

HISP. QUART. 32

**Papeles varios: Zarzuela. La ambición en el gobierno, y la esclavitud de España ·
Carácter de la nación española · Nacimiento y compendio de la vida**

Binding:

Original brown leather binding with speckled covers. The origin of the binding is confirmed by decorations on the covers and an embossed golden floral motif ornamenting spaces between nerves, typical of French bindings from the 17th and the 18th centuries (cf. Ollero y Ramos, *Enciclopedia de la Encuadernación*, Madrid 1998, pp. 113, 204, 294; Clavería C., *Reconocimiento y descripción de encuadernaciones antiguas*, Madrid 2006, p. 179). Endpapers are made of speckled marbled paper. The paper was used from the end of the 16th century and the speckling technique was also used to decorate edges of books and leathers on covers.

History:

The manuscript contains three parts written by the same copyist. They include copies made in Spain in the 18th century. The first part (ff. 1r^o–49v^o) includes references to figures of the Spanish political environment at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. (e.g. Antonio Ubilla who lived from 1643-1726); the second part (ff. 50r^o–125v^o) refers to historical events from the beginning of the 18th century (e.g. negotiations with France) participated by an advisor of king Phillip V (1683-1746), cardinal Giulio Alberoni (1664-1752); the third part (ff. 126r^o–213v^o) concerns, among other things, the life of cardinal Giulio Alberoni and the latest date mentioned in the text is 1719. Another copy of the first part written by another copyist is kept in *Ms.hisp.Qu.17* and it is also dated for the 18th century. The information as well as watermarks described in the Galicia archives' catalogues as Spanish from the period of 1764-1771 (v. V, pp. 114, 202, 248; v. VI pp. 35 - 36, 154, 390) confirm the period and the place of the manuscript's origin. Exactly the same type of binding, the same type of marbled paper and a note of the same kind written by the same hand on the initial protective page can be found in a manuscript with the following catalogue number: *Hisp.Qu.34* dated for the first half of the 18th century. On the basis of an embossed inscription on the spine of the cover we may establish that the manuscripts were bound in the same period as subsequent parts of a series entitled : *Papeles varios* (Various documents). There are no information about the copyist or

the work's owners in the manuscript. Just like in the case of *Ms.hisp.Qu.34*, there is no accession number which indicates that the manuscript reached the collection before 1828, when the acquisition accession register in the institution was established.

Content:

Part I (ff. 1r^o–49v^o) is a copy of zarzuela, (a Spanish lyric-dramatic genre that alternates between spoken and sung scenes, staged for the very first time in the 1st half of the 17th century in Madrid, cf. <http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarzuela>). Page 1r^o contains a list of characters appearing in the work. Zarzuela's plot concerns actions of different figures of the Spanish political scene. Some of the characters include Antonio Ubilla who lived from 1643-1726 (F.A. Castillo, *El sonido del dinero. Monarquía, ejército y venalidad en la España del siglo XVIII*, Madrid 2004) or king Phillip V (1683-1746), as well as allegory of Spain as a slave on the European political arena. Another copy of the first part of the manuscript written by some other hand and also dated for the 18th century can be found in *Ms.hisp.Qu.17*. Comparison of the two copies did not reveal any differences between the texts apart from orthographic divergences typical of the eighteenth-century Spanish. In part II (ff. 50r^o–125v^o) the author describes arrival and stay at the Spanish court of a Dutch ambassador, duke of Riperdá (1680-1737, http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Guillermo_Ripperdá), his decision to devote himself to the Spanish government and negotiations with cardinal Giulio Alberoni. The text also refers to content of letters presented to Philip V concerning historical events from the beginning of the 18th century, participated by the above-mentioned cardinal Giulio Alberoni, an Italian cardinal and politician serving the king of Spain Philip V (1664-1752, www.es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giulio_Alberoni; <http://www.biografiasyvidas.com/biografia/a/alberoni.htm>). The document depicts attempts at recovery of Spanish lands in Italy lost during the war over succession, which resulted in military expeditions to Sardinia and Sicily organised by Giulio Alberoni. After the aforementioned wars a treaty called *la Quadruple Alianza* was signed, one of its conditions was the cardinal's dismissal.

Part III (ff. 126r^o–213v^o) concerns Giulio Alberoni's life. The text refers to cardinal's descent, his role in the Spanish government (initially as a consul representing Parma's interests and then as a member of the royal council, the bishop of Malaga and the prime minister) participation in secret negotiations with France, which resulted in France supporting

Great Britain instead of Spain and Alberoni's exile from Spain on the strength of a royal decree cited in the text and prohibition of interference in matters of policy and the Spanish court.

During a preliminary survey of the library holdings in the Biblioteca Nacional de España the above texts were compared with the following manuscripts: *Papeles curiosos manuscritos*, vol. 42, 18th century. (sygnatura MSS/10927) including parts of *Nacimiento del Cardenal Julio Alberoni y compendio de su vida* (ff. 1r^o-18r^o), *Decreto, del Rey Nuestro Señor Don Phelipe 5^o, en que separa del Ministerio al Cardenal Alberoni* (ff. 18r^o-19r^o), *Barias cartas y razonamientos en la cayda del Duque de Riperdá, Ministro de Estado que fue del Rey Catholico Don Phelipe 5^o, que Dios haya y lo que ejecutó escapándose del Alcázar de Segovia, en el año de 1727* (ff. 20r^o-113r^o) – the texts correspond with each other until the first line on f. 153v^o in *Hisp.Qu.32*, the rest of the text is missing, minor differences consisting in changes in individual words; *Papeles de D. Melchor de Macanaz*, 18th century (after 1713): *Nacimiento y vida del Cardenal Julio Alberoni por Melchor de Macanaz* (ff. 183r^o-195v^o, catalogue number MSS/11064) - the texts correspond with each other until the first line on f. 153v^o in *Hisp.Qu.32*, the rest of the text is missing, on ff. 195r^o-v^o additionally *Decreto del Rey Nro Senor en que separa del Ministerio a el cardinal Alveroni; La ambición en el gobierno y la esclavitud de España: zarzuela*, 18th century (a copy from the Biblioteca del Duque Osuna e Infantado, catalogue number MSS/17074, 4r^o a note concerning probable authorship of N. Ledesma: *Dizen que el Autor de esta comedia fue D.n N. Ledesma consejero de Hacienda a quien descubrio un Page suyo, y dieron muerte dos enmascarados que entraron en su quarto*) – no differences between the texts apart from few changes in individual words, orthography or a couple of indications in stage directions; *Compedio de la vida de Julio Alberoni, Arzobispo de Sevilla, primer Ministro de España, y Cardenal, traducida fielmente de franzes en español*, 18th century., (catalogue number MSS/12940/132, other copies: MSS/10748 with additional comments of the copyist MSS/10681 with additional fragments – it is a completely different text, although it concerns the same person, it includes a translation of cardinal Alberoni's biography from French into Spanish.