

HISP. QUART. 44

## Arte de la lengua bisaya

### Binding:

Original black leather binding with a string fastener. Leather bindings of this type were characteristic of Spanish manuscripts until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Ollero y Ramos, *Enciclopedia de la encuadernación*, Madrid 1998, pp. 293-295). The binding was certainly made before 1818, which can be confirmed by an inscription on the front endpaper (*Adelbert von Chamisso 1818*). Smudges of dirt on pages 2r<sup>o</sup> and 334v<sup>o</sup> show that the manuscript might not have had any binding for some time.

### History:

The manuscript is a copy written in the Philippines (Provincia de San Nicolás de Tolentino de los Descalzos de N. P. San Agustín de Philipinas) in or after 1729. The date is confirmed by the eighteen-century orthography and information included in the text in ff. 66r<sup>o</sup> – 67v<sup>o</sup>: *El año de veinte y ocho, o veinte y nueve se expidió en nuestra Provincia de Philipinas un mandato ordenado, que todos los papeles manuscritos de N. Padre fray Thomas de San Geronimo Provincial que fue de dicha Provincia e hijo de la de Castilla, se consignasen en manos de Nuestro Padre Provincial que entonces era, a fin de que pareciendo algunos originales de lo mucho que con universal aplauso escribió en el idioma Bisaya se conservasen guardados en el archivo de la Provincia*. The same information also confirms the place where the manuscript was written. It is a fragment functioning as a commentary to the texts, saying that in 1728 or 1729 the provincial superior San Nicolás de Tolentino de los Descalzos de N. P. San Agustín de Philipinas issued an order to collect all manuscripts of Thomas de S. Geronimo (a monk of Spanish descent who previously performed the function of the provincial superior in the Philippines). It was suspected that these manuscripts were autographs in the Bisaya language and as such were to be kept in the Province's archives. However, it turned out that not all manuscripts were autographs, e.g. *Diccionario o Bocabulario español bisaya del idioma sugbuano* turned out to be a copy made with numerous mistakes by *un indio*. This copy was not included in the archives, but was used as the basis for development of this manuscript, which includes many corrections and supplements both in Spanish and Bisaya (next there's a list of all introduced corrections). The

fourth part entitled *Índice bisaya – español* was added by the person who made the compilation, copied and introduced the corrections to the other parts (cf. f. 66v<sup>o</sup>). There are a couple of other comments in the manuscript in a different handwriting. They could have been written by the next owner, Adelbert von Chamisso (1781-1838), a German poet, naturalist and traveller of French descent. The manuscript was in his possession in 1818, which can be inferred from a signature on the early endpaper *Adelbert von Chamisso 1818*. The signature was written by the same hand as in *Ms. hisp. Qu. 50*, so the two manuscripts were in the collections of Adalbert von Chamisso at the same time. Presumably, the next owner made a note below in German *Erwartungen und Ansichten (Kotzebues Reise T III.) p. 40. alphabet (...) p. 50 – 53* [Expectations and views (*Kotzebues travel III p.40 alphabet pp. 50 – 53*), the same as in the manuscript *Hisp. Quart. 50*. It is a reference to a book written by Adelbert von Chamisso on the basis of documents collected during a journey around the world participated by Chamisso and led by Otton von Kotzebue. The book was published in Weimar by the Gebruder Hoffmann publishing house in 1821. Chamisso handed over the aforementioned documents collected during the journey to the Königlichen Bibliothek in Berlin in 1823 (Wilken F., *Geschichte der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin*, Berlin 1828, p. 145). The fact that the manuscript belonged to the collection of von Chamisso in 1818 is also confirmed by information in the document entitled *Chamisso's Books* (cf. [www.Filipiana.net](http://www.Filipiana.net)). The document includes the following catalogue number on the initial endpaper *Ms. hisp. in Q<sup>to</sup>. 44*, and seals of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin on pages 2r<sup>o</sup> and 334v<sup>o</sup>. 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 consists of eight parts. All parts concern the native languages of the Philippines and were prepared for the needs of missionaries working in the country. The first part is entitled *Arte de la lengua [...] Libro primero de las declinaciones, y conjugaciones Cap. 1 de las declinaciones* (pages 2r-63r) and includes four books describing various Bisaya language grammar issues. The first book is divided into 12 chapters and it refers to noun and pronoun declination as well as verb declination and the use of different tenses, moods, and voices ; the second book (20 chapters) explains such matters as the use of prepositions,

numerals, adverbs of place; the third book (3 chapters) includes information on the imperative mood and future tenses and the fourth book (4 chapters) describes the alphabet and phonology as well as poetry pieces construction issues. All the rules are explained in the Castilian language with examples in Bisaya. On pages 64r°-65v°, in the second part of the manuscript entitled *Advertencias acerca de algunas partículas de la lengua sugbuana, y Boholana, de las quales no se hace mencion en el arte precedente A o Ha*, rules and examples not included in the first part (e.g. interrogative pronouns or demonstratives) are elaborated on. In the bottom part of page 65v° there are short notes in Latin written by the same hand: *Verba loquendi similandi adque dicendi / Narrandi et imitandi adque etiam referendi / Commodandi, verba dandi adque vendendi / et quocunque modo rem extramitendi / Tempus et causa instrumentum [...] quasi / [...] pasivum petunt semper que antepositur illis oraz Persona cui datur ex qua que tollitur aliquid / Sit nunc res, sit nunc persona, cun loci teneat rationem / Semper petunt An extremo que addere puta*. The third part entitled *Vocabulario de lengua sugbuana compuesto por N. P.<sup>e</sup> fr. Thomas de S. Geronimo Provoncial que fue de la Provincia de S. Nicolas de Tolentino de los Descalzos de N. P. S. Agus.<sup>n</sup> de Philipinas Reducido a mas riguroso orden alphabetico por otro individuo de la misma Provincia y aumentado de lo que vera el que Leyere lo siguiente* (pages 66r°-254r°) contains a Spanish – Cebuano dictionary with an introduction in the Castilian language. Examples in this part are in alphabetical order and, additionally, according to the position of letters in every word. Some examples are accompanied by drawings: there is Christ carrying the cross and a soldier with a whip in his hand on page 107r°, stars on page 110r°; male figures on pages 162r°, 197r°, 211r° and 243r and birds on pages 233r° and 242r°. Part four is entitled *Índice Bisaya español de las raíces contenidas en el Vocabulario español Bisaya que compuso N. P.<sup>e</sup> fr. Thomas de S. Geronimo Prov.<sup>l</sup> que fue esta Prov.<sup>a</sup> de S.<sup>n</sup> Nicolas de Tolentino de los Descal.<sup>os</sup> de N. P. S.<sup>n</sup> Agustin de Philipinas* (pages 255r°-298v°) and it includes a list of word roots in the Bisaya language with their equivalents in Castilian organised similarly as in the previous part. Examples are categorised according to the order of consonants and vowels in words. Part five on pages 299r°-301v° and 310r°-v° is an alphabetical list of words used in Romblón as well as on the islands of Bantón, Simara and Sibali with their definitions in Castilian (*Indice de algunas palabras que se usan en el partido de Romblon especialmente en*

*las islas de Banton Simara, y Sibali*). The examples are divided into alphabetical categories up to the letter 'o'. The sixth part called *Confesonario ordenado a fin de que un P.<sup>e</sup> bago poco experto en el idioma bisaya pudiese confesar en Romblon, y su partido en donde únicamente podra servir por lo particular del Lenguaje* (pages 302r°-309v° and 311r°-317v°) is a sort of textbook for missionaries who were “not very experienced in the Bisaya language” including confession instructions (specific questions and examples of teachings).

Part seven on pages 318r°-328v° includes teachings concerning the Blessed Sacrament translated into Bisaya and a translation of Fray Luis de Granada's meditation (*De el SS.<sup>mo</sup> Sacramento de el Altar, y de las causas por que fue instituido. Es el paragrapho tercero de la meditacion de el Lunes por la mañana de el V. P. fr. Luis de Granada*). The last, eighth part entitled *Rezo en lengua Bisaya Sugbuana, y es el que se enseña, y reza en los Ministerios de Agustinos Descalzos de la Provincia de Bisayas* on pages 329r°-334v° includes translations of prayers into the Bisaya language, basic articles of faith, a list of the deadly sins and instructions for confession.

During a preliminary survey of the library holdings in the Biblioteca Nacional de España the manuscript was compared with texts of Rother Alonso de Métrida: *Arte de la lengua bisaya-hiligayna de la Isla de Panay*, Manila 1818 (catalogue number R/7312, other editions from 1618 and 1894.; the text on pages 2r°-63r° *Hisp.Qu.44* is identical, with few skipped very short fragments) and *Vocabulario de la lengua bisaya, hiligueina y haraya de la Isla de Panay y Sugbú y para las demás islas*, edition and a study by Joaquín García –Medall, Valladolid 2004 (catalogue number 12/241827; the part entitled *Vocabulario* includes the same entries from the Cebuano language). Moreover, if we compare *Hisp.Qu.44* with another copy of the same work called *Arte de la lengua visaya* (catalogue number MSS/9874) we will see that the text on pages 2r°-65v° of *Hisp.Qu.44* is identical. Pages 66r°-67v° *Hisp.Qu.44* contain an introduction to another part whose text is identical with the text on pages 70r°-228r° of MSS/9874 (*Vocabulario español visaya de lengua sugbuana, compuesto por Fr. Tomás de S. Jerónimo, Provincial de la Provincia de S. Nicolás de Tolentino de los Descalzos de S. Agustín de Filipinas* corrected and extended by Fr. Anselmo de S. Agustín the prior of Cebú y Romblón). Pages 229r°-266v° MSS/9874 include the same text as pages 255r°-298v° *Hisp.Qu.44* (*Índice visaya español de las raíces contenidas en el Vocabulario español visaya*

*de Fr. Tomás de S. Jerónimo, compuesto por Fr. Anselmo de S. Agustín*). The next parts containing *Índice* and *Rezo* are also identical. To sum up the observed similarities, we may assume that the copy No. MSS/9874 is a copy of the *Hisp.Qu.44* copy (it includes fragments added to *Hisp.Qu.44* and the name of Anselmo de S. Agustín, who extended the version of Tomás de San Jerónimo) or both manuscripts are copies of one version of the work. In the collections of the Biblioteca Nacional de España we find many editions of works connected with the same issue, e.g. Tomas Oliva, *Arte de la lengua zebuana*, on the basis of Francisco Encino Agustino Calzado's work, publisher D.J.M. Dayot, 1836; Tomas Olleros, *Apuntes para una gramática bisaya-cebuana en relación con la castellana*, Manila 1869; Julian Bermejo, *Arte compendiado de la lengua cebuana*, Tambobong 1895 or Domingo Ezguerra, *Arte de la lengua bisaya de la provincia de Leyte*, 1747. However, we cannot be certain that any of the above works was written on the basis of Tomás de San Jerónimo's textbook.