

HISP. QUART. 34

Papeles varios: Octabas en cantos · Consultas

Binding:

Eighteenth-century binding made of brown leather with speckled covers and a dark-brown flecked pattern. The origin of the binding is confirmed by ornaments on the covers and an embossed golden plant-like motif decorating spaces between nerves, typical of French covers in the 17th and the 18th centuries (cf. Devauchelle R., *La reliure en France*, Paris 1959, table. IV-VI; Macchi F., *Dizionario illustrato della legatura*, Mediolan 2002, p. 142; Ollero y Ramos, *Enciclopedia de la Encuadernación*, Madrid 1998, pp. 113, 204, 294; Clavería C., *Reconocimiento y descripción de encuadernaciones antiguas*, Madrid 2006, p. 179). Endpapers are made from speckled marble paper. The paper was in use from the end of the 16th century and the sprinkling technique was also used to decorate edges of books and leathers on covers.

History:

The manuscript consists of two parts written by two different copyists. The first part (ff. 1r^o-106v^o) including eight lays was written in the 18th century, which was established on the basis of the eighteen-century spelling. The date is confirmed by watermarks described in the Heawood catalogues (table 118) as well as the Galicia archives' catalogues as originating from Spain from the period 1717 - 1730 (v. V pp. 456). The manuscript includes copies, which is proved by the copyist's comments and by the lack of ending of some lays, e.g. the text on page 74r^o breaks off at some point and the copyist wrote : *no avia mas de este* [canto] (there was no more of this [lay]). There are no information about the copyist in the manuscript. The date when and the place where the second part (ff. 107r^o-146v^o) was written is confirmed by a colophon at the end of the text (page 145r^o) *Madrid, y Septiembre 7. de 1724* and the eighteen-century spelling. Moreover, historical events from this year (such as the death of the infant Louis I) are mentioned in the text. There are no information about the copyist in the text. Exactly the same type of binding and the marble paper can be found in the manuscript with the catalogue number *Hisp.Qu.32* also dating from the 18th century. On the basis of an embossed inscription on the spine of the binding one can assume that the manuscripts were bound at the same time as subsequent parts of a series entitled *Papeles*

varios (Various documents). Smudges of dirt on pages 1r°, 107r°, 146v° in the manuscript *Hisp.Qu.34* confirm that it was written earlier, did not have any cover for some time and was bound as the third part of the series, more or less at the same time as *Hisp.Qu.32* (the first part of the series). There are no information in the text about its successive owners. Just like in the case of *Ms.hisp.Qu.32* the lack of the accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828 when the accession register was established.

Content:

The first part (ff. 1r°-106v°) includes copies of eight lays whose titles refer to Day, Night, Jealousy, Loneliness, Tears, Weapon, Borders and Forests. The first lay extols a history of a princes' love to beautiful Phyllis. The second lay contains dramatic descriptions of battles and natural disasters, such as earthquakes. The third lay tells us about a history of a murder committed by a jealous lover and it refers to the first lay. The fourth lay is about Philen suffering from unhappy love. Lays number five and six are unfinished, at the end the copyist included notes saying that the lays were unfinished in the original text. The short fragment of the fifth lay in the manuscript alludes to the myth of Theseus and the part of lay six is about a powerful monarch, obeyed even by the Earth and sea, and his castle. Lay number seven describes longing of a lonely lover who meets a mysterious horseman in a forest. The text is filled with mythological references. The last lay describes a fleeing pair of lovers taking shelter from the pursuit in a forest

The text of the second part of the manuscript (ff. 107r°-146v°) refers to historical events from 1724. This part includes copies of letters to King Phillip V and his answers. In the letters the members of the Royal Council of Castile are trying to persuade the king, who is bewailing the death of his son Infante Louis I, to return to the Spanish throne and to appoint Infante Fernando as the prince of the Asturias Province and the next heir to the throne. The letters also include anxiety concerning the situation in the country.