

HISP. FOL. 8

Gil González Dávila: Historia de la vida y hechos del ínclito y poderoso monarca amado y santo Rey D. Felipe III° de este nombre

Binding:

Strengthened original parchment binding with a string fastener, characteristic of many manuscripts dating from the 17th and 18th century (cf. Mirello R., *Legature riccardiane*, pp. 154-155, Bernardini M., *Medicea Volumina* pp. 216-217).

History:

Repetitive watermarks in the manuscript indicate that it was made in Spain, in the 18th century. This is a copy of a work entitled *Historia de la vida y hechos de el ynclito y poderoso monarcha amado, y sancto rey D. Phelipe III° deste nombre. Al muy catholico, alto, y poderoso Señor Rey D. Carlos Ioseph Segundo de las Españas y nuevo mundo*, the author of which is Gil González Dávila. This work was published posthumously, which is confirmed by the note on the title page (f. 3r° – *Obra póstuma*). Gil González Dávila, a historian and a chronicler of Castile and India during the reign of Philip III; he died in 1658 (cf. *Corpus inscriptionum latinarum II Anticuarios y Epigrafistas siglos XVI-XVIII*). The copy was made by Ioseph González Dávila, which is confirmed by the same note (*que saca a luz el licenciado D. Ioseph Gonzalez Davila*). The copyist was an honorary chaplain of the cathedral in Ávila, a Judge of the Sacred Congregation and a guardian of clergymen appointed by the bishop (cf. ff. 3r°-v°). One of the next editions is from 1771, from Madrid (ed. Bartolomé Ulloa; cf. *Boletín de la Academia Nacional de Historia*, series 3 vol. 8, Madrid 2001, pp. 257-296: *Obras clásicas sobre los Austrias Siglo XVII*). Lack of an accession number indicates that the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, which is the year when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript consists of two books: the first book contains 17 chapters and the second one 108. Content of both books refers to the events in Spain, Europe and Spanish colonies in the years 1578-1652. The first book begins with a short introduction (ff. 5r°-6v°), in which the author extols the virtues of the Monarch. Historical facts mentioned in the first book include most of all the birth of Philip III in 1578, the birth, life and death of other children of Philip II, the conferring upon Philip III of the title of prince of Portugal and then Castile and Leon, his journeys with his father, king Philip II, which were to make them familiar with the public matters of the country and its neighbours, advice given by Philip II to his son just before his death, death of Philip II and description of the state of the kingdom after the king's death. The second book begins with the reference to the first letters sent by Philip III to Pope Clemens VIII. Particular chapters describe various historical events related to Spain, Italy, France, Chile, India, Philippines or Africa. Most of all, there are mentions of victorious battles and discoveries of new lands, e.g. New Mexico. On the other hand, the events related to the national affairs include for instance the moving of the royal court from Madrid to Valladolid or the expelling of Moriscos from Spain. The chronicler also makes fairly thorough references to the private life of the king and describes for example his wedding with Margarita de Asturias, the birth of subsequent children and the birth of the successor to the throne of Philip IV, the queen's death or the death of Philip III in 1621. The manuscript also contains a list of persons, upon whom the king conferred the title of prince or marquis in Spain and in Portugal (ff. 476r°-478v°). Several chapters are devoted to various historical figures important for the contemporary political situation of the country and to the Spanish saints consecrated by Philip III. References to the author and his works can be found in the monograph of A. Millares Carlo, *El cronista Gil González Dávila y su obra*, Maracaibo, Venezuela 1961; whereas numerous references to the work can be found in the academic dissertation written by José María Percival at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona *Opinión pública y publicidad* (17th century, vol. II). The text of the manuscript has been compared with the three other copies available in the Biblioteca Nacional de España: G. González Dávila, *Historia de la vida y hechos del inclito monarca amado y santo D. Felipe 3^o*

in: Salazar de Mendoza P., *Monarquía de España*, Madrid 1771, pressmark 6/3686 V. 3 (introduction written by Bartolomé Ulloa, minor differences concerning different division into paragraphs and in several places into subchapters, minor differences concerning the changes of single words and addition of several illustrations); G. González Dávila, *Historia de la vida y hechos del Rey D. Felipe III*, pressmark MSS/12177 (published around 1690, lack of the text from ff. 121r°-140v°, 261r°-290v° in *Hisp.Fol.8*; this copy might be older due to the use of older spelling; other significant differences in the text have not been noticed) and G. González Dávila, *Historia de la vida y hechos del Rey D. Felipe III*, pressmark MSS/1878 (17th century, the lack of significant differences in the text).