

ITAL. FOL. 52

Binding:

Marbled leather hard binding, damaged, (18th century) with marbled paper pastedowns. Floral motifs embossed on the spine.

History:

As stated on the title page, the manuscript was created in 1720 in Rome and was most likely written by the hand of Giuseppe Galli Bibiena, or in his studio: *Libro de Marmi Antichi / Cavati dalle Fabriche / Antiche Romane / in Roma del'Anno 1720 li 20 / Settembre*. Underneath, a note by a different hand: *Da Giuseppe Galli Bibiena / Primo Ingegnere ed Architetto Teatrale di Sua / Maesta Cesarea Carlo Sesto Imperadore*. The note must have been created after 1727, when Giuseppe was appointed the Habsburg's court architect. The binding is original, marbled leather, badly damaged. It comes from the second half of the 18th century, as evidenced by the type of the paper used as pastedowns. It is paste paper, combed, similar to ones used in Vienna towards the end of the 18th century. The watermark on the flyleaves (coat of arms with a horn and the initials GR) and the inscription D&C Blauw also points to such dating. This watermark was used in various variants in Holland, in the 18th century. Initially, the manuscript was surely owned by the author. At the bottom of page 1 r^o there is a trace of a scratched out inscription. Next, the codex belonged to a physician, bibliophile and numismatist, Johann Karl Wilhelm Moehsen (1722-1795), whose collection enriched the Königliche Bibliothek's in 1796. The manuscript appears in the old catalogue of the library, Cat A 356 c. 134 n. 77 in the "Antiquaria in Folio" section, as a part of the 1796 purchase.

Content:

The manuscript contains 51 illustrations presenting varieties of marble. At the top, the names of the individual types of stone. The author is Giuseppe Galli Bibiena (born before 1695-1757), a member of a clan of famous architects, painters and scenographers, Galli Bibiena. He was mainly known as a designer of theatre scenographies (Italy, Vienna, Stockholm, Bayreuth, Dresden, etc.). In 1727, Giuseppe was appointed the court architect of the Habsburgs. He was also the author of the work "Architetture e prospettive", published in 1740-1744 and dedicated to Charles VI. The text of ital.fol.52 unpublished.

With reference to this manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 71.