

ITAL.OCT. 1

Binding:

Original soft parchment binding dated 17th century.

History:

The manuscript was written in the first decades of the 17th century. This is indicated by dates written on the margin, e.g. (64r^o) *5 giugno 1615*, (114r^o) *20 luglio 1615*, and the fact that it includes fragments of Italian literary works and geographic and political writings, published towards the end of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century. Together with the dates, place names of Venice, Florence and Siena appear, therefore at least some fragments were written in Italy. On pp. 147-218, there is a sort of an extract from the work “*De particulis linguae latinae*” by Godescalus Stewechius, published in Cologne in 1580, 1598, 1617. The author of the extract (p.147r^o, *epitome studio et diligentia Joannis Joachimi à Rusdorff scripta*), or perhaps of the entire manuscript, is Johann Joachim von Rusdorf (1589-1640), a diplomat with ties to the English court, serving the Palatinate of the Rhine. Rusdorff studied law, history and philological sciences in Heidelberg. After his studies, he left for England in 1613. The first part could have been written during Rusdorff’s journey through Europe in 1613-1616, the second part – later. The whole is written by the same hand, but probably in different periods, as indicated by different shades of ink, page sizes and paper type. The time distance cannot be too great, though, considering a certain thematic consistency of the whole. The parchment binding is probably original 17th-century. On the front pastedown, an old pressmark *F (7): 10*. The same type of pressmark is also found in codexes gall.oct.11, gall.oct.4 and gall.qu.18, therefore they were temporarily a part of the same collection. That could have been the collection of the princes of Wolgast (dedication in gall.qu.18) or of Maximilian Gans Putlitz (note in gall.oct.4). None of the old library catalogues or accession registers gives the provenance of the manuscript. It is only known that it reached the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828, since it bears no accession number.

Content:

(1r^o-142v^o) Collection of proverbs, maxims, adages and fragments of literary texts in Italian

(Cambini, Giovio, Guazzo, Guarini, Bembo, Petrarch and others) with explanations in French, Spanish German and French sentences translated into Italian, probably collected for language practice. The author is a person travelling through Italy. (147r^o-214v^o) A sort of an extract from a work in Latin by Godescalcus Stewechius, 1551-186 (cf. supra). The author of the extract, and perhaps the entire manuscript, is Johann Joachim von Rusdorff (1589-1640), a diplomat with ties to the English court, serving the Palatinate of the Rhine (cf. supra). The text was never published. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm p. 84.