

HISP. QUART. 60

Blas Pretovio: Vocabulario de lengua guarani

Binding:

Original binding made of brown leather. The origin of the binding is confirmed by the embossed gold floral motif which decorates the spaces between the elements to which the pages are attached; typical of the bindings of the French type dating from the 17th and 18th century (cf. Devauchelle R., *La reliure en France*, plate IV-VI, *Dizionario illustrato della legatura*, p. 142; Ollero y Ramos, *Enciclopedia de la Encuadernación*, pp. 113, 204, 294; Clavería C., *Reconocimiento y descripción de encuadernaciones antiguas*, p. 179)

History:

The manuscript is probably the original. Information included in the colophons at the end of each of the two parts enables us to establish the dating: the first part dates from the years 1728-1729; the second part, which functions as an appendix, was made in the years 1733-37. In the first part of the manuscript the place of origin of the manuscript is not mentioned, however, Padre Blas Pretovio had been staying in Paraguay for over 50 years (also during the time when the manuscript had been made), which enables us to assume that the manuscript was made in Paraguay. Blas Pretovio is the anagram of the Jesuit of the Italian origin, Pablo Restivo, who lived in the years 1658-1740 (cf. <http://www.universia.pr>). On the other hand, the colophon at the end of the second part of the manuscript (f. 332r°) includes information about the place where the manuscript was made – S. Borja, one of the so-called Jesuit *reducciones* in Paraguay and the initials of the author J.B. The first part had been made earlier by Blas Pretovio and was in the possession of the author of the second part, who provided his corrections. The second part was made eight years later and both parts were bound collectively. In some studies it is stated that the second part, concerning its style and composition, was also written by Pablo Restivo (cf. Melià B. *La lengua guarani en el Paraguay colonial*, CEPAG, Asunción 2003). The manuscript reached Europe probably as a

result of the expelling of the Jesuits from South America, which took place in 1767. The accession number 9292 on the front endpaper indicates that the manuscript was registered in the catalogue of the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin on the 11th of December 1865. As the note in German on the title page informs (*Anlage zu dem Berichte des Kgl. Geschäfts() für die Plate () von Gülich dato Asuncion 5 Juli 1864*), it was the gift of the Consul General in South America, Friedrich von Gülich, and during World War II it was kept in Silesia, in Fürstenstein.

Content:

The manuscript begins with the *advertencias* (2r°-v°) which contain tips on the structure of the dictionary and how to look up specific information. On the pages (3r°-252v°) there is the Spanish-Guarani dictionary. Entries are organized in alphabetical order, in case of some letters (e.g. “s”) there is an additional categorization according to the proximity of other letters in words (e.g. s preceding a, etc.). In many cases various collocations of words and examples of sentences are provided. On the pages (3r°-60v) (entries beginning with the letter A and B) the introductory entries are underlined; in further part underlining is not applied. On the pages (253r°-332r°) there is the *apendix* containing the text in the Guarani language, divided into paragraphs, which is the translation of the work *Conquista spiritual* written by Antonio Ruiz de Montoya (cf. Melià B., *La lengua guarani en el Paraguay colonial*, CEPAG, Asunción 2003). The manuscript was probably used as a textbook for learning the Guarani language by the Jesuit missionaries, because this was the purpose of similar works in the Paraguayan *reducciones*. The abridged historical-codicological description of the manuscript can be found in the article of Natalia Czopek, published in the *Fibula* 1/2008 newsletter (cf. http://issuu.com/fibula/docs/fibula_news1_issuu). In the available documents devoted to the works of Blas Pretovio, there is the edition of the work entitled *Vocabulario de Lengva Gvarani. Compuesto por el padre Antonio Ruiz de la Compañia de Iesus; revisto y augmentado por otro religioso de la misma compañia*, published in 1722 in a missionary town in one the *reducciones*. This work was made on the basis of the dictionary and grammar of the Guarani language from 1640, written by the Jesuit, Antonio Ruiz de

Montoya (1585-1652), a famous defender of Indians and a linguist, which were extended and corrected by Blas Pretovio (cf. Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, *Vocabulario de la lengua guarani* 1640, elaboration and transcription by Antonio Caballos with the introduction by Bartolomeu Melià, CEPAG, Asunción 2002r. (pressmark 12/230206 in the Biblioteca Nacional de España). The next edition of Christian Frederick Seybold dates from 1893, whereas one of the copies from 1754 is kept in the Biblioteca Nacional de Rio de Janeiro. Big similarities can be noticed while comparing both copies: both of them begin with the same *advertencies* and they contain the same entries organized in alphabetical order. The copy from 1728 is in a way an extended version of the copy from 1722 – apart from the same entries, it contains additional entries, the division of which is more detailed and is broadened by the part containing the texts in the Guarani language; words which went out of use were removed and dialectal differences were underlined. On the basis of this information it can be assumed that Blas Pretovio made another, even broader version of a dictionary based on the work of Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, which another Jesuit (initials J.B.) extended by the texts in the Guarani language. On the other hand, while comparing the *Hips.Qu.60* manuscript with the edition of the work of Antonio Ruiz de Montoya *Arte y Vocabulario de la lengua guarani* [facsimile of the autograph from 1640, elaboration and transcription by Silvio M. Luizzi, made in 1994 (pressmarks R/101398 and R/101397 in the Biblioteca Nacional de España), it can be noticed that Montoya's version in the Luizzi transcription contains a grammatical and lexical commentary which is not present in Pretovio's version. Yet the division of entries, with respect to the order of letters in words, is kept. Both versions have introductory *Advertencias*, but they are different. Montoya's lexical part contains mainly the entries in the Spanish language and their Guarani equivalents. Pretovio used the same entries, but he extended them by giving examples in sentences and collocations in Spanish, as well as in Guarani, and he added many new entries. On the other hand, the second part of the *Hisp.Qu.60*, which bears the initials J.B., is not based on this Montoya's work at all, although there are several references to it in the text. According to Melià Bartomeu *La lengua guarani en el Paraguay colonial*, CEPAG, Asunción 2003 (pressmark 9/248827 in the Biblioteca

Nacional de España) the work of Pablo Restivo was very often treated as a supplement to the work of father Montoya (e.g. by Restivo's publisher).