

Hisp. Qu. 15

Binding:

Most likely a library binding made after the inclusion of the volume in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin collection between 1818 and 1828. This type of binding (half binding, spine in black leather, black fabric on the bookboards) appears fairly frequently among Spanish manuscripts, especially those of the *miscelánea de manuscritos* nature.

History:

The volume holds four manuscripts of theatre plays made by anonymous copyists. As indicated by the writing, they are probably 18th-century copies. An additional hint for the dating of manuscript IV could be the signature on the final page, probably by the author of the work, Antonio Benito Vidaurre y Orduña (1724-1780). The location of the manuscripts is uncertain (Spain?). Manuscript II bears a note pointing to Teresa de Córdoba y Espinola as the owner of the manuscript or the author of the work from which it was transcribed. This person could not be fully identified. The manuscript reached the collection of the Royal Library in Berlin between 1818 and 1828. Other facts related to the manuscript's history remain unknown.

Content:

The volume consists of transcripts of four theatre plays: two of them are well known works with critical editions, that is *El encanto del olvido* by Juan de la Hoz y Mota (1622-1714) (manuscript I) and *Los Monteros de Espinosa*, a drama considered to be anonymous, written around 1780 (manuscript III). It is assumed that manuscript II could be a remake of one of the works written by José Vázquez de Villasanté, an 18th-century Spanish actor, entitled *Comedia famosa, La Gran princesa de Armenia, y cristiandad de Tartaria*. Manuscript IV, *Comedia nueva si aborrezar es amar, amar es aborrezar* (probably an autograph) is most likely the work of Antonio Benito Vidaurre y Orduña, a Spanish poet and playwright, imitator of Calderón. The Berlin collection contains six other plays by, it would seem, the same author, scattered throughout volumes Hisp. Qu. 12, 16 and 18. They might be forgotten or unknown

plays, since they are absent from the register of Vidaure's works and no traces of other transcripts or printed editions of those plays could be found.