



A GUIDE TO THE

ANNA GEORGIA BAYLIFFE

MANUSCRIPT NOTEBOOK

OF PRAYERS, MEDITATIONS & REFLECTIONS :

COPIED BY THE YOUNG AUTHOR'S MOTHER.

*A MEMORIAL COMMONPLACE BOOK
IN THE PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION.*



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The New York Public Library

THE CARL H. PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION OF SHELLEY AND HIS CIRCLE

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Cover illustration: silhouette portrait of Anna Georgia Bayliffe, from the notebook, perhaps by her mother, Ann Banks Bayliffe.

A Guide to The Anna Georgia Bayliffe Manuscript Notebook in the Pforzheimer Collection

Associated NYPL Catalog record:	Anna Georgia Bayliffe manuscript notebook of prayers, meditations, and reflections
Size:	1 volume (67 manuscript pages; 92 total leaves, many blank); 19 cm.
Date range:	1812-1823
Abstract:	A memorial commonplace book in the hand of the author's mother, Ann Banks Bayliffe
Access:	Admission to the Pforzheimer Collection is granted through application. Please direct e-mail inquiries to pforzref@nypl.org .
Citation:	The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle – The New York Public Library – Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

27 Mar 2012

Summary

Anna Georgia Bayliffe (1800 or 1801-1823) of Pickwick, Corsham, Wiltshire, England, was the child of George Searle Bayliffe (1734-1813), deputy lieutenant for the county of Wiltshire, and his wife, Ann (née Banks). Anna Georgia died of typhus at age 22 on 27 June 1823, just two months after her younger brother, Charles Searle Bayliffe, died from the same disease.

Between the deaths of her children and some time in 1825, Ann Banks Bayliffe compiled a memorial commonplace book, chiefly from "various scraps of Paper" she found among her daughter's possessions. The preponderance of extracts are of a religious nature, and Anna Georgia's relationship with her faith can be traced from her youthful prayers ("May my Parents not die before me ...") to her remarks as a critically thinking young woman ("I do not in general admire Sermons on those mysterious doctrines which are far above human reason ...").

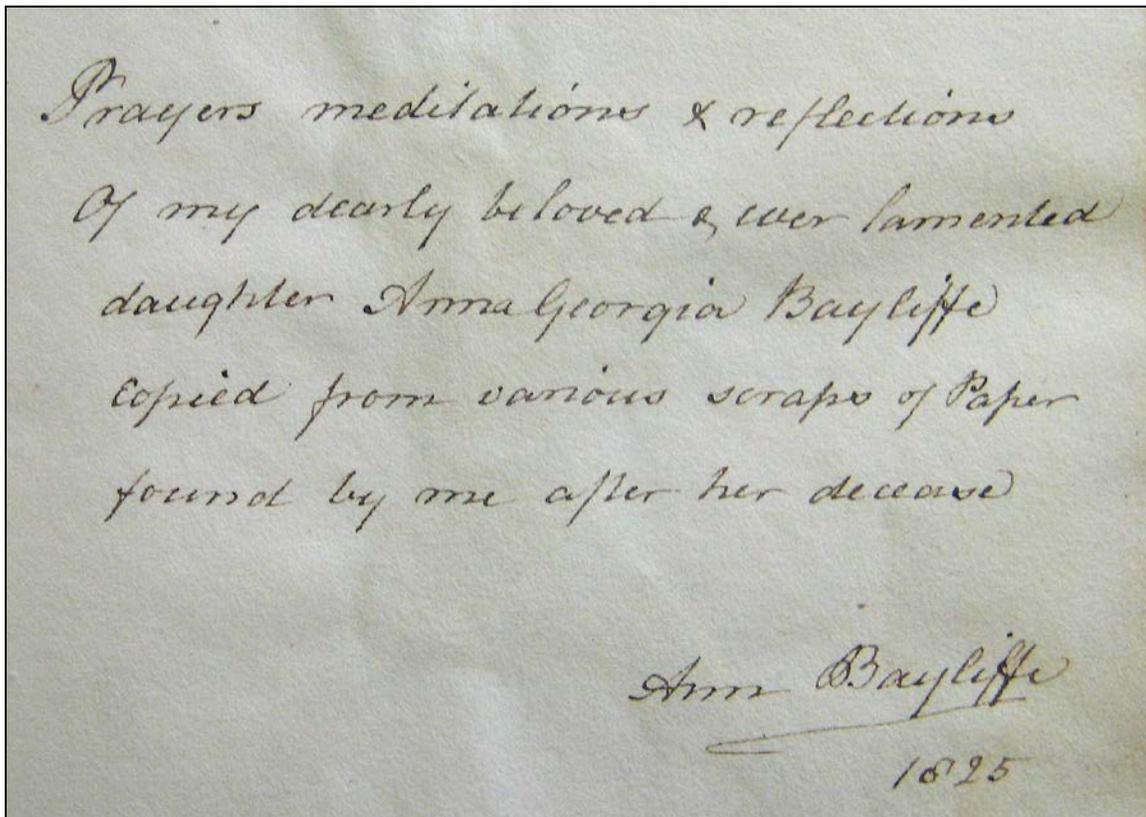
Perhaps somewhat a result of the mourning copyist's selections, the subject of death permeates the commonplace book. Anna Georgia mourns the death of two close friends in journal entries, and gives several accounts of her grief in the wake of her brother's unexpected passing.

At the back of the volume, the copyist includes a theological essay by her son, and a statement memorializing her husband and children. Ann Banks Bayliffe is known to have had artistic ability; the paper cutting silhouette portraits of Anna and Charles may be by her.



The Pforzheimer Collection

The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle is one of the world's leading repositories for the study of British Romanticism. Comprising over 20,000 items, the collection is conceptually centered on the life and works of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his friends, relatives, and contemporaries. Formerly a part of the much larger and now dispersed Pforzheimer Library, the Pforzheimer Collection came to The New York Public Library in 1986.



Introductory statement by Ann Bayliffe, the author's mother and copyist.

Contents

Prayer, "A Morning Prayer" : [1812 or 1813] : begins, "I thank O thou most great merciful most glorious everlasting & eternal God..."

Prayer : [1813 or 1814] : begins, "Oh Lord enable me to make the best use of the short time allotted me on earth..."

Prayer, "Morning Prayer" : 6 Nov 1816 : begins, "Almighty & most merciful Father who hast vouchsafed to keep me,"

Prayer : [no date] : begins, "Oh my God, continue I implore thee that protection thou hast hitherto vouchsafed me..."

Short piece : [no date] : begins, "Happiness where art thou to be found, into what region art thou fled ..."; also includes, "Go reader learn the instability of worldly happiness. Go -- do thy duty towards thy God and thy fellow creatures!"

Short piece, "Sewing" : 23 Feb 1816 : begins, "Tho my hands are employed, in the concerns of the world, yet are my thoughts free..."

Short piece : [?23 Feb 1816] : begins, "Perhaps you feel that you are unable to perform the will of God ..."

Prayer : [no date] : begins, "Lord thy mercies towards me have been innumerable from my youth until now ..."

Prayer : 13 Apr 1823 : begins, "Oh God how inscrutable [sic] are thy providence!"; upon the death of her younger brother, Charles.

Short piece : [no date] : begins, "Shall man presume to judge the councils of his maker ..."; observations on one of Dr. Chalmers's sermons.

Short piece : [no date] : begins, "No man can serve two masters ..."; on wit and religion.

Short piece : [no date] : begins, "I do not in general admire Sermons on those mysterious doctrines which are far above human reason ..."

Quotation from Ann Martin Taylor's *Retrospection: a Tale* : begins, "It is the most absurd egotism to imagine that our joys ..."

Quotation from John Mason's *Self Knowledge* : begins, "Where do our views centre!"

Quotations from *Psalms*: [no date] : with the copyist's note, "This selection from the Psalms by the hand writing appears to have been made at an early age."

Short piece : [no date] : begins, "Reason has taught me in common with all, that those bright visions of happiness which in early youth I delighted to indulge [sic], can never be realized on earth ..."

Quotation from Susan Ferrier's *Marriage: a Novel*: [no date] :begins, "Happily in the moral world as in the material one the warring elements have their prescribed bounds and the flood of grief decreaseth when it can swell no higher ..."; with the copyist's note, "This supposed extract was found in her desk written in pencil."

Short piece, "A Wish" : [1817?] : begins, "When I die I beg my surviving friends to destroy my Pocket Books at least the contents, as they can prove interesting to no one but myself ..."; with the copyist's note, "Found in the cover of her Pocket Book for 1817 ..."

Series of memoranda : [1812-1822] : prefaced by a note from the copyist, "I trust her kind affectionate heart would not have denied me the melancholy satisfaction of retaining the following memorandums, that so mark her piety, sensibility & affection. A. B."

- 1812 : begins, "I shall be twelve years 21st of September & I hope wiser & better & improved in every thing."
- Aug 1816 : begins, "Dear Seagry - what joy once more to behold thee dear native place ..."
- Dec 1816 : begins, "Another year is at length departed flitted away like a shadow of a morning dream ..."
- 1819 : prefaced by the copyist's note, "Found with some dried Crocuses"; begins, "Given me by my dear Mrs. Edridge ..."
- 30 Dec 1819 : begins, "This day will close another year. A year the commencement of which brought with it many enjoyments but the latter part of it has been clouded by an event which will cast a gloom over my future existence ..."
- 13 Jul 1820 : begins, "Oh thou to grateful memory ever dear!"
- Dec 1820 : begins, "Another year of my life has passed. A year not less eventful than the preceeding [sic] one -- It has pleased the Almighty to sever another of those ties which bind me to earth & few now remain."

- 31 Dec 1821 : begins, "This day has close another year in which we have again in a most especial manner experienced the goodness of almighty God ..."
- Jan 1823 : begins, "Tis gone, another year for ever gone ..."

Quotation from Edward Young's *The Centaur Not Fabulous* : begins, "Wisdom is the growth of experience, but experience is not the growth of action, but of reflection on it ..."

Short piece : [1819?] : begins, "Forebodings too fataly [sic] verefied [sic] my Caroline's angelic spirit has quitted its earthly mansion ..."

Short piece : [1820?] : begins, "Sunday evening August 15th 1819 at seven o clock I went with Mama to Pockeridge & returned by Ten. My dear Mrs. Edridge accompanying us by the Bradford Road."

Letter (copy) to Mr. Lloyd : [Mar 1823] : begins, "With this year you will receive a ring as a trifling momento [sic] of my beloved brother ..."

Letter (copy) to [?] : 20 Apr 1823 : begins, "The Almighty has been pleased to remove from us our dearest earthly treasure do I indeed live to tell you that my darling brother the object of all our hopes and anxieties now lies in his grave."

With a copy of an essay by Charles Searle Bayliffe : [1820 or 1821] : begins, "The first point that I shall endeavor to establish is that God has undoubtedly a universal foreknowledge of Every Thing." With a signed attribution note by the copyist.

Memorial statement of Ann Banks Bayliffe : [1823?] : for her husband, son and daughter; begins, "To the respected memory ..."



Paper cutting silhouette portrait of Charles Searle Bayliffe, probably by his mother, Ann Banks Bayliffe.