

HISP. FOL. 2

Don Santiago Saez: Observaciones y comprobaciones de las obras del P. M[aest]ro Feijoo

Binding:

Original parchment binding with a string fastener. The origin of the binding is confirmed by similarities in writing on the spine and in the text. Parchment binding of the type is characteristic of many Spanish manuscripts from the 17th and the 18th century (e.g. *Hisp.Qu.6*, *Hisp.Qu.8*, *Hisp.Qu.57*, *Hisp.Qu.61*).

History:

The manuscript is probably an autograph written in the 18th century – 1759 in Spain. The place and date were established on the basis of information on the title page and on the spine of the binding, where we find both the date - 1759 and the place - *Madrid*. Additionally, the date is confirmed by an eighteenth-century orthography and watermarks described in the Galicia archives' catalogues as originating from Spain from the period 1750-1773 (v. V pp. 113, 223, 386, 458; v. VI pp. 108, 146, 191, 253, 357). Moreover, the title page includes author's name: Santiago Saez (*Observaciones y comprobaciones de las obras del Padre Maestro Feijoo hechas por Don Santiago Saez, contador de la Casa y Estados del Ex.mo Señor Duque de Medina-Sidonia*). The manuscript first belonged to Santiago Saez, which is confirmed by later notes in the margins (another ink shade) made by the copyist with one note (f. 10r^o) including Benito Jerónimo Feijoo's date of death (*26 de Septiembre de 1764*). A couple of fragments of the text were written by other people, which can be assumed from different handwritings (e.g. on the following pages: 42r^o or 101r^o). These fragment could have been made by copyists completing the text or by subsequent owners of the manuscript. The fragments also come from the 18th century, which is indicated by the eighteenth-century spelling. There are no more information about any other copyists or later owners in the manuscript. Fray Benito Jerónimo Feijoo y Montenegro was a scientist, an author of many essays and a graphic artist living at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries (1676-1764). He started publishing only after 1725 (cf. labiografia.com/ver_biografia.php?id=972). The manuscript contains copies of fragments of his work enriched with historical and literary commentary and author's biography. In the bottom part of the spine there is a piece of red

leather with the embossed in gold current catalogue number. The very same catalogue number can be found on the title page (4r°). (4v°, 280v°) include stamps of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Lack of any accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the collection before 1828, when the acquisition accession register in the institution was established.

Content:

The manuscript begins with a table of contents on pages 5r°-7r°. Further on pages 10r°-v° (ended on page 13r°) there is a short biography of Benito Jerónimo Feijoo y Montenegro. The manuscript contains observations, notes and comments of Santiago Saez concerning works of father Feijoo. The comments are organised according to 8 volumes, which means they had to concern an edition in 8 volumes including various works by the author. Comments and notes include references to different works in different volumes and concern both the texts and historical and political circumstances in which they were written. In some cases the comments are enriched with copies of works' fragments. On page 219v° volume numbers start from the beginning, because the part of the manuscript on pages 219v°-280r° concerns letters in the first five volumes of Feijoo's works. Similarly to other parts of the manuscript, notes mostly include short summaries of letters and comments to their content. Many additional information were included in notes in the margins. They were written both by Santiago Saez and other copyists or owners. Santiago Saez often included his own assessment of literary value of a work, e.g. on page 257v° (*El ensayo seria digno de un grande Monarca*) and referred to works of other authors of the period such as Francisco de Quevedo (ff. 17r°, 38r°), Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (f. 22r°), Joseph González de Salas (f. 20v°), Góngora (f. 54r°), etc. Selected works by Benito Jerónimo Feijoo y Montenegro have been published in Madrid in 1961 as part of the series *Biblioteca de Autores Españoles desde la Formación del Lenguaje hasta Nuestros Días*, n°141; in Barcelona in 1983r. as *Antología* (edición de Ángel Pérez); in Madrid in 1969 under the title *Cartas eruditas* (selection, introduction and footnotes by A. Millares Carlo); in Madrid in 1980 and 2002r. as *Teatro Crítico Universal* (Ed. A.R. Fernández González) or in Buenos Aires in 1940r. under the title *Españoles americanos y otros ensayos*. One of the first editions was published in Madrid in

1863. The full list of editions is available here: Biblioteka Virtual Miguel Cervantes (<http://213.0.4.19/FichaAutor.html?Ref=21&idGrupo=S957>).