

ITAL.FOL.138

Binding:

Full 19th century binding. Cardboard covered with marbled paper. Smooth spine.

History:

The manuscript consists of five parts written by four different copyists. The first and fifth parts include the end-of-the-17th-century (terminus post quem is 1672, based on the described facts and type of writing). These are 4 letters referring to historical facts concerning rich families from Bologna, Florence and Rome. The originals of the remaining two documents were probably written in the last quarter of the 16th century. Individual documents were written down on the same paper with many watermarks (unidentified) by professional copyists and probably came from the same environment. This part was subject to conservation works before binding the whole, because such works are not observed in other parts. Part two contains copies of three letters concerning the 15th and 16th century events related to the House of Medici and Florence. But judging by the handwriting the copies date back to the end of 17th century or even the 18th century. Part three is a copy of a letter of 1378. This document also refers to the Florentine environment, and the watermark with the House of Medici coat of arms and the cardinal hat point to the circle of this family, particularly to one of the 10 cardinals from the House of Medici. This part is probably the oldest, because the paper is very much yellowed and it is destroyed to the greatest degree, while the stained page 30r^o points to the fact that it remained unbound for a long time. The manuscript bears traces of later spelling corrections and the copyist wasn't probably a professional. Written on a different paper, part four, a copy of a letter, bears the date of 1746 and is not thematically related to the other parts. This letter circulated in leaflet print of 1746. The transcript must have been made after this date. The documents were bound in the first half of the 19th century, which is indicated by the type of paper (Stormont; cf. Ornamented papers, 16; Marbled paper, XXXI) used in the first decades of the 19th century and the fact that it is not the binding of the Königliche Bibliothek so it must have been made prior to 1846. While binding the manuscripts, the governing principle was not the order of their writing or thematic relations, but the format. Smaller pages were placed in the middle. The

manuscript was purchased for the Königliche Bibliothek in 1846 at an auction in Dresden where the collection of Carl Friedrich von Rumohr (1795-1843) was sold.

Content:

Historical and political texts concerning the facts dated from the 14th to the 17th centuries. Part one and parte five (1r^o–19r^o; 196r^o–242r^o) contain histories referring to the 16th and 17th centuries. These are historical and narrative texts or ‘thriller-and-crime’ texts: “Avvertimenti politici dati al Cardinale Lodovisio da Gregorio XV”; “Congiura contro Gino Capponi seguita l’anno 1586”; “Morte della Signora Vittoria Carambona e del Signore Lodovico Orsino”; “Manifesto della Contessa Diana Zambeccari Bolognese, con la morte del Cavaliere Sampieri di S. Giovanni seguita in Bologna il di 6 di Luglio.” The unpublished texts appear in many manuscript miscellanea. Part two (20r^o–29v^o; 116r^o–188r^o) contains documents referring to political facts related to Rome and Florence in the 15th and 16th centuries: “Presa e Confino di Cosimo di Giovanni di Bicci de Medici, Cavata da un’Istorieta di quei tempi Manuscritta dell’Anno 1433”; “Sacco di Roma seguito al tempo di Papa Clemente VII de Medici l’Anno 1527”; “Discorso Di messser Donato Giannotti sopra il riordinare il Governo di Firenze al magnifico Gonfaloniere di Giustizia Niccolo di Piero Capponi.” The first text is unpublished, the second one partially corresponds to Jacopo Buonaparte’s “Ragguaglio storico sul Sacco di Roma dell’anno 1527”, Cologne 1756 (in fact: Lucca); the third one was printed three times. First edition: F. Ildefonso di San Luigi (Benedetto Liborio Frediani) “Delizie degli Eruditi Toscani.” Firenze, Cambiagi 1770-1789, vol. XXIII (1786), pp. 115-165. Part three (30r^o–115r^o): “Lettera scritta a Gino Capponi nella revoluzione di Firenze da Michel di Lando Gonfaloniere de Ciompi l’anno 1378.” This fragment contains three texts two of which were published in print in the 18th and 19th century and contemporarily (“Il tumulto dei Ciompi. Cronache e memorie”, ed. Gino Scaramella, Zanichelli, Bologna 1934). Part four (189r^o–195r^o): a letter concerning the events taking place from the 6th of December 1746, related to the war of the Austrian succession. Author: Gerolamo Curlo. The text was published in 1746 in the leaflet print. Autograph in Biblioteca Universitaria di Pavia.

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