



Photograph of a woman carrying a jug in Capri, Italy. From an album of European travel photographs collected by Carrie S North, c.1891. Manuscript Collection MS 183

MEMORIES

Most travellers wanted to preserve their memories in some form or other and all the items displayed in this exhibition can be regarded as souvenirs of travel.

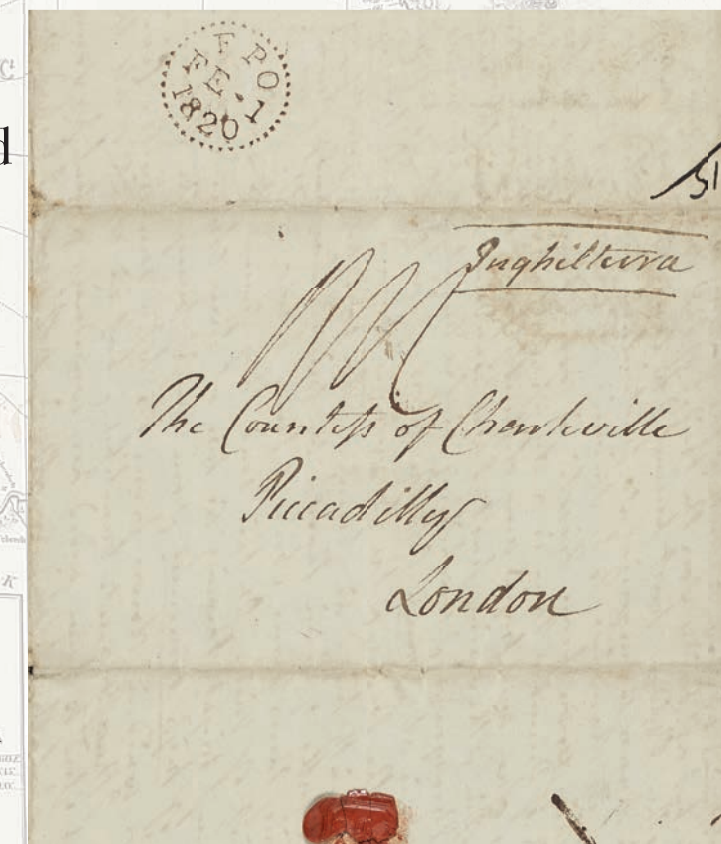
The rich bought oil paintings, marble and bronze sculptures and expensive books to decorate their mansions. The less well-off purchased cheaper engravings, kept commonplace and scrap books, displayed their own drawings or wrote up diaries and journals.

The privacy and reflection offered by keeping a diary contrasts with the reams of correspondence sent by those travellers who wished to keep in touch with relatives and friends. These often seem designed to be read out aloud and contain much daily detail of life abroad.

Intrepid travellers arrived home with all sorts of objects to remind them of their journeys which were shown to family and friends with pride. Professional artists, such as Richard Parkes Bonington, preserved their own memories of travel in paint and pencil, as did amateur artists.

By the 1880s the photograph and postcard were well-established types of souvenir. Prince Leopold, youngest son of Queen Victoria, who formally opened University College Nottingham in June 1881, had travelled in France, Italy and Switzerland in 1876, aged 23, against his mother's wishes. The large album of photographs (MS 317) associated with him may be a record of that tour.

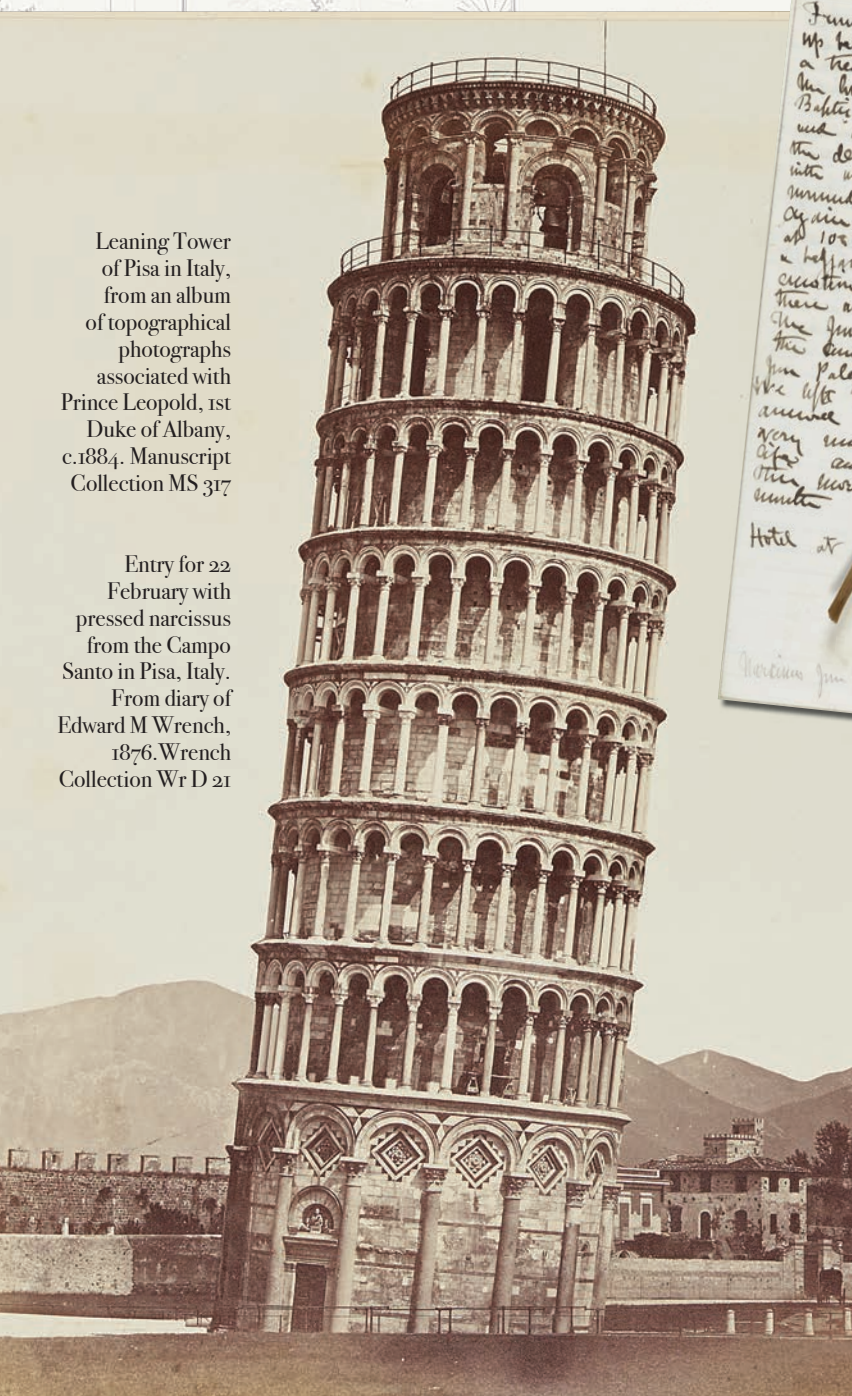
It is a unique example of what was by then a commonplace object in homes across Britain. Carrie S North's smaller album (MS 183) is more typical.



Letter from Catherine Maria Fanshawe in Rome to Catherine M Bury, 1st Countess of Charville, at Piccadilly, London, 11 January 1820. Marlay Collection My 269



Early 20th-century postcard of Genoa, Italy. From private collection of Ross Balzaretti.



Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, from an album of topographical photographs associated with Prince Leopold, 1st Duke of Albany, c.1884. Manuscript Collection MS 317

Entry for 22 February with pressed narcissus from the Campo Santo in Pisa, Italy. From diary of Edward M Wrench, 1876. Wrench Collection Wr D 21