

ITAL.OCT.3

Binding:

Original full hard parchment binding with marbled paper pastedowns (17th-century). Remnants of clasps on edges of covers.

History:

The manuscript was created in 1690, as evidenced by the date on p. 8r^o. An inscription on the same page states that the owner, Karl Hemeling, a student of philosophy and mathematics, received it from his father in 1721: *Hunc Librum dono accepi a Patre meo charissimo 1721. Carolus Hemeling Stud. Phil. & Math.* The name of the owner, watermarks and paper of the binding indicate that the manuscript was created and kept in Germany. The notes on the margin and on p. 260 are of the authorship of later users. The binding was probably created immediately after the creation of the manuscript. On the spine, traces of an old pressmark *TOMUS...* On p. 1r^o, another old pressmark *n^o71* and the number *Z. 8149*. The manuscript belonged to the library of Karl Hartwig Gregor De Meusebach (1781-1847), literature scholar and bibliophile. His collection was purchased in 1849 by the Prussian government and presented in 1850 to the collection of the Berlin Library, as evidenced by the ex-libris of the library on the front pastedown, bearing the note *DONO FRDERICI WILHELMI IV REGIS AUGUSTISSIMI D. V. NOV. MCCCL*** EX BIBLIOTHECA B.M. KAR. HARTW. GREGORII DE MEUSEBACH.*

Content:

On the first 4 pages of the manuscript, allegorical and symbolic representations in the shapes of medallions appear, bearing maxims. The manuscript contains proverbs and sayings in Italian, French, Spanish, Latin and German, ordered thematically. There are 3200 of them. They were gathered into 32 *centuriae*. Some sayings mention authors. They are ancient philosophers, like Aristotle, men of letters (e.g. Ovid, Pliny, Seneca, Plautus, Terence), medieval writers and philosophers (Albert the Great, St. Bernard), humanists (such as Petrarch, Enea Silvio Piccolomini), 16th-century authors (Erasmus, Ariosto, Guicciardini, Julian de Medrano) as well as better and less known 17th-century persons (Anton Francesco Doni, Traiano Boccalini, Johannes Andreas

Piccartus, Corneille, Molière, John Owen) and others. Listing all authors and works is impossible, since there are too many and were noted in abbreviations, often very laconic. Collection made for private use, unpublished.

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