

HISP. QU. 41

Seminario curioso y Epilogador Matritensse

Binding:

Eighteenth-century parchment binding with a string fastener. On protective pages there is a watermark with the name of RAMON ROMANI. Ramón Romani Soteras was a paper manufacturer from Barcelona. His name appears on watermarks of different types. The marks on the protective pages are described in Galicia archives' catalogues as dating from the period of 1717-1779 (v. V pp. 167, 303, 577 ; v. VI pp. 308). The marks together with a title on the spine of the binding saying *GAZETAS ManosCritas del Año. 1755.* indicate that the binding dates back to the second half of the 18th century. The recto of the first and the verso of the last page are slightly dirty, which means that the manuscript was not left long without the binding. The current binding is the first binding of the manuscript, which is confirmed by similarities between the writing on the spine and in the text (e.g. the date 1755).

History:

The title on the spine of the binding *GAZETAS ManosCritas del Año. 1755*, dates (6 de Abril – 9 de Agosto de 1755) and places (*Madrid, Cadiz, Badajoz, Zaragoza, Campo de Gibraltar*) appearing in the text, as well as watermarks described in Galicia archives' catalogues as Spanish marks dating from the years 1745-1770 (v. V pp. 98, 245) indicate that the manuscript was written in the second half of the 18th century (in/after 1755). The manuscript was written by different people, including a person called Joseph Moralex (there are different handwritings). Some documents were signed by the same person (Joseph Moralex), but they were not written by this person (text in a different handwriting). It is possible that Joseph Moralex supervised the work or approved the documents. His name could not be found in any sources. There are no information in the manuscript about its successive owners. Lack of any accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, when the accession register was established.

Content:

The manuscript includes copies of articles and short press notes issued in the period from the 6th of April until the 9th of August 1755 in Spain. The content of the articles and notes concerns events from various Spanish cities, many documents begin with the formula

escriben deesta Ciudad, on the basis of which one can assume that the information were sent in writing and that *Semanario Curioso* and *Epilogador Matritensse* were one of the most important magazines of the period publishing news from different parts of the country. What is interesting is the fact that the press notes concern not only matters of national importance, but also refer to various aspects of everyday life in Spain of the time, such as events in ports (landing and sailing away of ships under different flags) events from the life of aristocracy (marriages and deaths), or events, mainly negative, from townsmen's lives (thefts, accidents, etc). The articles are in chronological order, the information from *Semanario Curioso* and *Epilogador Matritensse* appear alternately. Information in available sources concern only two magazines with similar titles *Semanario Literario y Curioso de Cartagena* and *Semanario erudito y curioso de Salamanca* appearing in the later period (1786-1798) in the cities of Cartagena and Salamanca respectively (http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semanario_Literario_y_Curioso_de_Cartagena; <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=2054014>). On the basis of the above information we can assume that a series of magazines with similar titles of *Semanario curioso* was issued in the second half of the 18th century in Spain.