

Hisp. Qu. 28

Binding:

Made of parchment, simple, without ornaments. Probably from the same period as the manuscript (17th century), although it could be slightly later, since its state of preservation is significantly better than the manuscript's (discoloration of the pages due to flooding). German watermarks on the protective cards indicate that the volume was under renovation, probably in the Berlin library.

History:

An approximate dating of the manuscript was accepted on the basis of handwriting (17th century) and its location remains uncertain (Spain?). The manuscript contains no hints allowing the identification of the copyist. The signature *fr. Alexandro de La Vid* (f. 1r^o) might point to one of the owners of the manuscript from the period preceding its arrival at the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin. The manuscript was incorporated into the Berlin collection between 1818 and 1828. The former date is connected with the fact that the manuscript appears in one of the old catalogues of the Berlin library, the *Alte Manuskripte Kataloge*, developed gradually from 1818 (with notes from the 1820s and 1830s). On the other hand, the manuscript must have reached the Berlin collection before 1828, since it bears no accession number (1828 was the year when the Berlin library introduced the new accession register). Other details of the manuscript's history remain unknown.

Content:

The manuscript is a compilation of subject matter from various sources, including, among others, mythological episodes, legends, geographic descriptions, philosophical and moralist reflections, elements of general history and mostly events from the history of the kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula. The introductory poem to the volume was probably written by the same person who compiled the further part. The text of the work could have been edited and supplemented gradually, as suggested by empty spaces left on some pages, notes

and corrections made, as it seems, slightly later with the copyist's hand and partly by other person(s). Other handwritten copies of the text or its editions could not be located.