

ITAL. FOL. 51

Binding:

Hard binding made of brown leather decorated with golden embossing. Marbled pastdowns. The first and the last page stained which means that the manuscript was without the binding for a while. Type of decorations and the endpaper indicate the 18th century.

History:

The manuscript was probably written at the beginning of the 18th century, which is indicated by the writing character. The manuscript might have been a copy of a print (published in 1677). It belonged to Quintus Icilius or Charlesa-Théophile Guischartt (Karl-Gottlieb Guischartt, 1724-1775), the favourite and adjutant of Frederick the Great. The above is confirmed by the *Ex Libris Quinti Icili*. Guischartt was born in Magdeburg, in a family of Huguenot refugees. He was the author of such works as : *Mémoires militaires sur le Grecs et les Romains...*, La Haye, Pierre de Hondt, 1758; *Mémoires critiques et historiques sur plusieurs points d'antiquités militaires*, Paris, P.E.G.Durand 1774. After Guischartt's death, in 1780, his book collection (around 5300 volumes), including ital.fol.51, was bought to the royal library. The ital.fol.51 manuscript, could have reached Guischartt's library directly from Italy or via France. There are notes in Italian in ink in the margins, not written by the copyist, perhaps made by the first owner, an Italian, as well as notes in normal and red pencil in French. These might have been made by Guischartt himself who was a French by descent.

Content:

Treaty concerning political science, a commentary to Tacitus. Author: Traiano Boccalini (1556-1613). The text was published in print in: "Commentarii di T. B. Romano sopra Cornelio Tacito", Cosmopoli (Geneva) 1677 and in: "La bilancia politica di tutte le opere di Traiano Boccalini parte prima dove si tratta delle Osservazioni Politiche sopra i sei libri degli Annali di Cornelio Tacito", Castellana per Giovanni Hermano Widerhold 1678. No critical edition. The text in its macrostructure is in conformity with the printed edition. Minor lexical and stylistic differences. It may be a copy of the print.

With reference to the manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 71.

Biographical and bibliographical information cf. DBI.