

HISP. FOL. 10

Papeles y manuscritos rarísimos

Binding:

Original cardboard binding decorated with marbled paper with design similar to the brown shell pattern which was especially popular in the first half of the 19th century (cf. Wolfe R., *Marbled Paper*, Philadelphia 1990, table XXXIII). The binding is contemporary with the manuscript, which is indicated by similarities in handwriting in the text and in the title on the front cover.

History:

The manuscript was probably written in Germany and it includes two manuscripts and printed documents from the years 1816 – 1823. The manuscripts were made by two different copyists who are not mentioned in the text. Next, the second manuscript was checked and supplemented by the copyist who wrote the first manuscript. On the front cover there is an illegible name, possibly of another owner of German descent. The lack of the accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, when the accession register was established.

Content :

(1r^o-v^o) A handwritten table of contents of individual parts.

I (2r^o-48v^o) The first part consists of 4 prints from the period 1816 – 1820 from Spain: (2r^o-44v^o) *Contestaciones dadas por los cónsules de España en los varios puertos extranjeros, que se espresarán al interrogatorio de preguntas que sobre nuestras relaciones mercantiles se les hizo en 10 de junio de 1816*; (45r^o-46v^o) *Gobernación de la Península. Sección de Fomento*; (47r^o-48v^o) *Modelos de certificaciones*; (46v^o) *Comunicado de Agustín Argüelles*. The first text is a collection of 43 questions with answers concerning trade matters. The questions include problems of foreign consuls' duties, taxes and customs, trade with overseas provinces, confiscation of forbidden possessions, smuggling, sea catastrophes and wars, free fishing, the role of a ship captain, etc. The answers describe situations in different European ports from the point of view of Spaniards and merchants of various descents (comparison of rights and obligations). The second document is a print of a royal decree putting into effect decisions of the Cortes including trade matters. The document is signed with the name

Agustin Argüelles, a Spanish politician and diplomat (1776-1844, http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agustín_de_Argüelles_Álvarez). The last two texts include a specimen of a certificate of putting commodities in deposit and a patent design.

II (49r^o–126v^o) The manuscript dates back to the period from October 1821 – July 1822. It includes reports on meetings of the Finance and Commerce Commission (session from the 27th of October 1827 until the 11th of April 1822) concerning customs tariffs, rules governing trade of foreign merchants in Spain and Spanish merchants overseas, transport of forbidden goods as well as some Spanish products (e.g. linen) trade. Additionally, the manuscript includes a report on commercial relations between Spain and the Kingdom of Prussia submitted to the Spanish ministry, an expert opinion of the Spanish customs junta on the report of the Spanish consul in Hamburg and a final report of the Spanish Ministry of Finances.

III (127r^o–138v^o) The manuscript is a copy of a text dating from September 1796. The copy was written in 1910, probably in Germany. It is a report for the Royal Historical Council on river transport in Spain, the state of channel construction works and problems connected with such projects. The report was developed by the minister Francisco de Saavedra (1746-1819, http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_de_Saavedra).

IV (139r^o–144v^o) Printed texts from Spain from 1822-1823: (139r^o–140v^o) *Ruina del Comercio interior de España*; (141r^o–144v^o) *Ministerio de Hacienda. Sección 3.^a Aduanas*. The first document describes a situation and problems connected with internal trade. The second document is a print of a royal decree putting into effect, as of the 1st of July 1823, decisions of the Cortes concerning customs matters. The last, third, document is a list of customs fees for specific commodities (cotton, silks, wool, fans, linens, condiments and exotic fruits) applying from the moment of announcement of the above royal decree (the second document).

Some of the handwritten decrees were included in unchanged form in the 6th volume of the work entitled *Colección de los decretos y ordenes generales de las Cortes ordinarias de 1820 y 1821* published on the order of the Spanish Cortes in Madrid in 1821.



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