

HISP. FOL. 4

**Pérez Bayer: Del alfabeto y lengua de los fenices y de sus colonias**

Binding:

Original cardboard binding. The origin of the binding is indicated by the similar features of the writing in the text of the manuscript and on the damaged piece of white paper on the spine with the incomplete title (...) *de (...) lengua de los Fenices y de sus Colonias*.

History:

The manuscript was made in Spain and it dates from the period after 1772 and before 1828. Such a dating is indicated by the fact that the manuscript is a copy of the dissertation *Del alfabeto y lengua de los fenices y de sus colonias* written by Francisco Pérez Bayer, attached to the Spanish translation of Sallustius *La guerra de Yugurta* and published in Madrid, in 1772, in the publishing house of Joaquín Ibarra, and by lack of an accession number of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Francisco Pérez Bayer (1714-1794) was a historian, philologist and a theologian, one of the most outstanding Hebraists of his time, a canon in Barcelona and Valencia, the head librarian of the Biblioteca Real and at the same time one of the most influential persons of the eighteenth-century Spain. (cf. [http://www.biografiasyvidas.com/biografia/p/perez\\_bayer.htm](http://www.biografiasyvidas.com/biografia/p/perez_bayer.htm)). In 1773 this work was translated into Latin by Bayer's co-worker, Juan B. Muñoz (cf. article *Juan B. Muñoz y la fundación del Archivo General de Indias* published in the series of the Biblioteca Valenciana on [www.bv2.gva.es](http://www.bv2.gva.es)). The copy was made by T. F. Wackeri, which is proved by the similarities of the writing in the note on the title page (1r<sup>o</sup>) and in the text of the manuscript. Lack of an accession number indicates that the manuscript was included in the collection of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, which is the year when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript is introduced by a short introduction (ff. 2r<sup>o</sup>-4v<sup>o</sup>) referring to the history of Phoenicians, their language, research and publications on the language and relics of the Phoenician culture. Then the author moves to the description of the Phoenician coins, which he marked with the numbers I-VIII and XVII-XXXII. Particular descriptions contain references to the research and publications of other researchers, information about the descent, the time of origin and the place where the coin was kept at that time (e.g. private collections or museums) and descriptions of the symbols and inscriptions in the Phoenician language which were embossed in the coins. The author often compares the Phoenician language to the Hebrew language (he claims that Phoenician is a dialect of Hebrew). On the three added pages made of tissue paper (ff. 80, 82, 84), there are drawings showing the coins described in the manuscript, the coins from Bayer's collection and some letters of the Hebrew and the Phoenician alphabet which can be found on those coins. These coins were described on f. 81r<sup>o</sup>-v<sup>o</sup> in pencil, by a different hand, probably by the next owner, who also corrected the name *Perez Bayer* on f. 1r<sup>o</sup>. From among the available materials, the following refer to the work: the publication dating from 1785 entitled *Ensayo de una biblioteca española de los mejores escritores del reynado de Carlos III*, written by Juan Sempere y Guarinos; *Epigrafía prerromana. Catálogo del Gabinete de Antigüedades*, the author of which is Martín Almagro-Gorbea (Madrid 2003); the academic dissertation of Pedro Rodríguez Oliva *Un capítulo de las relaciones hispanas de Theodor Mommsen* published in Madrid, in 2005 and the article written by Helena Gimeno Pascual *Las colecciones epigráficas* (available on [http://www2.uah.es/imagenes\\_cilii/articulos/Articulo027.pdf](http://www2.uah.es/imagenes_cilii/articulos/Articulo027.pdf)). According to the information included in the critical edition of Marco Maier *Del Alfabeto y lengua de los Fenices y de sus colonias* [Para ilustración de un lugar de Salustio], Madrid (pressmark ER/818(2) in the Biblioteca Nacional de España), Pérez Bayer's dissertation was included on the last pages of the edition of Sallustius' work from 1772 in the Spanish translation of Infant D. Gabriel de Borbón. Pérez Bayer wrote it in order to illustrate one sentence from the work of Sallustius referring to the language of the citizens of Leptis (cf. J. Sempere y Guarinos, *Ensayo de una biblioteca española de los mejores escritores del reynado de Carlos III*, Gredos, Madrid 1969,

vol. I, pp. 189-202, pressmark B111788 RES in the Biblioteca Nacional de España and the Real Academia de la Historia, Martin Almagro-Gorbea (ed.), *Epigrafía prerromana*, Madrid 2003, pressmark 9/243722). This information is proved by the note quoted in Maier's edition (p. 336): *El siguiente escrito aclara el lugar de Salustio en que habla de la lengua de los Leptitanos, y a él se refiere la Nota 103 pag. 325. col. 2. Compúsose en obsequio del AUTOR DE LA TRADUCCION, y para satisfacer sus deseos e instruirse en lo más arcano de esta literatura: el qual haviéndolo leído, fue servido mandar que se pusiese a continuación de su Obra*. No differences have been noticed in the text; only arrangement of the illustrations is different (in the critical edition illustrations are in the text and not on added pages made of tissue paper). The last 2 coins described in *Hisp.Fol.4* are additional, which is also indicated by the information on the page 77r°.