

ITAL. FOL. 53

Binding:

Original, full hard binding, 17th century. Cardboard covered with parchment. Traces of the title on the spine, old pressmark, rubbed off. Flyleaves of white paper, traces of insects.

History:

The manuscript contains accounts of a journey to the Balkans and Turkey, as well as from a campaign in Hungary in 1663. They were written down by Andreas Hölztl in 1664, as evidenced by the colophon on p. 2 r^o: *fatta per me Andrea Hölztl / l'anno 1664*. The person could not be identified, however. Such dating is confirmed by the watermarks – marks with similar symbols and initials can be found on papers produced in Austria in the 1660s. They suggest Austria, perhaps Vienna, as the location. The last paragraph of the text (p. 129 r^o) may be the evidence of a relation to Vienna: *Per disporre tutte queste cose pare molto necessario di havere persone capaci et esperte in Italia tanto da parte di Sua maestà Cesarea, [emperor Leopold I] come del Re Cat.[toli]co che vadino velocemente*. Both parts of the manuscript were created continuously in the same period. The cover is probably original. No visible traces of ownership before the Königliche Bibliothek. Since the manuscript has no accession number, it probably reached the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828. The accession registers and old catalogues do not list its provenance.

Content:

The manuscript contains a number of accounts and remarks on the fourth Austro-Turkish war fought in 1661-1664. The Habsburgs fought the Turks over influence in Transylvania and attempted to place rulers favourable for Austria on its throne. (5r^o-52v^o) is an account by a person who got through to the Turkish side, met with Ismail Pasha, with whom they held a number of conversations, and with the Grand Vizier himself. The account suggests that the person was an Austrian – perhaps Andreas Hölztl – who pretended to convert to Islam and conducted espionage for the Habsburg court. The spy travels across Turk-occupied territory: from Buda to Constantinople, then visits Burgas and Balkan towns. The account tells of the situation in Turkey, military actions and successive victories of the 1663 campaign (54r^o-95v^o) is a detailed description of Turkish military units and their organization, uniforms and pay. Reports of the numbers of

individual units are also given. (97r^o-129v^o) The second document contains an account of the 1633 campaign in Hungary, including a comparative report on the Turkish and imperial armies and a situation analysis. The author presents 6 maxims serving as the guidelines for Austria's policy: what coalitions to engage in, how to behave in specific conflicts, how to oppose the hegemony of France. The author of the account is surely Andreas Höltzel, mentioned on the title page. However, neither could this person be identified, nor handwritten or printed copies of the abovementioned texts could be found. The Italian used by the author is often awkward, which suggests that the author was not Italian. Nicolae Iorga, in his work "Acte si fragmente cu privire la istoria românilor", I, București 1895, prints fragments of the manuscript which he used in Berlin (pp. 251-260), but does not identify his author. The text was not published in its entirety.

With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm p. 84.