

Accession number: 1992-24/9c

Description: Single sheet of paper, written on both sides. One Latin and one French inscription in a neat hand – not Garrick’s unless it is his young hand.
Dated 1732.

Transcript: D.D. D.G.
G.W
ea vero conditione, ut unam quoque die paginam unam memorates ad verbum ediscat; postque quovis tempore sine scripto verbis eis diem reddere ac pronuntiare paratus promptusque fuerit.
Licht. [Lichfield] 3 Julii
A.D. 1732

Reverse: Le Jardin
Des Racines Greques
Mises en Vers Francais
Avec un Traité des Prepositions & autres particules indeclinables
Et un Receuil Alphabetique des Mots Francais tires
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Note; Aileen Osborn, ‘The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers’, M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 162-4.

The French inscription is the title page of a book which is itself in the Harvard Theatre Collection. The Latin inscription has been handwritten on the page before the title-page and underneath, in pencil, ‘Gilbert Walmsley Esq. Registrar of Litchfield Cathedral – died 3 Aug. 1751- aged 69-.’ This suggests that this was a gift to Garrick from Walmsley. Possibly the initials DD.G and G.W. which appear at the head of the inscription, represent Garrick’s and Walmsley’s. Walmsley was registrar of the ecclesiastical court in Lichfield, and a good friend to Garrick and Johnson in their youth. He was ‘Lichfield’s most respected gentleman Scholar’ (Stone and Kahrl, p. 9), and gave support and encouragement to both.

The book contains a rhyming list of French words having Greek derivations. The text is heavily annotated by Garrick who has underlined words on every page in the first half, often providing Latin synonyms in the margin. The volume was clearly well used, giving some indication of the extent of his education in French and the classic languages.