

ITAL.FOL.57

Binding:

Soft parchment binding from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, damaged. 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> century parchment with Gospel text was used.

History:

The manuscript consists of copies of political texts whose original were made in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Transcript from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The dating is based on hand-writing and watermarks; terminus post quem is 1597 (the latest date appearing in the text). Copies are written in one hand. Original manuscript binding is contemporary to the manuscript and does not bear any owners' markings prior to the Berlin Library. The manuscript was purchased for the Library in January 1832 from L. B. [Liber Baron] Carl von Rumohr auf Schenkenberg (accession number: *cat acc. Ms<sup>torum</sup> 243*).

Content:

The manuscript contains copies of political accounts referring to the manner of state governance and organisation concerning various countries: Switzerland, Sicily, France, Florence and Ferrara. Some of them were made by Venetian ambassadors, while the authorship of others is unknown. The originals were written at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century or at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. I. (1r<sup>o</sup>-175v<sup>o</sup>) "Relatione delle cose de tredici Cantoni de Svizzeri, Grigioni, Vallesani," text by unknown author; partially published in 1601. II. (177r<sup>o</sup>-334v<sup>o</sup>) "Avvertimenti per il Governo del Regno di Sicilia dati da Don Scipione di Castro al Sig.<sup>f</sup> M. Antonio Colonna," part of this text (up to 236r<sup>o</sup>) was written in 1572 by Scipione di Castro and published in 1601 and contemporarily. From 236v<sup>o</sup> to 334v<sup>o</sup> the text is not related to Sicily and is unidentified. III. (337r<sup>o</sup>- 422v<sup>o</sup>) "Relatione del Clar.<sup>mo</sup> Sig.<sup>f</sup> Giovanni Correo ritornato delle sua Legatione di Francia l'Anno MDLXX," Giovanni Correr's account of the mission in France for the Venetian Senate, published in 1888 and reprinted contemporarily. The manuscript lacks the last few pages. IV. (427r<sup>o</sup>-479r<sup>o</sup>) "Relatione della Republica Fiorentina del Sig.<sup>f</sup> Marino Foscari Amb.<sup>f</sup> Veneto," Venetian ambassador Marco Foscari's account of Florence, published in 1786 and contemporarily. The text is incomplete, but the included part roughly corresponds to the latest edition (1980) based on the manuscripts from Archivio di

Stato and Museo Correr in Venice. V. (481r<sup>o</sup>-505v<sup>o</sup>) “Trattato di guerra, et di pace delle cose di Ferrara tra la S.<sup>ta</sup> di N. Sig.re et Don Cesare Estense fatto li 4 Dicembre 1597.” No similar manuscript or print has been found. The unidentified text refers to the political situation in Ferrara after the death of the childless Alfonso II d’Este in 1597.

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