

Hisp. Qu. 23

Binding:

A type of binding not seen in the Berlin library, probably the original binding of the manuscript (spine covered with brown leather, marbled paper on the bookboards).

History:

The manuscript appears in the *Alte Manuskripte Kataloge*, which the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin's had gradually been preparing since 1818 (with notes from the 1820s and 1830s). It bears no accession number, which means that it entered the Berlin collection before 1828. The abovementioned library catalogue contains no provenance note, therefore it is impossible to ascertain how the manuscript reached the Berlin library collection in this way. It probably belonged to a different, currently unknown collection previously, since it bears numerical markings (old pressmark?) on the inner pastedown of the front bookboard. In the volume, an interesting note can be found, probably made by one of the volume's owners, suggesting possible research of whether the manuscript could possibly be an autograph. The origin of the manuscript is unknown: it was created by an anonymous copyist, an approximate dating was established on the basis of the writing (17th century) and the location remains uncertain (Spain?).

Content:

The *Canciones místicas de fray Juan de la Cruz con su declaración* manuscript is a transcript from *Cántico espiritual* by St. John of the Cross. Due to the exceptional complexity of textological problems and the manuscript tradition connected to this work, the research conducted for this project over the manuscript deposited in Krakow up to this day is only a small contribution to further studies. They focused on the basic traits in order to ascribe the manuscript to one of the three versions of the work, corresponding to its three different editions, referred to by the specialists as *primera redacción* or *texto primitivo*, *texto revisado*,

and *segunda redacción* or *texto definitivo*, abbreviated to *CA*, *CA'* and *CB*, respectively. It seems that the Berlin collection manuscript corresponds to version *CA'*, which puts it in the so called *texto revisado* manuscript family. Further studies of the manuscript are required.