

HISP. QU. 68

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Binding:

Contemporary binding, made from brown linen (spine) and marbled paper imitating the Fantasy Marble type (covers) is not original, which was established on the basis of marks of original binding. The manuscript was probably bound in the Berlin Library, after the work's accession to the collections of this institution (i.e. in/after 1927),

History:

An annotation (f. 3r^o) on the copyright laws mentions the Spanish Authors Association (Sociedad de Autores Españoles), which operated from 1899-1932. The information allows us to establish the date of writing of the manuscript for the period between 1899 - 1927, when it was entered into the accession register of the Berlin Library. A watermark of one of paper mills in Catalonia enables us to determine that the manuscript was made in Spain. The manuscript does not contain any marks from any other private or institutional collections apart from the Berlin Library which purchased it in Karl Hiersemann's (1854-1928) or his son Anton's (1891-1969) bookshop in Leipzig, from which it was brought directly to the Berlin Library. The Institution purchased the manuscript among a couple of hundred of prints called "Spanisches Theater", together with seven other manuscripts including stage texts by Spanish authors, in the period from September 1926 - January 1927. The text organisation and annotations on the copyright law allow us to assume that the work is an autograph.

Content:

It is a play of manners whose content shows disastrous effects of human weaknesses and passions personified by figures from one family. The characters represent opposing moral attitudes creating an evocative image of the Spanish society, contemporary with the author. A concise one-act play is divided into eighteen scenes and provided with extensive stage directions. No other manuscripts or print editions of the text have been found, therefore it is

probable that the author and his work were unknown or forgotten. So far there has not been any studies or publications on the Krakow manuscript