

ITAL. FOL. 165

Binding:

Library binding from the 19th century of the half-binding type. The spine from a paper imitating leather, the cover in marbled paper. Embossed title on the spine with golden letters. Supralibros of the University Library stamped on the front cover.

History:

The manuscript was written in 1855 or shortly after. It could have been made in Italy, perhaps in Verona where Goethe's text was published in instalments in the Verona "Gazzetta Ufficiale" in 1855. Industrial paper, machine-ruled, does not have any watermarks which could help us establish the location. Cf. ital.fol.164, written by the same person on similar paper including a copy of Lessing's play's translation, also published in Verona in 1855. The manuscript is not a theatre copy because it lacks any notes (e.g. director's notes). The binding is its first binding, but it was made somewhat later than the manuscript. The manuscript was in the collections of the Berlin University Library with the catalogue number *ms.340*. It was excluded from the university collections and acquired by the Königliche Bibliothek in 1893, which is indicated by its accession number *acc. 1893.165*.

Content:

Italian translation of W. Goethe's play, „Götz von Berlichingen”. The author of the translation is Giuseppe Rota (1822-1865) a composer, dancer, choreographer. The translation without the name of the author, including the following annotation: “the first Italian rhymed translation” was published in „Gazzetta Ufficiale”, in Verona 1855, in a literary supplement of the following issues: 189-200; 218-226; 231-32; 226-28; 240-42; 257-59. Manuscript's text ital.fol.165 is identical with the print in the magazine. Even translator's footnotes, absent from the later book edition, are cited. Book edition: „Teatro scelto di Volfgango Goethe recato in versi italiani da Giuseppe Rota”, presso Giacomo Gnocchi, Milano 1860, v. 1, p. 113.

With reference to the manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 77.