

Hisp. Fol. 23

Binding:

Made of cardboard covered with parchment, probably original. Considering the fact that the spine of the binding was strengthened with a print in German, it can be assumed that it is of German origin. It could have been created in the period when the manuscript belonged to the collection of count von Starhemberg of Efferding (i.e. before 1889) or earlier in the history of the manuscript which, as it seems, should be connected with the German territory.

History:

The manuscript reached the collection of the Royal Library in Berlin through the purchase of the entire collection of the German noble family of von Starhemberg of Efferding, which took place in 1889. The studied collection also includes four more Spanish manuscripts, as well as numerous French and Italian ones of the same provenance. The earlier fate of the manuscript remains unknown, since neither the German documentation nor the manuscript itself contain any information allowing its reconstruction. It is an anonymous transcript of a literary work, probably created in the 17th century, as evidenced by the writing. The location of the manuscript is uncertain (Germany?).

Content:

The work was written ca. 1595, by a Spanish officer, colonel Francisco Verdugo (1537-1595/1597?), who distinguished himself in the war in Flanders, during the reign of king Phillip II. The text aroused great interest which resulted in two printed editions shortly after its creation: Italian in 1605 and Spanish in 1610. The task of preparing a full version of the text for print was handled by Henri Lonchay in 1899, on the basis of the 1610 edition and a handwritten version of Verdugo's text, at that time deposited in the National Library in Paris and containing interesting textological variants. The manuscript available in Krakow, when compared with the Lonachay edition, seems to be closer to the handwritten Paris

version. Perhaps it is one of the early copies of the text coming from the original.
The manuscript requires further studies.