

Hisp. Qu. 58

Binding:

Simple binding made of cardboard covered with marbled paper. Its library origin is evidenced by the super ex libris on the front bookboard of the binding. The binding was made after the manuscripts incorporation into the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin's collection, that is in 1818-1828.

History:

The volume consists of 10 letters written and/or addressed to eminent figures of the political life of 18th-century Spain. The addressee of seven of them is Andrés González de Barcía, a Spanish politician and historian. Among other relevant senders and addressees are ministers and high officials from the period of Phillip V's and Charles III's reigns: José Patiño Rosales (1666-1736), José del Campillo y Cossío (1693-1743) or Miguel de Múzquiz (1719-1785). It is probable that we are dealing with autographs which – in the case of one of the letters, signed by one José Patiño – is confirmed by anonymous notes by a later hand. The pages of the volume also bear notes in German and French, referring to its contents. The volume entered the Berlin inventory between 1818 and 1828, as indicated by the German library documentation and the fact that the volume lacks an accession number of the Berlin collection. The letters contain dates from the period between 1721 and 1774. As to the location of the manuscripts, on the basis of data from the contents of the letters it was accepted that they were created in Spain. Other details of the volume's history remain unknown.

Content:

The coherence of this letter collection is based on their common thematic matter related to administrative problems, as well as the figure of the addressee of most of the letters, Andrés González de Barcía. The contents of the letter mostly contain matters connected with the cadastre, introduced in Catalunya in 1715 (*catastro en Cataluña*) and prepared almost singlehandedly by José Patiño, the sender of three letters from the collection, dated

to the 1730s. The letters are an excellent example of official correspondence between high royal officials of 18th-century Spain.