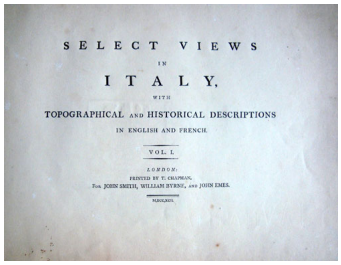
JOHN SMITH

“Dogana, on Pietra mala”

Select views in Italy, with Topographical and Historical descriptions in English and French, Londra, 1792

128 mm x 190 mm

Note: Bibliografia: D. Cremonini, L’Italia nelle vedute e carte geografiche dal 1493 al 1894 libri di viaggi e atlanti, 1996, p.136. Stampa non sciolta ma nel volume in collezione (primo volume con tutte le stampe di Bologna e degli Appennini tra Bologna e Firenze).


SELECT VIEWS
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WITH
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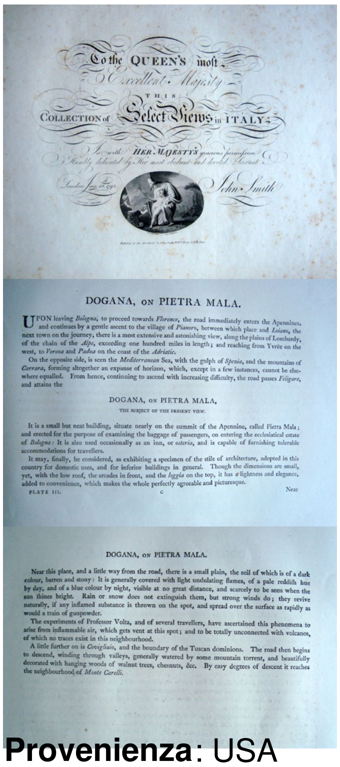

To the QUEEN'S most Excellent Majesty THIS COLLECTION of Select Views in ITALY; Is with HER MAJESTY'S gracious permission Humbly dedicated by Her most obedient and devoted Servant

London Jan. 1st 1792. John Smith

DOGANA, ON PIETRA MALA.

UPON leaving *Bologna*, to proceed towards *Florence*, the road immediately enters the Apennines, and continues by a gentle ascent to the village of *Pianoro*, between which place and *Loiano*, the next town on the journey, there is a most extensive and astonishing view, along the plains of Lombardy, of the chain of the *Alps*, exceeding one hundred miles in length; and reaching from Yvrèe on the west, to *Verona* and *Padua* on the coast of the *Adriatic*.

On the opposite side, is seen the *Mediterranean* Sea, with the gulph of *Spezia*, and the mountains of *Carrara*, forming altogether an expanse of horizon, which, except in a few instances, cannot be elsewhere equalled. From hence, continuing to ascend with increasing difficulty, the road passes *Feligare*, and attains the

DOGANA, ON PIETRA MALA,

THE SUBJECT OF THE PRESENT VIEW.

It is a small but neat building, situate nearly on the summit of the Apennine, called Pietra Mala; and erected for the purpose of examining the baggage of passengers, on entering the ecclesiatical estate of *Bologna*: It is also used occasionally as an inn, or *osteria*, and is capable of furnishing tolerable accommodations for travellers.

It may, finally, be considered, as exhibiting a specimen of the stile of architecture, adopted in this country for domestic uses, and for inferior buildings in general. Though the dimensions are small, yet, with the low roof, the arcades in front, and the *loggia* on the top, it has a lightness and elegance, added to convenience, which makes the whole perfectly agreeable and picturesque.

PLATE III. C Near

DOGANA, ON PIETRA MALA.

Near this place, and a little way from the road, there is a small plain, the soil of which is of a dark colour, barren and stony: It is generally covered with light undulating flames, of a pale reddish hue by day, and of a blue colour by night, visible at no great distance, and scarcely to be seen when the sun shines bright. Rain or snow does not extinguish them, but strong winds do; they revive naturally, if any inflamed substance is thrown on the spot, and spread over the surface as rapidly as would a train of gunpowder.

The experiments of Professor Volta, and of several travellers, have ascertained this phenomena to arise from inflammable air, which gets vent at this spot; and to be totally unconnected with volcanos, of which no traces exist in this neighbourhood.

A little further on is *Coviglaio*, and the boundary of the Tuscan dominions. The road then begins to descend, winding through valleys, generally watered by some mountain torrent, and beautifully decorated with hanging woods of walnut trees, chesnuts, &c. By easy degrees of descent it reaches the neighbourhood of *Monte Carelli*.

Provenienza: USA