Guide to the
La Bagatelle album of poems and riddles
Pforz BND-MSS (Bagatelle)

Summary

Title: La Bagatelle album of poems and riddles

Size: 1 volume (62 manuscript pages, 57 total leaves) + 1 insert

Abstract: Commonplace book containing over 90 poems, epigrams, and riddles, many of which are illustrated with original watercolor vignetttes and decorative borders. A calligraphic title page ("La Bagatelle") is followed by a half title which reads: "Extracts. / / 1812." The opening poem, written by the compiler and signed "E. M.," explains that the pieces in the volume were "cull'd to entertain tho none are mine." Most pieces copied in the same neat hand and apparently taken from contemporary British printed sources; identifiable authors include Shakespeare, Lady Morgan, William Cowper, Samuel Rogers, Robert Burns, George Crabbe and Lord Byron. Bound in quarter red morocco with gilt spine bands, marbled boards. Inserted is a landscape pencil sketch with a stone bridge and a tree.

Preferred citation: La Bagatelle album of poems and riddles, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Commonplace book containing over 90 poems, epigrams, and riddles, many of which are illustrated with original watercolor vignetttes and decorative borders. A calligraphic title page ("La Bagatelle") is followed by a half title which reads: "Extracts. / &c. / 1812." The opening poem, written by the compiler and signed "E. M.," explains that the pieces in the volume were "cull'd to entertain tho none are mine." Most pieces copied in the same neat hand and apparently taken from contemporary British printed sources; identifiable authors include Shakespeare, Lady Morgan, William Cowper, Samuel Rogers, Robert Burns, George Crabbe and Lord Byron. Bound in quarter red morocco with gilt spine bands, marbled boards. Inserted is a landscape pencil sketch with a stone bridge and a tree.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Commonplace books
Poetry
Riddles

Watercolors