



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 The verse fragment, unidentified and possibly unpublished, begins: "Joy singly [sic] known is only known in part / And grief unshar'd falls heavy on the heart .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.

**Access:** Restricted access.

**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 The verse fragment, unidentified and possibly unpublished, begins: "Joy singly [sic] known is only known in part / And grief unshar'd falls heavy on the heart .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