

Hisp. Qu. 45

Binding:

Made in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin, which is evidenced by its type: simple, of cardboard covered with marbled paper and marked with the super ex-libris of the Berlin Library on the front cover.

History:

The volume is listed in one of the old catalogues of the Berlin Library that was successively prepared since 1818 and supplemented in the 1820s and 1830s. Furthermore, there is no number of accession to the Königliche Bibliothek collection, so it had been incorporated therein prior to 1828 when the accession register of acquisitions was started in this institution. On this basis one may presume that the volume most likely reached the Berlin book collection between 1818 and 1828. The above-mentioned library catalogue does not provide any additional information that could supply the earlier history of the manuscript and, therefore, it remains unknown. Only in the case of the first manuscripts included in the volume it was possible to determine that it probably came from the library of Duke Salm purchased in 1819 by the library in Berlin. However, the laconic information to be found in German sources about the above-mentioned purchase does not allow us to unequivocally and surely identify the figure of Duke Salm. The gathered historical indications seem to point to Pedro Alcántara Álvarez de Toledo y Salm-Salm XIII Duque del Infantado (1768-1841) or his father, Pedro de Alcántara de Toledo Silva y Mendoza XII Duque del Infantado, from the aristocratic family with Spanish and German branches. On the basis of premises contained in the manuscripts' texts (dates) and historical data it is assumed that they were created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most likely in Spain.

Content:

The volume consists of five manuscripts with diversified subject and character: text referring to the figure of Bernardo Cantera de la Cueva, the first superintendent of Madrid police (manuscript I), letter about a Fermín Joaquín Lazarraga (manuscript II), Spanish translation of two letters whose senders are probably Lord George Keith (1693-1778), a Scottish military

man and diplomat, and Voltaire (manuscript III), several lyrical works by Don Juan Veléz de León, Spanish poet, accompanied probably with the copyist's notes (manuscript IV), and a medical dissertation (manuscript V). It seems that none of the texts have been published so far.