

hisp. quart. 31

Binding:

Parchment binding, typical of Spain in the 17th and 18th centuries with two loop fastenings, the title and a decorative motive written in ink on the spine, endpapers and protective pages made from white paper, original, the 18th century.

History:

Hisp. Quart. 31 includes written “weekly news” from the period of 13/10/1754 to 30/03/1755, written down systematically by five anonymous copyists under the supervision of Joseph Moraleja, with one of the copyists being perhaps Moraleja himself – his signature can be found at the end of the text and his initials are included in the text. The texts were bound together with a print from a similar period (December 1754) describing a ceremonial parade and manoeuvres of cavalrymen from Real Maestranza de Valencia, which were held on the occasion of queen Barbara de Braganza’s birthday on the fourth of December 1754 in Valencia. The two texts informing about current events might have been joined at the order of a reader interested in current political and social life or perhaps for a participant or a witness of the celebrations in Valencia. Subsequent issues of Moraleja’s newspaper bound together with issues of “Epilogador...” are in the Hisp. Quart.41 manuscript with a similar cover; collections of “Epilogador...” and other weekly magazines from 1754-1755 with the following catalogue numbers: Hisp. Quart. 39 i Hisp. Quart. 40 have an almost identical cover. The above similarities may indicate that all four manuscripts come from one library. Unfortunately, none of them contains its owner’s name. The Hisp. Quart. 31 manuscript does not include any notes indicating its history. We do not know how it reached the Königliche Bibliothek. Lack of accession number indicates that it was owned by the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828, the year of establishment of the accession register.

Content:

The manuscript contains 25 papers from the following period: 13/10/1754 – 30/03/1755, edited by Joseph Moraleja, a royal writer with a flair for journalism. It includes information from some big cities in Spain, mainly ports: Cadiz (in 23 out of 25 papers), Córdoba, Cartagena, Barcelona, Málaga, Alicante, Murcia, León, Valladolid; occasionally from Alicante, Toledo, Segovia, Saragossa, Salamaca, Valence and from the provinces of Estremadura and Galicia, from Lisbon (from 1755), Algier (received by post, probably from correspondents), and from the capital city (a regular, big column, probably edited by Moraleja himself). The information concerns mainly the weather, accidents, deaths, events from religious life (processions, celebrations of religious holidays, etc.); a few advertisements. “Semanario” stands out from a range of similar periodicals, thanks to information popularising medical knowledge (news concerning public anatomy lessons organised by the Hospital General, seasonal health condition of the population), resulting probably from the fact that Moraleja was a writer for royal hospitals. The title is not mentioned in the specialist literature, the Biblioteca Nacional de España does not own any other issues of “Semanario”, it might have been written only in this one copy, at the private order. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 106.