

hisp. quart. 19

#### Binding:

Original, claret-coloured leather, a la Duseuil. Richly decorated with the colour gold, plant motives with an acorn fruit in two frames, flower motives between the nerves, gilt-edged, endpaper made from marbled paper, combed Dutch pattern, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### History:

The manuscript is signed with the name Manuel Manrique de Lara (probably a pseudonym of Francisco Ponce de Leon y Spinola, the tenth duque de Arcos). It is not a copy of a printed text. It may be an autograph (the same hand in the text and in the dedication), in which case it was written before the duke's death, around the end of 1763. It does not contain the first name or the surname of dedication's addressee (her high status is implied by the following mentions: *Ala Muy Il[us]t<sup>re</sup>*, *Señora* and *la gran Casa de V.S.*), there are no annotations indicating its first owner/owners. We do not know how the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek. Lack of accession number indicates that it was owned by the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828, the year of establishment of the accession register.

#### Content:

The manuscript includes a text of "comedia nueva" in three acts, *El engaño en la cautela*, preceded with a dedication and laudatoria. Peandro, a prince of Thessaly, of oracle's will, is looking for the most beautiful woman, whom he has to defeat in order to regain the right to the crown. Cinthia, a princess of Delphi, once removed from power and raised in the mountains, learns the truth about herself and intends to regain her kingdom; she is appointed Thessaly's ambassador, dressed as a man, and sent to Delphi. Unhappy Fenicia, abandoned by Lisidant, is presented to the people of Delphi as false Cinthia by a pair of traitors. After many adventures and mishaps all mysteries are clarified, Cinthia regains the throne of Delphi, Peandro – the throne of Thessaly, Fenicia – Lisidant. Men are accompanied by servants, Requezon and Lelio, hearty, witty, insolent, self-interested. Free verse, couplets. The

manuscript and the text are not mentioned in the specialist literature, with exception of Lemm, p. 105.