

ITAL. FOL. 171

Binding:

Marbled leather binding, 18th-century, with gold embossed ornaments.

History:

Based on the watermarks and type of handwriting, as well as dates and information in the first text, it is safe to assume that it was created between 1457 and 1462. The handwriting of the second, parchment manuscript suggests that it was created in the 14th century. They were both probably written in Italy. In the 16th century the texts were not yet parts of a single codex. The parchment text was added between the 16th and 18th century, when the binding was made and renovation was conducted. Two numbers on page IIr^o are traces of belonging to previous collections (the second one is a pressmark of the Biblioteca Mandelliana). The codex probably had many owners before it reached the Berlin Library in 1899.

Content:

I (1r^o- 48v^o; 57r^o-199v^o) CRONACA DI VENEZIA. It describes events in Venice between around 715 and 1446. Considering certain toponymic details and traits of the language in which it was written, the chronicle is probably written by a citizen of the Republic of Venice. A complex thematic structure of the chronicle makes it stand out among others, which usually just registered events in a chronological order. It belongs to the C family of Venetian 15th-century chronicles.

II (49r^o-56v^o) STORIA DI PAPA ALESSANDRO III E FEDERICO BARBAROSSA. The story of a mysterious visit of Pope Alexander III in Venice as a result of a conflict with Frederick Barbarossa, and of Venice's victory over the forces of the Empire (the event later known as the Peace of Venice, 1177). It is based, just as all other versions of this legend, on a Latin prose story by Bonincontro de' Bovi (1317). The legend itself goes back to the 13th century. The story was very popular in the 16th century. A series of prose and verse texts was written. Manuscripts and printed editions can be found in the library of the University of Pennsylvania and in the Archivio Storico Civico e Biblioteca Trivulziana in Milan.

With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 77.