

Accession number: 1992-24/30

Description: Single sheet of paper, written on one side. Verse 'Upon consulting barometers' in Garrick's hand. n.d.

Transcript: Upon consulting Barometers
Marygolds & Convolvulus
Do know w[ha]t weather we sh[oul]d have at
Mistley Ball

Y^e Weather wise folks who foretell sun & showers,
By the falling of Glasses or opening of flowers;
- 'tis not in the Weather, indeed it is not,
That the Tubes are now rising & pointing to hot
The Marygold red & Convolvulus small
Will ever be open, at Squire Rigby's Ball.

Notes:

Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 244-5. Previously unknown.

'Mistley Hall in Essex on the Stour, the country home of Richard Rigby (1722 – 88) probably visited by Garrick at least as early as 1744. Rigby was regarded as a corrupt politician, eventually securing an appointment as paymaster of the forces, but was beyond reproach in personal relations. Mistily Hall was extravagantly refurnished by him and by 1765 the Garrick's had established annual visits there of a week or so. Rigby was a pall-bearer at Garrick's funeral and an executor of his will. He offered Lady Spencer a place in the pay office from which she could watch Garrick's funeral procession in comfort. (Stone & Kahrl, pp. 621-4)