

HISP. QU. 48

Binding:

Library binding made of cardboard, covered with marbled paper. This type of binding can be found on many other manuscripts of the collection, but they usually bear the super ex-libris of the Königlische Bibliothek on the front bookboard. This marking is absent from the binding of manuscript Hisp. Quart. 48, which may be explained by its generally poor quality, showing evident shortcomings.

History:

The state of some pages suggests that the manuscripts probably remained unbound and were stored separately before their incorporation into the Berlin collection. Manuscript IV, glued to the pages of the signature making up manuscript III, was probably added to the volume slightly later, perhaps after binding by the Königlische Bibliothek, and therefore was not cut to the dimensions of the binding. Manuscripts I-III share a common topic, related to the activities of Vincente Pérez, known as “médico del agua”, a Spanish physician propagating hydrotherapy as a therapeutic method. His theories caused a lively debate in Spain in the mid 1750s, reflected in numerous prose and verse texts, both serious and satirical. Manuscript IV is thematically connected with a 1761 project for improving the cleanliness of the streets of Madrid. Based on historical data and dates in the text, manuscripts I-IV can be dated to the second half of the 18th century. The manuscript reached the collection before 1828, which is indicated by the lack of an accession number (the library introduced the accession register in 1828). The previous history of manuscripts I-IV remains uncertain due to the lack of any signs allowing its investigation. The making of the manuscripts may can be connected to Spain (Madrid), as suggested by historical premises.

Content:

Manuscripts I-IV are anonymous satirical works in verse, a mocking commentary on the events of the period: Vicente Pérez's work and the Madrid street-cleaning project. They

probably circulated in manuscript and were never published in print. With reference to this manuscript, Lemm, p. 109.