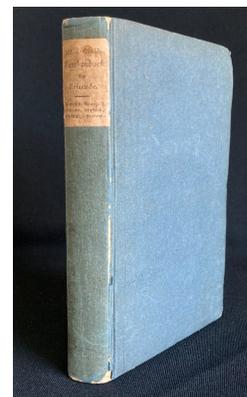


Travel phrase book in Six Languages, in contemporary cartonnage

[Genlis, Stéphanie Félicité de]; and. J[ohann] B[althasar] Fromm. *TASCHENBUCH FÜR REISENDE* Gespräche für das gesellschaftliche Leben; deutsch, französisch, italienisch, englisch, spanisch und portugiesisch. Nach dem *Manuel du voyageur der Madame de Genlis*, neu bearbeitet von J.B. Fromm. [The traveller's guide being a collection of useful dialogues in six languages. After the "Manuel du voyageur" by Madame de Genlis]

Dresden: gedruckt bei Carl Gottlob Gärtner, [1822].

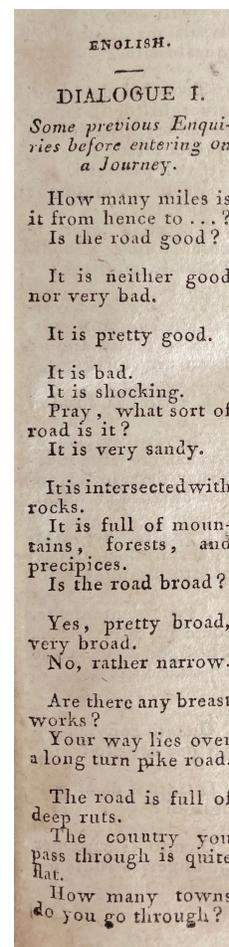
\$1,600



8°: xv, 296 pp. The text is in three columns per page, thus each two-page opening displays a row of all six languages. Bound in contemporary blue paper-covered thin boards (cartonnage), smooth spine and original letterpress spine label. Corners bumped, some superficial splitting of the paper on the cover, and spotting to the interior, but a nicely preserved copy with untrimmed edges in its original state. A rare and important early phrase-guidebook, based on the original guide by Stéphanie Félicité de Genlis, (1746-1830).

The particularly rare text, especially outside of a few German libraries, is a reworking of *Manuel du voyageur par Madame de Genlis*, which first appeared in Berlin, 1799, in two languages only (German and French)—the rarity no doubt due to the fact that the guides were as well used as their wayfaring readers. The work inspired a number of multilingual phrasebooks, whose objective was to offer the phrases and sentences in a context necessary for daily life and business when traveling. The development of travel and "tourism" in the 19th century made this formula extremely useful, and successful—a formula that in many ways continues in present day phrasebooks. The publisher's foreword clarifies that previous editions contained a number of errors and that great effort has been made to make this edition more accurate and thus useful.

Madame de Genlis's guide is particularly beneficial in that it contextualizes the phrases within situations where the manner in which one expresses a question is as important as the question itself. The phrases are arranged so that any given phrase can be easily read in each of the six languages, as seen below:



Also, Genlis organized the work in Dialogues, which provides not only context for the speaker of a foreign language, but the variety of associated phrases and vocabulary related to a topic—*Dialogue One in English is illustrated at the right.*

We note that the diction used in the phrases is formal and polite, offering expressions such as, "Will you be so kind as to mark this down in my pocketbook? Here is a lead pencil", or, "Voulez-vous bien écrire cela sur mon journal (ou mon portefeuille). Voici un crayon."

Mme de Genlis aurait certainement inventé l'écritoire, si l'invention n'avait pas eu lieu auparavant. Saint-Beuve.*

Stéphanie Félicité de Genlis (1746-1830) was a prolific author of novels and educational works, whose experience, education, and social standing among the cultural elite of late 18th century Europe made her an ideal author for this collection of useful dialogs. Genlis served as governess to the children of Philippe-Egalité, Duke d'Orléans (including the future King, Louis Philippe—an unprecedented position for a woman at the time), but she was as Talleyrand observed a complex figure whose high moral standards and strict recognition of societal protocols likely included a private life of liaisons and illegitimate children. She may have had an affair with the Duke, but nonetheless maintained a trusted position within the court. During the Revolution she fled first to Switzerland and then Berlin, returning to France just after Napoleon's rise to power. She published her best known novel, *Mademoiselle de Clermont*, in 1802. Her *Manuel du voyageur ou recueil de dialogues, de lettres etc.* (1799), which is the basis of the present work, established the format and the organizing principles on display here.

* Mme de Genlis would certainly have invented the writing desk, if it did not already exist. Saint-Beuve.

Johann Balthasar Fromm, who is named as editor, was a language instructor in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, and the author of a number of language textbooks. Fromm no doubt helped with the editorial corrections and expanded the work with the new languages complementing Madame de Genlis's original. We note that the Dresden publisher printed the Deutsch entries in roman type in the place of the German fraktur of the first edition, with consideration for the non-German reader.

