

HISP. QU. 50

PEDRO ANDRÉS DE CASTRO Y AMOEDO [Agustín María de Castro] · CARTA
EDIFICANTE O VIAJE A LA PROVINCIA DE TAAL Y BALAYAN [...]

Binding:

Binding made in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin, as evidenced by the super ex-libris of this institution on the front bookboard; made in/after 1823, as indicated by the accession note.

History:

The manuscript is an anonymous copy of a work by Pedro Andrés de Castro y Amoedo, also known as Agustín María de Castro (1740-1801), a Spanish missionary from the Augustinian order, who spent 40 years in the Philippines. The Krakow copy can be dated to between 1790 and 1818, as indicated by the date in the title and the German note stating the Ludolf Karl Adelbert von Chamisso's ownership of the manuscript in 1818 (f. 1r^o). Chamisso (1781-1838) was a German poet and naturalist specialising in botany, a traveller, a participant of a scientific journey around the world (1815-1818) on board of the brig "Rurik" commanded by Otto von Kotzebue (1787-1846). The Krakow manuscript fits into the context of this journey, as well as the works prepared on its basis in 1821-1822, mentioned in the note on f. 1r^o, made in German by a later hand. In 1823, Chamisso presented the manuscript to the Berlin Library together with another manuscript on the Philippines (Hisp. Qu. 44). The Gertrudes Blanco Vermudez (?), mentioned as the owner of the manuscript in the note on f. 1r^o, could not be identified. Considering the aforementioned chronology of the manuscript's history, it is probably an owner of the manuscript from the period preceding its acquisition for Chamisso's collection – perhaps the first owner. The location of the manuscript is uncertain (Spain or the Philippines?), since there are no signs that would let us establish it.

Content:

The Krakow manuscript is an abbreviated transcript of one part of a work entitled *Historia de la Provincia de Batangas*, preserved in one manuscript at the Archivo Histórico Nacional in

Madrid (section: Códices, pressmark 1270-B), written around mid-19th century and published in 1977. The aforementioned *Historia...* was originally a part of a tome entitled *Cartas edificantes de las Islas Filipinas* by Agustín María de Castro, comprised of accounts and descriptions from the islands and parts of the archipelago travelled by that missionary. The copyist of the Königliche Bibliothek manuscript omitted numerous fragments and paragraphs of the text, as well as annexes accompanying the Madrid manuscript and its printed edition. The Madrid manuscript contains many inconsistencies marked by its editor (cf. Manuel Merino, “La provincia filipina de Batangas visitada por un misionero a fines del siglo XVIII”, in: *Missionalia hispánica*, Madrid, 34/1977, p. 150), therefore the copy deposited in Krakow, though an abbreviated version of the text, might prove important for the completion of the existing edition. One more manuscript copy of *Carta edificante*, bearing a title very similar to the Königliche Bibliothek transcript, was found in the Newberry Library collection in Chicago (pressmark: Ayer Ms. 1325). More on the text of *Historia de la Provincia de Batangas* (edition) and its author, cf. abovementioned article by M. Merino. With reference to the p. 109.