Guide to the Teresa Bandettini Poems (Ms 1445) 19th century
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.MS1445

Title: Bandettini, Teresa. Poems (Ms 1445)

Date: 19th century

Size: 3.75 linear feet (5 boxes)

Repository: Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract: Teresa Bandettini (1876-1837), often known by her Arcadian name, Amarilli Etrusca, was a dancer and composer of verse. Codex 1445, consists of 96 fascicles written in the early 19th century and compiled by an unknown witness to Teresa Bandettini’s productions.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Bandettini, Teresa. Poems, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Teresa Bandettini, often known by her Arcadian name, Amarilli Etrusca, was born in Lucca in 1763. Her parents, Benedetto Bandettini and Maria Alba Micheli, died when she was seven. Bandettini quickly achieved fame as a dancer in the theatrical world, but would gain more lasting fame as a composer of extemporaneous verse. While in Imola in 1789 she met the Lucchese Pietro Landucci, whom she would marry. After her marriage, she abandoned her dancing career for that of an improvisatrix, and held "Accademie d’improvvisazione" in which paying members of the audience proposed themes that she then elaborated extemporaneously in verse. Bandettini achieved fame throughout Italy and was so well-respected as to draw words of praise from Parini, Monti, Mascheroni, and Alfieri. Bandettini had four children, three girls who died young and a son, Francesco. She died in Lucca in 1837.

Bandettini was reportedly a learned woman who was known to read Dante backstage when she was not dancing. Sources cite her as an "improvisatrice commossa," capable of simultaneously moving her audience and becoming emotional herself. She resisted the idea of publishing her extemporaneous verse, preferring instead to publish poems that had been subject to a more
lengthy elaboration (although a volume of her Rime estemporanea would eventually come out in 1801 and another in 1807). She published a two volume collection of Rime varie in 1786, followed by the 1788 publication of her Poesie diverse. She also published poemetti (La morte d'Adone, 1790) and tragedies (La Teseide, 1805; La caduta de' giganti, 1814; Rosmunda in Ravenna, 1827), and left behind fragments of Romantic tales.

Bandettini's name resurfaced in 2002 with the discovery of six lost sonatas dedicated to her by the young Niccolò Paganini.

Sources


Biographical note provided by Margaret E. Kern, as seen in the Italian Women Writers database entry for Teresa Bandettini. http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/IWW/BIOS/A0065.html

Scope Note

The collection, Codex 1445, consists of 96 fascicles written in the early 19th century compiled by an unknown witness to Teresa Bandettini’s productions. The poems are numbered and titled. Fascicle 88 is missing from our collection.

The collection was assembled, as stated in the first person in the Preface, by one of Bandettini’s patrons and hosts, whose house in Viareggio was a regular venue for the poet’s improvisations in 1794 and 1795. The unnamed compiler relates that on those occasions several identical transcriptions of poems n. 36-40 were taken simultaneously by different copists, evidently eager to capture Bandettini’s famed impromptu creations in the flow of the performance. The compiler endeavours to give as complete a transcription as possible, adding material as later performances occurred in the following years, giving an account of other occasions (in Perugia, Pisa, Livorno, etc) in which other poems where performed and transcribed, redacting a substantial gathering of 'Frammenti' (poems for which a complete transcription could not be obtained, not even through Tommaso Trenta with whom the compiler appears to have been
acquainted), and regretting that much material escaped transcription - due partly to the absence of scribes at times, and partly to Bandettini’s personal dislike for the process.

As described in the original dealer description the extent of the collection compares favourably with the size of the Bandettini papers in the Lucca Archive and, most significantly, with Ms Vat. Lat. 10218 in the Vatican Library. The Vatican manuscript gathers dozens of Bandettini’s poems in a collection compiled between 1776 and 1800 by the secretary of the literary Academy of Lucca Tommaso Trenta (Artinio Dionisiade in Arcadia).

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Bandettini, Teresa, 1763-1837

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