

ITAL. QUART. 15

Binding:

Original Venetian binding, richly ornamented, typical for documents issued by the Doges in the 16th century, made of embossed brown leather with gold ornaments. The copy was exhibited, as evidenced by German noted in the manuscript.

History:

The manuscript is dated (124v^o): 20th November 1590, Venice. Its first owner was Alessandro Gradenigo, for whom the text was made. The stamp *v.N.* is a trace of belonging to a collection (similar traces are present in other codices of the Berlin collection, cf. Ital. Quart. 16, Ital. Fol. 55, Hisp. Quart. 57). This refers to the Nagler collection, from which the Berlin Library purchased the manuscript. Considering the accession numbers of the abovementioned codices, as well as the fact that Ital. Fol. 55 also belonged to the Nagler collection and was purchased by the Berlin Library in the same year, it is safe to assume that they all belonged to this collection and were purchased together.

Content:

The text is a set of legal advice from Doge Pasquale Cicogna written in 1590. It is divided into 166 paragraphs devoted to problems of finances (remuneration and duties of subordinates), economy (cereal trade, ban on selling wine to foreigners, ban on importing cloth and garments from outside of the region), administration and law: instructions for lawyers in criminal disputes, recommended penalties for various offences and misdemeanours, problems of taxation and tributes. The instructions also apply to diplomatic activities and the relations with foreigners (ban on bestowing privileges).

The second fragment is a copy of a 1503 account by Giaovanni de Garzonibus made in the same period as the set of instructions (the paper comes from the end of the 16th or the beginning of the 17th century). The table of contents does not list this text.

The work was not published. With reference to this Lemm, p. 79.

