

HISP. QU. 46

#### Binding:

Brown leather with gold embossed ornaments, most likely 18<sup>th</sup>-century. The binding is probably from the same period as the manuscript, though the incomplete protective cards suggest that it is not original.

#### History:

The manuscript is an anonymous transcript of a known report on the state of preservation of documents in the kingdom's archives, prepared by Agustin Riol – a renowned royal archivist – by the order of the ruler of Spain, Philip V, in the 1720s. The Krakow manuscript can be dated with great probability to the period between 1726 and 1787, indicated by the date in the title and certain textological data. Due to the lack of an accession number of the Berlin collection, it is assumed that the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828, when the institution introduced the accession register. A filigree, similar to Spanish watermarks from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, points to Spain as the likely place of the manuscript's making. The lack of traces and markings from collections other than the one in Berlin might suggest that the manuscript passed from the hands of the first owner straight to the Berlin Library.

#### Content:

Riol's report is a significant symptom of reformatory tendencies in Spanish archives in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The number of 18<sup>th</sup>-century copies of this text preserved up to this day in the National Library in Madrid, in versions with differing titles, certain elements of the text and its organisation, proves that the work was very popular in its period and circulated in many variants. The Krakow manuscript is in the group of manuscripts derivative from the original – a version with some rather irrelevant abbreviations and alterations in the text. The Königliche Bibliothek manuscript seems to be close to the manuscript from the National Library in Madrid, bearing the pressmark MSS/10558, despite some differences which can be partly attributed to the copyist's initiative. Among the preserved manuscripts of the report we find a

group containing a final fragment made up of the correspondence between Riol and marquis Grimaldo, also included in the printed edition from 1787. Since the Krakow manuscript lacks the aforementioned fragment, it can be assumed that it was not prepared based on this edition (in spite of a significant similarity of the two texts), and that it was probably prepared before 1787. With reference to this manuscript, *cf.* Lemm, p. 109.