



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

Guide to the

Margherita Cogni manuscript material

1819

Pforz MS

Summary

Creator: Cogni, Margherita

Title: Margherita Cogni manuscript material

Date: 1819

Size: 2 items

Abstract: Margherita Cogni, "La Fornarina," a Venetian baker's wife with whom Lord Byron had an affair from ca. August 1817 to sometime in 1819. In an 1819 letter to John Murray, Byron details an incident in which Cogni, in a violent fit, cut his thumb with a knife, then threw herself in the canal. Cogni was illiterate; her letters to Byron were dictated to a professional scribe. To Lord Byron, poet : 2 letters : -- ?Jan - May 1819 : (B'ANA 0240) : in Italian, in scribal hand; an emotional plea for him to keep his promise never to abandon her. -- 11 May 1819 : (B'ANA 0241) : in Italian; in scribal hand; begging to kiss his hand before he leaves. Both letters published with translations, as SC 630 and 638, in Shelley and his Circle vol. VII, p. 359f, 517f. For an account of Byron's relationship with Cogni, see Doucet Devin Fischer's "Countesses and Cobblers' Wives," p. 198-205 of the same volume.

Preferred citation: Margherita Cogni manuscript material : 2 items, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Margherita Cogni, "La Fornarina," a Venetian baker's wife with whom Lord Byron had an affair from ca. August 1817 to sometime in 1819. In an 1819 letter to John Murray, Byron details an incident in which Cogni, in a violent fit, cut his thumb with a knife, then threw herself in the canal. Cogni was illiterate; her letters to Byron were dictated to a professional scribe.

Scope and Content Note

To Lord Byron, poet : 2 letters : -- ?Jan - May 1819 : (B'ANA 0240) : in Italian, in scribal hand; an emotional plea for him to keep his promise never to abandon her. -- 11 May 1819 : (B'ANA 0241) : in Italian; in scribal hand; begging to kiss his hand before he leaves. Both letters published with

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Key Terms

Titles

Cogni, Margherita : manuscript material

Subjects

Mistresses -- Italy -- 19th century -- Correspondence

Names

Cogni, Margherita

Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824

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