

HISP. FOL. 21

Información de Vicente Saraiva para Guillermo Rawson sobre Gran Chaco

Binding:

Half cloth, brown cloth on the spine, covers covered with marbled paper close to the German Marbre type, in use since the 1850s; binding type and marbled paper point to the Royal Library in Berlin as the manufacturer in/after 1866 (the date of entering the manuscript to the accession register of the Library).

History:

Date and location of making have been established on the basis of information contained in both texts making up the manuscript: 6 and 9 March 1865, Corrientes [Argentina]. Considering the marks of the manuscript being folded in a manner typical of letters, it can be assumed that This is an autograph: a letter and an excerpt from a travel account, both made by the same hand. The sender, Vicente Saraiva, has never been identified, unlike the recipient, Dr Guillermo Colesbera Rawson (1812–1890), an Argentine minister and physician. The manuscript joined the collection of the Royal Library in Berlin on 27 February 1866, i.e. close to the year of making, as a gift from Juan María Gutiérrez (1809–1878), an Argentine politician, poet, journalist, bibliophile and publisher. The Berlin collection also includes other manuscripts donated by this person. Gutiérrez was friends with Friedrich Hermann Herbert von Gülich (1820–1903), a Prussian Consul-General and Trade Representative, who in 1857–1868 worked in the diplomatic service in South America. This acquaintance could have been a reason for the donation of the manuscript to the Berlin Library. The manuscript has no markings other than from the Berlin collection. Considering the short period of time between the making of the manuscript and its inclusion in the Berlin collection, it can be assumed that it has never been in possession of persons other than mentioned above, and subsequently ended up at the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin.

Content:

The manuscript contains a letter from Vicente Saraiva to Guillermo Rawson (f. 1r^o–10v^o) and an excerpt from a travel account entitled *Esplanación del diario de viaje de D. Felipe Saraiva, desde la Colonia “Rivadavia” (Provincia de Salta), hasta Corrientes, segun los datos obtenidos del Cacique Naponari y comitiva, por el D^r D. Vicente Saraiva* (f. 11r–16v). The letter includes information, guidelines and opinions of Vicente Saraiva as regards improvement of communication in Gran Chaco (in the section between the Corrientes and Salta provinces) by means of making out a road and establishing garrisons. The list is has an attachment in the form of a diary/account regarding a Felipe Saraiva's travel from the Rivadavia colony to Corrientes, with a list of Indian settlements along the route and their brief description (population, chief occupation, leaders, attitude towards colonizers etc.). No other written copies or printed editions of the text (the letter, the diary excerpt or its full version) have been found. With reference to the Kraków manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 97.