

HISP. QU. 35

**Ramón de la Cruz · Las castañeras picadas**

**Binding:**

The manuscript was bound in the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin, which is indicated by the type of binding and a watermark on protective pages. The binding was made in the period between 1787 –1828.

**History:**

The manuscript is an anonymous copy of sainete written by an outstanding Spanish playwright Ramón de la Cruz (1731-1794), made in the period between 1787 and before 1828 in Spain. The above-mentioned data are, on the one hand, connected with writing of the work and, on the other, with its inclusion in the collections of the Königlische 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. The place where the manuscript was written was established on the basis of a watermark similar to Spanish filigrees from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. »Marcas de agua en documentos de los archivos de Galicia. Siglo XVIII«, coordinador José Luis Basanta Campos, Fundación Pedro Barrié de la Maza, Conde de Fenosa, 2000, vol. VI, p. 152, nro. 220). The manuscript does not include any indications which would allow us to identify the copyist and its first and, possibly, next owners. Taking into account that the period of 1787-1828 seems relatively short, the manuscript might have reached the Berlin collection directly from its first owner.

**Content:**

It seems that the manuscript was made for the needs of a specific staging of Ramón de la Cruz's play, which is indicated by a list of actors' names written by the copyist in the place of the list of characters. In the next parts the copyist consistently substitutes names of characters with names of actors. The same refers to stage directions, which in many cases differ from the original and which include instructions for specific actors. Names and surnames of actors 'Polonia' and 'Garrido' indicate that two famous Spanish eighteenth-century actors Polonia Rochel and Miguel Garrido (1745-1807), who cooperated Ramón de la Cruz, took part in the

staging. From 1769-1797 the above-mentioned actress played for the Madrid audience, hence we can assume that the Krakow manuscript is connected with the staging of the play held in/before 1797, probably in Madrid.

With reference to the manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 107.