

Hisp. Qu. 55

Binding:

It is most likely a library binding, made of cardboard covered with marbled paper. This type of binding is common to several volumes where manuscripts and prints were thematically grouped in connection with the Iberian campaign during the Napoleonic wars (Hisp. Fol. 13-14, Hisp. Quart. 53-55). The binding was certainly made after the inclusion of the volume to the Berlin Library, which took place in 1833.

History:

All volumes from the above-mentioned group reached the collections of the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin thanks to a Prussian military man, Andreas von Schepeler, who served in the Spanish army from 1809. In the light of German sources Schepeler appears almost as an associated of the Berlin Library who purchased book for this institution in Madrid in 1819 and subsequent years. What is more, on the basis of his own experiences from the period of Napoleonic wars on the Iberian Peninsula, Schepeler wrote an extensive historical work. Considering the character and subject of hand-written materials that comprise the above-mentioned volumes from the collection deposited in Kraków, including also Hisp. Quart. 55, one may assume that Schepeler used them while preparing his own work and then, in the years 1832-1833, they reached the library in Berlin by way of the military man's connections with this institution. The Hisp. Quart. 55 volume consists of manuscripts (I and II) and prints (poetry and patriotic manifests, articles from the Spanish press) dated to the years 1813-1814. The dating and location of the manuscripts was, therefore, adopted on the basis of the data included in the texts, both manuscripts and prints, and the above-mentioned historical indications: Spain, between 1813 and 1833.

Content:

Manuscript I encompasses the transcripts of two letters of 1813 written by Enrique José O'Donnell y Anethen (1769-1834) and Luis Wimpffen, military men who distinguished themselves during the Iberian campaign of the Napoleonic wars. Their content includes comments of military nature, as well as comments about the general situation in the country at the then stage of the military conflict. Prints from the same period were attached to the manuscript. Manuscript II, in the form of table with numerical data, reflects the man power of the Rhine Confederation (years 1807-1813). So far neither of the manuscripts has had a printed edition.



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