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Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

[Fortune-telling game

178-?

Summary

Creator: [Anonymous]

Title: [Fortune-telling game

Date: 178-?

Size: 1 v. (26 p.), 33 cm; 1 v. (26 p.), 33 cm

Source: Purchase, John Drury, 01/27/2001

Abstract: Copybook, containing the pieces and instructions for a fortune-telling parlor game. Includes cloth bag, numbered "4," holding cardboard squares with Roman numerals; the rules of the game ("Explanation," p. 2), a chart of twenty-one numbered questions, a table of celestial bodies, and a list of more than 300 possible answers, in verse.

Access: Restricted access.

Preferred citation: [Fortune-telling game, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Copybook, containing the pieces and instructions for a fortune-telling parlor game. Includes cloth bag, numbered "4," holding cardboard squares with Roman numerals; the rules of the game ("Explanation," p. 2), a chart of twenty-one numbered questions, a table of celestial bodies, and a list of more than 300 possible answers, in verse. The questions are arranged under the headings "Masculine" ("Shall I be successful in my Amours?"), "Feminine" ("How do the Men like me?") and "Epicene" ("How many children of both sexes shall I have?"). A player was to choose a question, remember its number, select a number from the cloth bag, and use both numbers to find the answer under the indicated planet or constellation ("Be content with Dogs and Cats / For you will ne'er have Human Brats"). The game's creator(s) may have left it uncompleted: the instructions say to draw a number "out of one of the Bags, on the Cover," but there is only one bag; and there are many blank spaces in the list of answers.