

ITAL.FOL.162

Binding:

Original 17th century parchment binding made in Austria or Germany, which is evidenced by the paper with a German imprint visible inside the binding. Spine with ruled bands; central compartment with the title lettered in ink: *Relatione fatta dal Moro Polit* (?)

History:

The manuscript contains copies of accounts and descriptions concerning the organisation of many Italian and European states in the first decades of the 17th century. The transcript was made as early as the 17th century. Terminus post quem is 1637. The watermarks may indicate that the place of origin was the territory of the Habsburg Empire, as they feature a two-headed eagle with letter K. For similar but not identical watermark, cf. (~Eineder, VIII, 1856, 1858, 17th century, Kempten, Southern Germany, Langenlois, North-East Austria). The parchment binding is probably the first binding of the manuscript. It was made in Austria or Germany, because German language prints were used to complete it. There are visible traces of former owners: on page I r^o there is inscription *Giacomo Guglielmo Barone di Windischgrätz* and rather unclear inscription WA36. The Windischgrätz family came from Bavaria, but was later associated with Austria. If the referred Giacomo Guglielmo is Jacob Wilhelm, died in Leipzig in 1642, the dating of the manuscript could be more precise and the date of the owner's death would be terminus ante quem of its origin; in fact the codex could be made to his commission. The second vital trace of the manuscript's belonging is the old catalogue number *I. 60* visible on the spine. It is the catalogue number of the Starhemberg library. In 1889 the Königliche Bibliothek purchased the library of Count Starhemberg auf Riedegg stored in the last years in Efferding.

Content:

The manuscript contains copies of accounts and descriptions concerning the organisation of many Italian and European states, that is institutions, finances and, in the case of Italy, also the genealogical trees of some princely families. The dates appearing in the text indicate that the originals were written at the end of the 1620s and in the 1630s. Judging by the genealogical trees,

the parts referring to Italian states were written in the years 1635-37. The included documents are as follows: “Relatione di Spagna fatta dal Clarissimo Leonardo Moro Ambasciatore Veneto presso il Rè Cattolico l'anno 1629” – not printed, numerous hand-written transcripts; “Dell'Isola e Regno di Sicilia”; “Del Governo di Napoli” – not printed or hand-written copies were found; “Nota di quello che non si ritrova nell'Istoria di M. Francesco Guicciardini che per qualche buon rispetto non si lascio mettere alla stampa al Libro terzo” – not printed, hand-written copies exist; “Relatione della Corte di Roma” – a kind of summary and compilation of a book on this subject by Gregorio Leti; Dell'Isola e Regno di Sicilia”; „Del Governo di Napoli”; “Relatione dello Stato del Gran Duca diToscana”; “Del Duca di Mantova”; “Del Duca di Savoia”; “Del Ducato di Milano”; “Del Duca di Modena”; “Del Duca di Parma”; “Della Republica di Venetia”; “Del Governo di Genova”; “Di Lucca”; “Della Corte dell'Imperatore Relatione d'un Ambasciadore Veneto” – these are the summaries of ambassadors' accounts that were not printed in this form, no identical manuscripts were found; “Chapitre I, De l'interest des princes et Estats de la Christiennte” – Author: Henri de Rohan, the text came out in print in Paris in the years 1639-1641, “Constitutio Reipublicae Confederati Belgij Urbium Regimen” – printed version was not found; similar manuscript can be found in the Royal Library in Copenhagen.

With reference to the manuscript, cf. Lemm, pp. 76-77.