

Hisp. Quart. 64

Binding:

Made of flexible cardboard in blue; it is most likely a library binding. This type of binding recurs in the case of manuscripts from the Iberian group, as well as manuscripts from other Romance groups in the examined collection.

History:

The volume consists of a letter in French accompanied by the transcripts of two accounts of travels in the period of discoveries and overseas expansion of Spain written in Spanish. The letter was sent by Eugène Vincent Stanislas Jacquet (1811-1838), Belgian orientalist, to Alexander von Humboldt. Wrote in Paris on the 12th of December 1833, the letter is an introduction to the further part of the manuscript providing the details from the volume's history. Both accounts were written with the hands of Jacquet, probably shortly before writing the letter, on the basis of manuscripts stored in Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, and then the entire manuscript was sent to Alexander von Humboldt. According to the will of the latter expressed in the form of annotation on f. 1r^o of the volume currently deposited in Kraków, after the German scientist's death the manuscript was to reach the collections of the library in Berlin. The fact that the volume certainly belonged to the Berlin collection in 1868 is stated by the German annotation made with the hand of Karl Eduard Buschmann (1805-1880) visible on the front cover of the volume's inside binding.

Content:

The volume opens with a letter in French containing Jacquet's commentary to the above-mentioned manuscripts from the collection of Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, as well as their transcripts made by the scholar in order to send them to Alexander von Humboldt. The first manuscript is a transcript of the account of the travels of Diego Rodriguez de Figueroa, Spanish emissary, to the Inca ruler, Titu Cusi Yupanqui, that had taken place in 1565. Manuscript II is most likely a copy of the account of the travels in search of New Guinea made in the years 1567-69 by Álvaro de Mendaña (c. 1541-1595), one of the distinguished Spanish sailors exploring the areas of Southern Pacific. Both manuscripts enjoyed interest on the part of researchers, which resulted in several editions of texts in various languages: German, English, French and Spanish.