

HISP. QUART. 40

**Epilogador matritense y semanario curioso (8 de Abril de 1754 - 1 de Noviembre de 1754) · La Posta Que corre desde el día 9 de Agosto de 1754 hasta 11 del mismo inclusive · El extraordinario reloj**

Binding:

Reinforced parchment binding with a string fastener, characteristic of many manuscripts dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (cf. *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 binding is contemporary with the manuscript, which is indicated by similarities in handwriting in the text and on the spine.

History:

The manuscript consists of three parts. The first part (ff. 1r°-142v°, 151r°-248v°, 257r°-286v°) includes copies of press texts which can be divided into three groups according to their titles: *Epilogador matritense*, *Semanario curioso* oraz *Epilogador matritense y semanario curioso*. The date and location (Spain in/after 1754) were established on the basis of the title on the spine of the binding *GAZEZTAS Manos Critas del Año. 1754* and on the basis of information in the text (*Madrid* as well as the dates : *8 de Abril – 1 de Noviembre de 1754* in headings of every document, the note on page 156r° *Madrid 17 de Agosto de 1754*). The date and location are confirmed by watermarks which can be found in the Heawood catalogue (table 115) and in the Galicia archives' catalogues (v. V, pp. 56, 458) as Spanish marks dating from 1746-1770. Documents making up part one were written by many copyists (different handwritings repeat alternately), including a person signing Josphe Moralex (documents entitled *Semanario curioso*). Some of the *Semanario curioso* documents are signed by Joseph Moralex, but were not written by him (the text in a different handwriting), which means that Joseph Moralex supervised the work of the copyists, approved documents or authorised them. His name was not found in any sources. The second part (ff. 143r°-150v°) was also written in Spain in/after 1754 which is indicated by the title on the spine of the binding, the title on page 143r° *La Posta Que corre desde el dia 9 de Agosto de 1754 hasta 11 del mismo inclusive*, headings f. 143r° *Cadiz*, 143v° *Malaga*, 144r° *Cordova*, etc. and watermarks partly of the same type described in the Heawood catalogue (table 115) as well as in the Galicia

archives' catalogues (v. V, pp. 56, 235, 458) as Spanish marks dating from 1746-1770. The part was written by one copyist. At the end of the text on page 150v° there are initials probably written by him. The third part (ff. 249r°- 256v°), similarly to the other two, was written in Spain in/after 1754, which was also established on the basis of the title on the spine of the binding, the title on page 249r° *El Extrahordinario Relox o Muestra de noticias que apunta desde el dia 22 de Septiembre de 1754 [...]*, headings f. 249r° *Oviedo*, 250v° *Barcelona*, 253v° *Madrid*, etc. as well as watermarks of the same type. The part was written by one copyist about whom there is no information in the text. The manuscript is similar to three other manuscripts in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin with the following catalogue numbers: *Hisp.Qu.31*, *Hisp.Qu.39* and *Hisp.Qu.41*. All four manuscripts contain the same type of documents (*Epilogador matritense*, *El extraordinario reloj* or *Semanario curioso*) dating from 1754-1755 (e.g. *Hisp.Qu.41* from 1755, *Hisp.Qu.31* and *Hisp.Qu.39* from 1754 and 1755), the same kind of binding and the signature of *Joseph Moralex* under some documents. The above indicates that the documents were written and bound in the same period as a series consisting of 4 volumes. There are no information about its successive owners in the manuscript. No accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, when the accession register was established. The other three manuscripts *Hisp.Qu.31*, *Hisp.Qu.39* and *Hisp.Qu.41* also do not have any accession numbers, which allows us to believe that the whole set reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin at the same time.

#### Content:

Part I (ff. 1r°-142v°, 151r°-248v°, 257r°-286v°) contains copies of articles and short press notes which were published from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1754 in Spain (dates *8 de Abril – 1 de Noviembre de 1754* appear in headings in every document) and they can be divided into three groups according to the following titles: *Epilogador matritense*, *Semanario curioso* and *Epilogador matritense y semanario curioso*. The content of the articles and notes concerns events from various Spanish cities, many documents begin with the formula : *las cartas de / participan de / escriben de* (city's name), from the above we can infer that the information were sent in writing and that *Semanario Curioso* and *Epilogador Matritense* were one of the most important magazines of the period publishing information

from different parts of the country. What is interesting is the fact that the notes include not only the matters of national importance but also refer to various aspects of everyday life in Spain of the time, such as events from the life of aristocracy (assuming of new functions of national importance, marriages and deaths), abnormal weather conditions (droughts, heavy rains), or events, mainly negative, from townsmen's lives (thefts, armed robberies, accidents, etc). The articles are in chronological order, information from *Semanario Curioso* and *Epilogador Matritense* appear alternately. The manuscript was written by two different men, including the person signing Joseph Moralex (documents entitled *Semanario curioso*). Some of them were signed by Joseph Moralex but were not written by him (different handwriting). It is possible that Joseph Moralex supervised the work of the copyists, approved documents or authorised them. His name was not found in any sources. Information found in available sources contain only two magazines with similar titles: *Semanario Literario y Curioso de Cartagena* and *Semanario erudito y curioso de Salamanca* appearing in the later period of 1786-1798 in the cities of Cartagena and Salamanca respectively ([http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semanario\\_Literario\\_y\\_Curioso\\_de\\_Cartagena](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semanario_Literario_y_Curioso_de_Cartagena); <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=2054014>). On the basis of the above information we can assume that a series of magazines with similar titles of *Semanario curioso* were issued in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Spain.

Part II (ff. 143r°-150v°) also contains copies of articles and press notes from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1754 (*La Posta Que corre desde el dia 9 de Agosto de 1754 hasta 11 del mismo inclusive*). It was prepared by one copyist. The subject matter of the articles and notes is similar to the subject matter in part a (abnormal weather conditions, events in ports, events from the life of aristocracy, army and the Church as well as townsmen, e.g. robberies, accidents, sudden deaths and fires) and concerns information from different Spanish cities (such as Seville, Mérida, Saragossa, Madrid, etc).

Part III (ff. 249r°- 256v°) entitled *El Extrahordinario Relox o Muestra de noticias que apunta desde el dia 22 de Septiembre de 1754 [...]* concerns events from various Spanish cities (e.g. Barcelona, Cartagena, Saragossa, Madrid) described in the form of a dialogue between Curiosity and Disappointment. Pieces of information discussed in this part are of the same

kind as in two other parts of the manuscript (abnormal weather conditions, events in ports, events from the life of aristocracy, army and the Church as well as townsmen)