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Secret Tribunal, The [supplemental material]

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[Access transcript of full work.](#)

The Secret Tribunal, by an unknown author.

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MLA Citation

Secret Tribunal or, the Court of Wincelous A Mysterious Tale. London: T. Plummer, c. 1805. Print.

MLA Citation from the Gothic Archive

Secret Tribunal or, the Court of Wincelous A Mysterious Tale. Published 1805. E-Publications Marquette. The Gothic Archive, Marquette University, Wisconsin. http://epublications.marquette.edu/english_gothic/17/. Accessed 10/17/13. Web.

Full Title

The Secret Tribunal or, the Court of Wincelous A Mysterious Tale

Summary

Set in Bavaria, *The Secret Tribunal*, follows the young maiden Mira, who is being raised by her two parents, Old Lindhom and Ms. Lindholm and is pursued by the young Lipstolf. Lipstolf, a member of the Court of Wenceslaus, is told to leave as he and Mira can never be

together due to a family secret. He leaves and becomes a knight. Mira gains entry to the Court of Wenceslaus as an attendant to Wenceslaus' wife Sophia. Mira ingratiates herself to Sophia, much to the chagrin of the Countess Ormsberg who wishes for her daughter to be a favorite in the court.

Mira plays her harp for Sophia in order to help Sophia deliver a male heir to Wenceslaus, who then gives birth to a stillborn baby girl. Seizing the opportunity, Duchess Ormsberg charges Mira with sorcery. Mira is summoned to a secret tribunal. During the proceedings Lipstolf appears and helps to exonerate her as well as revealing Mira's true aristocratic lineage. Mira now goes off to reside with her father, a Count. However, she is pursued by the secret tribunal and goes into hiding in a convent. News reaches her that Lipstolf has now been accused of murder and will face the same tribunal. Lipstolf is acquitted by the tribunal and finds Mira in the convent. Mira is reunited with Listolf and Lindholm and all live well knowing the secret tribunal is now under the authority of a friend and will no longer pursue them.

Constellation of Knowledge/Historical Context

The Secret Tribunal or The Court of Wenceslaus seems to originate most directly from *Herman of Unna: A Series of Adventures Of the Fifteenth Century, In Which The Proceedings of the Secret Tribunal Under the Emperors Wenceslaus and Sigismond Are Delineated* originally published in 1788 in London with a second edition being printed in 1794. *Herman of Unna* was written by Christiane Benedicte Eugenie Naubert, who translated many gothic works to chapbooks including M.G. Lewis' *The Monk*. Additionally *The Secret Tribunal* was adapted for the stage by James Boaden the English dramatist.

There may also be a French translation, however, as there is no English translation of the work available I have been unable to verify whether or not this is another adaptation of the same text. It also appears that Georg Joseph Vogler, also known as Abbe Vogler, wrote an Opera entitled *Herman Von Unna* of which I have been unable to locate a transcript, however a review of the Opera and of Vogler in general can be found in an 1895 edition of the *Review of Reviews*. Unfortunately the form of *Herman Von Unna* we find in *The Secret Tribunal* is unattributed and I have been unable to find out the true author of the text.

Key Words

Forced Taking of Vows

The nature of vows is often called into question in the gothic. Can a vow be true if it is coerced, or not given freely? Is a written vow more or less trustworthy than a verbal vow?

Haunted Forest

Description forthcoming.

Inquisition

Description forthcoming.

Secret/Revealed Genealogies

Often in the gothic a character will have hidden origins; for example, in MG Lewis' *The Monk*, Ambrosio does not find out that Elvira was his mother and Antonia was his sister until after he has murdered them both. In *The Secret Tribunal*, Mira is kept apart from Lipstolf because of the secret of her parentage.

Sorcery

Description forthcoming.

Urban Landscapes

Description forthcoming.

Bibliography of Related Information

Naubert, Benedikte, and Karl Gottlieb Cramer. Herman Of Unna [Electronic Resource] : A Series Of Adventures Of The Fifteenth Century, In Which The Proceedings Of The Secret Tribunal Under The Emperors Wenceslaus And Sigismond, Are Delineated. In Two Volumes. Written In German By Professor Kramer: Dublin : printed by William Porter, for P. Wogan, P. Byrne, J. Moore, and W. Jones, 1794., 1794.

Shaw, Albert. Ed. Review of Reviews. Volume XII: 479. New York: Review of Reviews Co., 1895.

Boaden, James. The Secret Tribunal [Electronic Resource] : A Play. In Five Acts. By James Boaden, Author Of Fountainville Forest, As Performed At The Theatre-Royal, Covent-Garden. n.p.: London : printed by G. Woodfall, for T. N. Longman, Paternoster-Row, 1795., 1795.

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