

ITAL. FOL. 145

Binding:

Soft parchment binding from the 18th century, made later than the manuscript, damaged. A part of the title and the catalogue number of the Königliche Bibliothek on the spine.

History:

The manuscript was probably written in Italy at the end of the 17th century or at the beginning of the 18th century. Facts described in the manuscript allow us to determine *terminus post quem* for the year 1688. Two parts making the manuscript were written by the same man on the same paper, but they were made separately, because their initial and final pages are slightly soiled in a characteristic way (1r^o, 190v^o; 191r^o). The whole manuscript was bound in the 18th century. No marks of subsequent owners. The Königliche Bibliothek acquired the manuscript in February 1872 (accession number *Acc. 9765*). Accession books do not inform about the provenance.

Content:

The manuscript consists of two parts:

I. "Silvio et Ascanio Corona. La verità svelata a' principi o vero Successi diversi tragici et amorosi occorsi in Napoli dall'anno 1442 sin all'anno 1688" is a collection of 37 texts of narrative character, concerning love stories of authentic people, never published as a whole, circulating in several dozen copies and variants from the second half of the 17th century until the end of the 18th century. The first version dates probably back to the mid-17th century. Depending on the variant it includes events from 1442/3 until 1720. The variants appear under different, similar but not identical titles. Uncertain identity of authors: Silvio and Ascanio Corona, is most probably a pseudonym. The number of stories fluctuated between 30 and 60, however 36 or 37 of them make a permanent corpus more or less corresponding to the corpus in ital.fol.145. The following manuscripts from the 18th century: MS. 415. Biblioteca Nazionale in Rome; Ms Ottoboniano 2715, Biblioteca Vaticana; MS X.A.33 Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples are similar to Ital. Fol.145 on account of similarity of titles and/or content (cf. A. Borzelli, "Successi Tragici et Amorosi di Silvio et Ascanio Corona", F. Casella fu G. Editore Libraio, Napoli 1908. Bibliographical study and reprint of fragments; DBI).

II. “Istoria di Sigismondo Conte d’Arco” is a text of uncertain authorship. It was published in print as a work by Firmiano Pochini (ca. 1630-1710): ”Novella degli amori del Conte Sigismondo d'Arco con la principessa Claudia d'Insbruch”, Nicopoli, Evasio Folgori 1708, and afterwards in many reprints. In the „Gli amori innocenti di Sigismondo conte d'Arco con la principessa Claudia Felice d'Inspruck”, appresso Andrea Bonducci, Firenze 1765, the text is defined as translation from Spanish, attributed to Lorenzo Magalotti (1637-1712), who often appears as the author in other editions, however his authorship has been ruled out (cf. DBI; A. N. Mancini, “Il romanzo nel Seicento. Saggio di bibliografia”, „Studi secenteschi”, 1971, p. 471).

With reference to the manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 73.