

HISP. QUART. 9

Relación de las ceremonias y grandezas observadas en la solemnidad de los desposorios

Binding:

Original binding, made in the same period as the manuscript, brown, made of calf leather with overprinted dark brown pattern. Spaces between the flat bands are decorated with embossed floral motifs in gilt, typical for the bindings made in the French style from the 17th and 18th century.

History:

Considering the latest date mentioned in the text (*6 de Enero de 1616*), the date which appears in the title (*el año pasado de 1615*) and the watermarks, it might be assumed that the copy was made in the first half of the 17th century, after 6th January 1616. Type of paper and described events, as well as binding with ornaments on the spine made in the French style might prove that the manuscript was made in France. There is no information in the manuscript about the copyist or further owners. Lack of accession number indicates that it reached the Royal Library at Berlin before 1828, when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript contains an account of the ceremony of contracting two Spanish-French marriages and weddings, which took place in Spain and France in 1615: the ceremony of Philip IV and princess Isabel de Borbón, and the ceremony of the king of France Louis XIII with the Spanish Infanta, Anna Mauricia de Asturias. The author describes various details of the ceremony, starting with establishing an appropriate place and an appropriate date of the weddings, and then moving to the preparations for the ritual of passing the bride to the future husband, and the ritual itself, ceremonial arrival of invited guests (including detailed list of those guests) and the ceremony itself (description of the royal retinue, wedding service and wedding reception together with dances, music and musical instruments). The author mentions various religious rites related to the ceremony, e.g. processions and services in honour of the newlyweds, which had been taking place in various Spanish and

French provinces long before the wedding. He also describes the gifts received by the newlyweds, attire of the most important guests, banquets thrown by the representatives of aristocratic families in honour of the newly married couple and festivities, as well as parades organized in various towns. The text also contains written certifications of the witnesses of the ceremony). The author does not emphasise at all the political or economical meaning of the contracted marriages as he rather focuses on the above mentioned aspects.