

HISP. FOL. 9

Obras históricas de Fray Bartolomé de las Casas

Binding:

Eighteenth-century parchment binding with string fastening marks. This kind of binding is typical of many manuscripts from the 17th and the 18th centuries (cf. e.g. Hisp.Qu.6, Hisp.Qu.8, Hisp.Qu.57, Hisp.Qu.61; cf. Miriello R., *Legature riccardiane*, Florence 2008, pp. 154-155, Bernardini M., *Medicea Volumina*, Pisa 2001, pp. 216-217). The period of making of the binding is confirmed by watermarks on protective pages described in the Galicia archives' catalogue (v. V p. 203; v. VI pp. 260, 519) as originating from 1784 – 86 from Spain.

History:

The manuscript is a copy written in the 18th century in Spain. The date and period of writing were determined on the basis of a watermark appearing in the manuscript and described in the Galicia archives' catalogue (v. VI pp. 216-217, 427) as originating from 1736-1771 from Spain. The manuscript was made by one copyist about whom there is no information in the text. A title on page 1r° (*OBRAS HISTORICAS DE FR. BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS Copiadas de la edicion que se hizo en Sevilla en el año mil quinientos cinquenta y dos Para uso de D.n Ramon Rubin de Celis*) was written by another hand, which may mean that it was made by a subsequent owner of the manuscript. At the end of every part (e.g. ff. 50v°, 110v°, 138r°) there are colophons: *Fue impresa la presente Obra en la mui noble e mui leal Ciudad de Sevilla en Casa de Sebastian Trugillo impreso de libros. A nuestra Señora de Gracia. Año de MDLII*. The title on page 1r° and the colophon include information saying that the manuscript is a copy made for Ramon Rubin de Celis on the basis of an edition from 1552 printed in Seville in the printing house of Sebastian Trugillo (cf. www.openlibrary.org). The information is corrected in a note in German made on the front endpaper in the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin (*Diese Hschrft. [Handschrift] ist nicht, wie das Titelblatt behauptet, eine Abschrift der in Sevilla 1552 gedruckten Schriften des Las Casas, (denn in diesen folgt...un pedaço de una carta y relacion unmittelbar auf die Brevissima relacion.) sondern des von Ant. La cavelleria 1646 in Barcelona veranstalteten Nachdruck, warscheinlich eines*

Exemplars, welches wie das der K. Bibliothek (Ux 108) von 1552 datirt ist, und keine Angabe des Druckorts hat), which indicates that the manuscript was compared with prints kept in that period in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin and on the basis of these comparisons it was confirmed that it is not a copy of the work from 1552 but was made on the basis of a ground print from 1646. The first protective page contains an inscription made by a different hand saying *de Isidoro de Antillón Por regalo de mi tio D.ⁿ Ramon Rubin de Celis Murcia 1805*, which indicates that the manuscript belonged to Isidoro de Antillón, a politician and a Spanish man of letters who lived from 1778 - 1814 (cf. www.ub.es/geocrit/sv-104.htm), and who received it as a present from its first owner, his uncle Don Ramon Rubin de Celis and that in 1805 the manuscript was in Murcia, Spain. According to the information in F. Wilken's publication entitled *Geschichte der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin*, Berlin 1828, pp. 141-142, the library started buying valuable Spanish books in Madrid in 1819 through the agency of colonel Schepeler. The Hisp.Fol.9 manuscript was bought by the man in 1825.

Content:

The manuscript includes copies of works by Bartolomé de las Casas and we are able to distinguish six different documents there. The first is *Brevisima relacion sobre la destruycion de las Indias* (ff. 2r^o-50v^o), a work in which Bartolomé da las Casas describes what had happened in Spanish „India,” meaning the regions of South and Central America, since their discovery by the Spanish. The author focuses, above all, on cruelties of the Spanish conquest of America, depopulation, massacres of Native Americans and their enslavement. The work begins with a short summary (*Argumento*, ff. 2r^o-v^o) and an introduction in the form of a letter to the king (ff. 3r^o-4r^o). Las Casas began writing the work in Mexico in 1539. It was published for the first time in Seville in 1552 in Sebastian Trugillo's printing house (http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brevisima_relaci3n_de_la_destrucci3n_de_las_Indias). From 1548-1550 the author wrote an extended version of *Istoria sumaria y relaci3n brevísima y verdadera de lo que vio y escribió el reverendo padre fray Bartolomé de la Peñalosa de Las Casas* which has never been published. While comparing the work with a critical edition published in Caracas in 2003 I did not notice any differences in the text. One copy of the document is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411

C386.1552). During a preliminary research in the Biblioteca Nacional de España the text of this part of the manuscript was compared with the following editions: Bartolomé de las Casas, *Brevísima relación de la destrucción de las Indias*, Sarpe, Madryt 1985 (catalogue number 7/131643; no significant differences in the text, includes a letter on pages 184v°-188r° of Hisp.Fol.9); Bartolomé de las Casas, *Breve resumen del descubrimiento y destruicion de las Indias*, Emiliano Escolar Editor, Madrid 1981 (catalogue number HA/1564; no significant differences in the text, includes a letter on pages 184v°-188r° of Hisp.Fol.9); Bartolomé de las Casas, *Breve relación de la destrucción de las Indias*, Filadelfia 1821 (catalogue number R/1921; as in the two above mentioned cases).

The second document (ff. 51r°-60v°) includes thirty legal and religious rules for the Spaniards during the conquest of America. Similarly to the other documents, the author condemns here the cruelty of conquistadors. Comparison of the work with a critical edition *Brevísima relación de la destrucción de las Indias* published in Caracas in 2003 showed no differences between the texts. One copy of the document is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411 C385.1552). M. Méndez's article's title „El trato al indio y las Leyes Nuevas: una aproximación a un debate del siglo XVI” in *Tiempo y sociedad* (No. I), 2009, pp. 23-47 refers to the work.

The third document (ff. 61r°-110v°) is a record of a debate between Bartolomé de las Casas and a royal chronicler Doctor Juane Ginés de Sepúlveda (1489 - 1573). Ginés de Sepúlveda wrote a chronicle in Latin where he described wars and the Spanish conquest of America as fair and Native Americans as subjects of the Spanish crown. As a result of Bartolomé de las Casas' objection the king called his council in 1550 in Valladolid consisting of theologians, lawyers and humanists. The document includes a report concerning the council meeting written by Domingo de Soto, answers of Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda to charges levelled by Bartolomé de las Casas, as well as responses of the latter. The work is preceded by a short summary (ff. 61v°-63r°). It was published for the first time in Seville in 1552 in Sebastian Trugillo's publishing house (which is confirmed by a colophon on page 110v°, as well as information in available sources, e.g. at <http://digioll.library.wisc.edu>). An electronic version of the document is available in a virtual library: the Ibero-American Electronic Text Series at <http://digioll.library.wisc.edu> (there are no significant differences between the

texts). One of the copies of the document is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411 C388.1552). During a preliminary research in the Biblioteca Nacional de España the text of this part of the manuscript was compared with a Madrid edition of Bartolomé de las Casas from 1908, *Disputa o controversia con Ginés de Sepúlveda conteniendo acerca la licitud de las conquistas de las Indias*, Revista de Derecho Internacional y Política Exterior (catalogue number 9/216288; on the basis of the Seville edition from 1552 and compared with the Barcelona edition from 1646; no significant differences in the text).

The fourth document (ff. 111r^o-138r^o) is a treaty written by Bartolomé de las Casas for the Royal Council of India. The author objects to slavery of the Native Americans, he demands that they should be granted the rights of free citizens and should be compensated for the injustice they suffered. The treaty was published for the first time in Seville in 1552, in Sebastian Trugillo's publishing company (which is confirmed by a colophon on page 138r^o). One of the copies is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411 C383.1552).

The fifth document (ff. 138v^o-184r^o) includes a list of 20 reasons why the system of colonies' management was about to be reformed and why the Native Americans should not have been Spanish slaves, made at the royal order. The document ends with author's protest directed at administrators of colonies. One copy of the document is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411 C387.1552). The text of this part was compared with an edition available in the Biblioteca Nacional de España: *Obras de Fray Bartolomé de las Casa* (catalogue number R/14266(1); lack of significant differences in the text, it also includes a letter on pages 184v^o-188r^o of Hisp.Fol.9).

The last document (ff. 184v^o-188r^o) contains a fragment of a letter describing the cruelty of the Spanish conquest of America, especially of one captain under whom the author served. The letter was included in the documents on account of similar subject matter (cf. introduction on page 184v^o). Comparison between the document and the *Colección de las obras de venerable obispo de Chiapa Don Bartolomé de las Casas* edition published in Paris in 1822 shows no other differences than minor changes consisting in lack or addition of single words, e.g. f. 185v^o *ciertos Indios principales* / *ciertos Indios principales que pudieran serle*

utiles en la marcha and a different ending on page 188r° (the last paragraph). J. A. Sampedro Arrubla's article entitled „Problemática indígena en Colombia” published in the 11th issue of *Cuaderno del Instituto Vasco de Criminología* in December 1997, refers to the content of the letter. A copy of the document is in the Universidad Iberoamericana library in Mexico (catalogue number F 1411 C384.1552).

Documents making up the Hisp.Fol.9 manuscript can be found in the edition of *Colección de las obras de Fray Bartolomé de las Casas* (Madrid, 1981, catalogue number 9/190463 v.1 and 9/190464 v.2; on the basis of a facsimile of the Paris edition from 1822) available in the Biblioteca Nacional de España. Comparison of texts in both copies showed differences in some documents consisting in lack or addition of short fragments (e.g. lack of the *Argumento del presente epitome* part). Some fragments were left out or added by the publisher, which appears from the introduction on pages i-xiv. There are many differences in the *Treinta proposiciones* text (such as a different order, different expressions). The texts have also been compared with the following copies available in the Biblioteca Nacional de España: *Obras de Fray Bartolomé de las Casa* (catalogue number R/1768; lack of significant changes in the text, the same order of individual parts); *Obras de Fray Bartolomé de las Casa* (catalogue number R/14265; lack of significant changes in the text, additionally, includes a text entitled *Principia queda[m] ex quibus procedendum est in disputatione ad manifestandam et defendendam iusticiam Yndorum*).

Many information on the author and his works can be found in the following monographs: A.M. Fabié *Vida y escritos de Fray Bartolome de las Casas*, Madrid 1879; A. Lira *Dimensión jurídica de la conciencia. Pecadores y pecados en tres confesionarios de la Nueva España 1545-1732*, Mexico D.F. 2006. A list of over 40 subsequent editions of works by Bartolomé de las Casas described above is available in a virtual library of the Cervantes Institute (<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com>).