



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

Guide to the

Pauline Clairmont manuscript material

1853-1885

Pforz MS

Summary

Creator: Clairmont, Pauline, 1825-1891

Title: Pauline Clairmont manuscript material

Date: 1853-1885

Size: 42 items

Abstract: Pauline "Paola" Clairmont, niece of Claire Clairmont of the Shelley circle. Like her aunt, she was a governess, traveled widely, and had a child out of wedlock. Paola also lived with Claire, first as a boarder and then as an unpaid housekeeper, during the final years of her aunt's life. The story of Paola's encounters with Shelley enthusiast Edward Augustus Silsbee inspired Henry James's novella "The Aspern Papers.". · Holograph diary : 1855-1857 : (CL'ANA 0176) : from her years in Australia. Shelved under "Clairmont" in Pforz BT.

Preferred citation: Pauline Clairmont manuscript material, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Pauline "Paola" Clairmont, niece of Claire Clairmont of the Shelley circle. Like her aunt, she was a governess, traveled widely, and had a child out of wedlock. Paola also lived with Claire, first as a boarder and then as an unpaid housekeeper, during the final years of her aunt's life. The story of Paola's encounters with Shelley enthusiast Edward Augustus Silsbee inspired Henry James's novella "The Aspern Papers.".

Scope and Content Note

· Holograph diary : 1855-1857 : (CL'ANA 0176) : from her years in Australia. Shelved under "Clairmont" in Pforz BT.

· Copies of poems : no date : (CL'ANA 0423) : 4 p., including Tennyson's "The Charge of the Light Brigade," and "Two Pictures," poet unknown.

- Holograph account, "Meine Fussreise im Juli, 1885" : (CL'ANA 0063) : 21 p., in German. Note: the authorship is suggested in a late 20th century Clairmont family member's hand, and is uncertain.
- Leatherbound passport : (CL'ANA 0096) : with "Miss Pauline Clairmont" stamped in gilt.
- Birth and death certificates : (CL'ANA 0318) : including a death certificate for Paola Clairmont, and both birth and death certificates for her daughter Georgina Hanghegyi ; in Italian.
- To Alma Clairmont, her niece : 2 autograph letters signed : (CL'ANA 0230-0231).
- To Antonia Clairmont, her mother : 1 autograph letter signed : 22 Nov [1853?] : (CL'ANA 0232).
- To Claire Clairmont, member of the Shelley circle (her aunt) : 11 autograph letters signed : ca. 1850's-1860's : (CL'ANA 0202-0212).
- To Emily Clairmont, her sister : 1 autograph letter signed : 8 Jul 1855 : (CL'ANA 0233).
- To Otilie Clairmont, her sister-in-law : 1 autograph letter signed : 13 Feb [1874?] : sympathy upon the death of Otilie's mother.
- To Wilhelm Clairmont, her brother : 14 autograph letters signed : [no years] : (CL'ANA 0213-0226).
- To Miss Emma Taylor, E. J. Trelawny's maid : 3 autograph letters signed : 1878-1879 : (CL'ANA 0432-0434) : relating to the final illness and death of her aunt Claire.
- To E. J. Trelawny, writer and adventurer : 1 autograph letter signed : 24 Jun 1875 : (CL'ANA 0431) : promising Claire will respond to his letter when she is well.
- To "Dear[est] friends" : 2 autograph letters signed : 2 autograph letters signed : [1870's?] : (CL'ANA 0227-0228) : with news of her travels.
- To unknown recipient : 1 autograph fragment signed : (CL'ANA 0234).

Note: Some additional Paola Clairmont letters are included in (CL'ANA 0421), a collection of 211 Clairmont family letters. Housed in a gray archival card-box and shelved with bound manuscript material.

Key Terms

Names

Clairmont, Claire, 1798-1879

Clairmont, Pauline, 1825-1891