a fine constitution, enured to the climate, and has had the small-pox.

Any person inclining to purchase him, may call at *Mr. William Reid's*, iron-monger opposite to the door of the city guard.

This Advertisement not to be repeated.

Public Advertiser, 8 April 1769, p.4.

A NEGRO BOY.

TO be disposed of, a fine healthy Negro-Boy, between ten and eleven Years of Age. He has been five Years in England, is very-good natured and tractable, and would be very useful in a Family, or a Lady's Foot-Boy.

The Price Fifty Guineas.

Enquire at *Mr. Taylor's*, a Taylor [sic] in Hemmings Row, St Martin's Lane, Charing Cross.

No objections to lett [sic] the Boy be a Week on Trial.

Public Advertiser, 6 June 1769 p.4.

A NEGRO BOY.

To be DISPOSED of,

A Fine healthy Negro Boy, about eleven Years of Age, and handsome. He is very good-natured and tractable, and would be very useful in a Family or a Lady's Footboy.

Enquire at *Mr. Ship[on's]*, Hunt's-Court, St Martin's Lane, Charing Cross.

N.B. No objections to lett [sic] the Boy on Trial.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 6 June 1769, p.2.

To be sold by Auction,

At *Mr. James Wrigley's*, the Golden Lion, in Dale-street, Liverpool, To-morrow, being Saturday the 3d inst. at One o'Clock at Noon,

A fine strong healthy NEGRO BOY,

About 13 Years old, and has had the Small Pox.

Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register, 4 May 1770, p.3.

To be Sold,

A Fine BLACK BOY,

About 12 years old, speaks English well, and understands waiting at a table: any person inclinable to purchase, may apply to COPE and WRIGHT.



## *Runaway Slaves in eighteenth-century Britain* **'For Sale' Advertisements**

*Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 16 November 1771, p.1.

WANTED,

A MASTER for a BLACK BOY just arrived from the West Indies. He is about thirteen years old, extremely well made and featured.

Any Gentleman wanting such a boy, may be informed of further particulars by applying to Mr Francis Shand, at Mess. Hamilton and Dalrymple's, Edinburgh.

N.B. This advertisement is not to be repeated.

*Daily Advertiser*, 22 February 1772, p.3.

A Likely active Black Boy about 13 Years of Age, from the East Indies, will be parted with to any Gentleman or Lady. Direct for W.E. at the New York Coffee-House, Sweeting's Alley, Cornhill. He has been above a Year in England, and is very handy in a House.

*Public Advertiser*, 25 June 1776, p.4.

A Black Servant Boy, just arrived from America, to be bound out in any regular genteel Family, for six or seven Years. He is about eight Years old, healthy and well made, good Countenance and fine Disposition; can tend a Table, go of Errands, and do the usual Business of a Kitchen, such as clean Knives, Candlesticks, &c.

Any Lady or Gentleman desirous of seeing him shall be waited on next Thursday, by leaving their Address at the Bar of the Chapter Coffee-house, directed to Mr. O. Owen.

*Liverpool General Advertiser, or the Commercial Register*, 15 October 1779, p.3.

To be Sold by Auction,

At George Dunbar's office, on Thursday next, the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, at one o'clock,

A Black BOY about 14 years old, and a large Mountain Tyger CAT.