



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

Guide to the

Commonplace book of poetry and a news story

circa 1791

Pforz MS

Summary

Title: Commonplace book of poetry and a news story

Date: circa 1791

Size: 34 manuscript pages (20 total leaves)

Abstract: Sewn notebook with semi-stiff drab covers, containing six poems, a verse fragment, and one newspaper article copied in a single unidentified hand. The poems include: "On the Invention of Letters" ("Tell me what genius did the art invent"); "Ode to Fancy," by Joseph Warton; "Ode to Truth," by William Mason; "Slavery," by Erasmus Darwin; "Edwin and Emma," by David Mallet; and "The Rose," by William Cowper. The verse fragment, unidentified and possibly unpublished, begins: "Joy singley [sic] known is only known in part / And grief unshar'd falls heavy on the heart" The seven-page news story's source is cited as "The Liverpool Gazette dated Novr 19 1791," and describes an attempted robbery at Deptford which was foiled by a dog.

Preferred citation: Commonplace book of poetry and a news story, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Sewn notebook with semi-stiff drab covers, containing six poems, a verse fragment, and one newspaper article copied in a single unidentified hand. The poems include: "On the Invention of Letters" ("Tell me what genius did the art invent"); "Ode to Fancy," by Joseph Warton; "Ode to Truth," by William Mason; "Slavery," by Erasmus Darwin; "Edwin and Emma," by David Mallet; and "The Rose," by William Cowper. The verse fragment, unidentified and possibly unpublished, begins: "Joy singley [sic] known is only known in part / And grief unshar'd falls heavy on the heart" The seven-page news story's source is cited as "The Liverpool Gazette dated Novr 19 1791," and describes an attempted robbery at Deptford which was foiled by a dog.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Commonplace books

Poetry

Subjects

English poetry -- 18th century -- Manuscripts -- Specimens

Names

Cowper, William, 1731-1800

Darwin, Erasmus, 1731-1802

Mallet, David, 1705?-1765

Mason, William, 1725-1797

Warton, Joseph, 1722-1800