

ITAL. FOL. 54

Binding:

Binding of marbled paper made in Germany in the 19th century. It could have been made in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin, although it is not a typical library binding.

History:

Considering the latest date appearing in the text and characteristic features of the handwriting, it can be assumed that the manuscript dates to the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, probably in Italy. The lack of an accession number suggests that the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin came into possession of the codex before 1828. There are no traces of owners other than the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin.

Content:

The text was written by a diplomat, probably in the service of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. It contains Pedro Antonio de Aragón's (Duke of Segobre and Cardona, Viceroy of Naples in 1666-1671) advice for his successor, Antonio Álvarez Osorio, Marquis of Astorga. The instructions refer to the behaviour in relations with the Papal Court, bishops of churches and ambassadors of other states in the Kingdom of Naples. The text contains a description of the Papal Court in Rome and its social relations. It presents many important personas of the court. Individual chapters describe problems related to court life: *L'esclusiva che danno i Rè ne' Conclavi agli Cardinali essendo Sacchetti sempre escluso della Spagna* (32r^o-32v^o), *Le qualità che deve haver un Cardinale per pervenire al Pont[tifica]o* (32v^o-34r^o), *L'Esclusiva che si danno i Rè ai Cardinali nel Conclave* (34r^o-34v^o), *Il Gioiello trovato nel Gabinetto del Cardinale Mazarino* (34v^o-36v^o). The last instructions describe behaviour which should result in gaining the greatest possible number of countries for the king (probably Francis I, reigning in 1708-1765).

The work was not published. With reference to this Lemm, p. 71.