

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Burman, Pieter (1668-1741)** **MC 2012.13**

Material: Journals (c1720)

Volume: 0.75 linear feet (3 Document Boxes)

Donation: Gift of John Erskine, c1790

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Pieter Burman the Elder was a noted Dutch classicist and scholar. Born in Utrecht in 1668, he began his classical studies at the age of thirteen, quickly becoming proficient in Greek and Latin. In 1715 he was appointed professor of history at the University of Leiden, serving in that and several other roles, including Rector and Chief Librarian, in the course of his tenure. His scholarly work, comprised largely of editorial and critical editions of classical authors, made him well-known throughout Europe. He died March 31, 1741.

Orazio Torsellino (1545-1599), also known as Horatius Tursellinus, was an Italian scholar noted for his publications on religious and historical subjects. His universal history, sometimes referred to as the "Epitome of Turselline," served as a framework for the lectures of Burman that comprise this collection.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection is comprised of three journals containing notes on lectures delivered by Pieter Burman during his tenure at the University of Leiden, sometime between 1715 and 1740. It is not known precisely who took these notes. The notebooks themselves are believed to have been donated to Dickinson College by Rev. John Erskine not long after the college was founded, as the binding and content is consistent with numerous other works he donated.

Burman's lectures follow the basic structure of Torsellino's *History*, (i.e. the division of chapters and sections), but they expand on those divisions, adding further information and context. More specifically, the focus of the lectures appears to be on the language, history, and poetry of the United Provinces.

The lectures are recorded through three journals. The first journal, Volume 1, contains a prologue as well as Book I of Torsellino's *History*, concerning biblical history divided according to important figures and patriarchs. The second journal, Volume 2, follows Torsellino's Books V-VIII. The third journal, Volume 3, follows Torsellino's Books IX-X.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2012.13

Folder 01) Volume 1
Prologue
Book I – Biblical History

BOX 2 - MC 2012.13

Folder 01) Volume 2
Book V - Popes
Book VI - Byzantine Emperors, Zeno – Irene (474-802 A.D.)
Book VII - Holy Roman Emperors, Charlemagne – Otto III (742-1002 A.D.)
Book VIII - Holy Roman Emperors, Henry II – Otto IV (1002-1218 A.D.)

BOX 3 - MC 2012.13

Folder 01) Volume 3
Book IX - Holy Roman Emperors, Frederick II-Wenceslaus (1220-1380 A.D.)
Book X - Holy Roman Emperors, Robertus Bavarus – Mathias (?-1612 A.D.)

This collection was processed by Dan Plekhov, September 2012.