

HISP.QU.76

Anónimo · Memoria sobre la Junta de Aranceles en las Islas Filipinas, presentada al Vice-presidente de la misma

Binding:

Made of red leather with decorative embossing, represents a type unusual for bindings in the Berlin Library. Probably original, nineteenth-century binding (in/after 1876).

History:

The date and location were established on the basis of data in the text – the manuscript was written in Manila in 1876. The manuscript does not contain data allowing us to determine the copyist. Despite numerous corrections and notes in the text the manuscript is probably not a copy or a rough draft, on account of its quite elaborate binding. According to a note in the accession register of the Berlin Library, the manuscript came from the Ferdinand Blumentritt (1853-1913) Philippine Library in Litoměřice (currently the Czech Republic) and was included in the Berlin collection in March 1932. Blumentritt, a secondary school teacher and an author of many books and articles concerning the history and ethnography of the Philippines was friends with José Rizal (1861-1896), a doctor, and a Philippine national hero. It is not certain how Blumentritt came into possession of the manuscript, for there are no marks on inscriptions on work's pages indicating owners or institutions.

Content:

The text is a report for a head of the tax office written by one of the officials of the Junta de Aranceles or the Customs Office in Manila in the Philippines. The content concerns statistical data on trade (import, export) in the Philippines from 1831 to 1875. The report includes three annexes in the form of tables with numerical data. No copies or print editions of the text have been found. There are no studies concerning the text or the copy from Krakow.