

ITAL. FOL. 151

Binding:

Binding made of light brown leather, marbled (18th century, 1735), it is not original. Considering the first page (darkened and partly damaged), the manuscript had probably for years existed without a binding.

History:

The style of writing of the initials enables to date the manuscript to the end of the 14th or the beginning of the 15th century. Also the typeface of writing confirms this dating. It is difficult to determine the place of origin of the manuscript, because the text was written in Latin and this makes it impossible to establish the place of origin on the basis of the dialectal features of the language. However, the style in which it was made enables to assume that it was made in northern Italy. Still in the 19th century, the manuscript was kept in the Trivultian Library at Milan; a note about it was made in "Dante's Bibliography" (published by Batines in the years 1845-1846) with the pressmark no. XXIII (number in the bibliography: XXV). It is not possible to establish why and in what circumstances it left the Trivultian Library. Nevertheless, in 1887 (accession number: 1887.1) it was purchased from Josef Baer by Königliche Bibliothek. In the accession register there is also an entry, which refers to an antiquarian Ulrico Hoepli, who probably had sold this manuscript earlier.

Content:

It is a parchment manuscript in Latin. It contains a commentary on *Paradise* of Dante Alighieri written by Benvenuto da Imola (1r^a-122v^b). The author, Benvenuto da Imola (1320's -1387/88), studied classicists, was a friend of Coluccio Salutati and a commentator of the *Divine Comedy*

highly regarded by his contemporaries and subsequent researchers. His work “Comentum super Dantem”, written in a not very fine Latin, was partly created in Bologna, and partly in Ferrara. He dedicated it to marquis of Ferrara, Niccolò II d’Este. Edition of the work: G.F. Lacaita, “Benvenuti de Rambaldis de Imola comentum super Dantis Aldigherii comoediam”, Florence, 1887, 5 volumes. Lacaita’s edition was made on the basis of the parchment manuscript from the Laurentian Library, Pluteo XLIII.

With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 73; C. de Batines, “Bibliografia dantesca”, Prato, 1845-1846, volume 2, p. 313.