



The New York Public Library  
Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

**William Beckford manuscript material**

ca. 1803-1825

Pforz MS

## Summary

**Creator:** Beckford, William, 1760-1844

**Title:** William Beckford manuscript material

**Date:** ca. 1803-1825

**Size:** 7 items

**Abstract:** Autograph comments on Byron's Don Juan, Cantos VI-VIII : (B'ANA 0458) : 16 Jul 1823 : 1 p. in ink, possibly in the hand of an amanuensis, 7 removed binder's leaves, 6 of which are endorsed with titles of source and all with Beckford's autograph pencil notes.

**Preferred citation:** William Beckford manuscript material : 7 items, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

William Thomas Beckford, English writer and art collector. In 1782 he published his best known literary work, *Vathek*, first in French. His budding political career was derailed in 1784 by scandal surrounding his relationship with William Courtenay (1768-1835). He is perhaps best remembered for his biggest failure -- his lavish but hastily built home, Fonthill Abbey -- which collapsed twice, earning it the nickname "Beckford's Folly".

## Scope and Content Note

Autograph comments on Byron's Don Juan, Cantos VI-VIII : (B'ANA 0458) : 16 Jul 1823 : 1 p. in ink, possibly in the hand of an amanuensis, 7 removed binder's leaves, 6 of which are endorsed with titles of source and all with Beckford's autograph pencil notes. ||| Autograph notes in his copy of Godwin's *Life of Geoffrey Chaucer*, 1803 : (G'ANA 0023) : shelved with oversized books under "Godwin." ||| Autograph notes in his copy of the Shelleys' *History of a six weeks' tour*, 1817 : (S'ANA 0752) : shelved as \*Pforz 559L 11. ||| Autograph notes in his copy of Shelley's *Queen Mab* : (S'ANA 0949) : in Pforzheimer copy 17 of the 1821 edition; shelved with books under "Shelley." ||| Autograph notes in his copy of Caroline Lamb's *Ada Reis*, 1823 : (MISC 3921) : very minimal notes; shelved with books under

"Lamb."|||Autograph notes in his copy of Pichot's Voyage Historique : (MISC 3922) : shelved with books under "Pichot."|||Autograph note in his copy of Dods's Tales of the Wild and the Wonderful : (MISC 4069) : a four line comment on the book, in pencil, on front free endpaper of Pforzheimer copy 2 of Dods's Tales; shelved with books under "Dods.".

## **Key Terms**

### **Titles**

Beckford, William : manuscript material

### **Names**

Beckford, William, 1760-1844

Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824