

HISP. QUART. 51

Manuel de San José: El Duende Político de Palacio que da cuenta de los presentes negocios y anuncia los futuros en esta Monarquía en los años de 1735 y 1736

Binding:

Binding from the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. This is evidenced by the super ex-libris on the front bookboard and the marbled pattern on the bookboards, typical for the bindings of Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin.

History:

The manuscript was written in Spain, in the 18th century, in or after 1736. The dating and location is confirmed by orthography typical for the 18th century, dates in the title and preface (1735-1736) and the same dates repeated in the entire text. The manuscript was made by a single copyist, but several corrections and additions by a different hand are found (e.g. ff. 12r°, 90r°, 126v°). The corrections and additions suggest that the text was corrected and supplemented by the next owner. However, the manuscript holds no information about him. A lack of an accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript contains copies of various issues of one of the most widespread and popular weeklies of the 18th century, entitled *El Duende*. The first issue of the weekly, which appeared on 8th December 1735 as a single manuscript sheet, initiated the Spanish underground satirical press movement. 18 successive issues of the weekly appeared every Thursday. They contained prose and verse, were transcribed in numerous copies, but never appeared in print. The last issue of *El Duende* appeared on 12th April 1736. In the Hisp.Qu.51 manuscript, the individual fragments bear dates up to 31st May 1736, which could be the dates of making the copy or news written later in a form imitating *El Duende* (cf. Pedro Gómez Aparicio, *Historia del periodismo español*, Editora Nacional, Madrid 1967, pp. 31-33). The character of *el duende* appears in the press as a voice of a critical observer of the current

political and economical situation, often speaking in verse. He is a medium for delivering accounts of political events in Spain and in Europe (e.g. Franco-Spanish relations). *El duende*, calling himself “a defender of truth”, gives accounts e.g. of meetings of the Council of State and of events in the royal court, of minister Patiño’s actions (1666-1736; http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/José_Patiño_Rosales), presents the sins of the most eminent people of the Spanish political scene (e.g. the king himself) in the form of a confession, finds cures for the greatest “ills” of the country, describes the agony and death of Spain and calls the Final Judgement over members of the government. The person hiding under the pseudonym *el duende* did not escape persecution and imprisonment for the expressed political views. It was found out that the author was a Portuguese, Manuel Freyre de Silva, a soldier in the rank of a captain, sent to Spain during the war of the succession. He left the army to join the Carmelite Order and took the name Fray Manuel de San José. He was apprehended on 17th March 1736 and placed in a prison in Madrid, from which he escaped on 17th March 1737 (cf. Pedro Gómez Aparicio, *Historia del periodismo español*, Editora Nacional, Madrid 1967, pp. 31-33). Among the documents, there is one heroic poem (ff.44v°-46r°), one sonnet (112v°-113r°) and one romanca (107r°-112v°; <http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanca>).

Among the available sources, Inmaculada Urzainqui's article *Autocreación y formas autobiográficas en la prensa crítica del siglo XVIII* was found, describing various satirical-critical magazines with the character of *el duende* in their title, imitating English press of the same genre. One of the first such periodicals in Spain was *El Duende crítico*. According to the same article, other copies of the manuscript can be found in the Biblioteca del Instituto Feijoo de Estudios del Siglo XVIII at the Universidad de Oviedo (pressmark XII-D-30) and in the Biblioteca Universitaria de Palencia. Another publication dealing with this problem is José Antonio Llera Ruiz's article *Una historia abreviada de la prensa satírica en España: desde El Duende Crítico de Madrid hasta Gedeón* available at <http://revistas.ucm.es/inf/11341629/articulos/ESMP0303110203A.PDF>. During an

international query at the Biblioteca Nacional de España, the text of the manuscript was collated with the following: *Papeles curiosos manuscritos*, vol. 5 (pressmark: MSS/10890) – ff. 60r°-163v° Manuel de San José, (O.C.D.) *El Duende político, que da quenta de los presentes y futuros negocios de esta Monarchía* (both manuscripts contain the same texts in part, they lack some fragments present in Hisp.Qu.51 e.g.. *Explicación de la doctrina de Patiño por preguntas entre D.n Josef Rodrigo y sus muchachos de la Cavachuela*, from f. 107r° additional fragments, absent from other copies); *Papeles varios satíricos* (pressmark: MSS/17532): Manuel de San José, (O.C.D.) *El Duende político, que da quenta de los presentes y futuros negocios de esta Monarchía* (*Advertencia al Lector* missing, text identical up to page 106v° with only slight changes of single words, headings or rhymes, text in Hisp. Qu. 51 is longer) and *Papeles varios siglo XVIII* – ff. 2r°-128v° Manuel de San José (O.C.D.) *Papeles del Duende de Madrid* (pressmark: MSS/17544, lacks *Advertencia al Lector*, few fragments identical but in different order, many fragments added or omitted, changes in headings, in the identical fragments only slight differences in text). The four analysed specimens are probably four independent copies, prepared on the basis of different issues of the *El Duende*, each has a different ending and some contain more fragments, or fragments absent from other specimens. There are also differences in single words, rhymes, headings and division into paragraphs. Therefore, establishing that one of the copies is based on any other is not possible. Most likely independent copyists selected different fragments from the originals and inserted them in their copies.