

ITAL. FOL.135

Binding:

Half binding: leather spine and corners, covers of grey marbled paste paper. On the spine, the title in gold embossed letters. Spine partially torn.

History:

The manuscript was created in Padua, in 1819. Dating and location based on the inscription on p. 90r^o: *Sabbato, Padova li 31 7 1819*. Written by a single copyist, perhaps in a codex prepared for the purpose earlier. It contains a transcript of a visitor's book from Petrarch's house in Arquà, which the copyist perhaps toured. There are no traces of his identity or of the owners of the manuscript before the Berlin Library. Ital.fol.135 was purchased by the Königlische Bibliothek in 1844, from a Berlin bookseller named Röse.

Content:

The manuscript is a transcript of the visitor's book from Petrarch's house in Arquà, where the poet is interred. The inscriptions and poetic pieces it contains, were created by visiting persons. It is a transcript of the oldest book in existence and contains inscriptions from 1788-1810. Currently, the manuscript is in the Biblioteca Civica in Padua, pressmark C.P.Album 1. The transcript was not made from the original album, but from a printed edition, collecting about 90 poetic pieces: epigrams, sonnets, odes and canzonas, as well as many inscriptions from the book ("Il codice d'Arqà", ed. Nicolò Zanon, Padova 1810). The copyist transcribed virtually the entire printed edition, omitting only certain short inscriptions, but altered the text layout completely. He divided it into six parts, grouping the inscriptions according to used motives, e.g. Petrarch as a poet, petrarchan landscapes, etc. Most inscriptions are in Italian, but there are also ones in Latin, French and German. The author of the codex must have visited Petrarch's house, since his work included remarks on the place, absent from the printed edition. Perhaps he was an enthusiast of Petrarch's poetry, or a researcher of Italian literature, gathering materials for his studies.

With reference to the manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 72.