

ITAL. OCT. 4

Binding:

Parchment binding, made in the same period as the manuscript, in a bad state of preservation.

History:

The manuscript was made toward the end of the 17th century (1685-1698) – these dates can be found on the title page. The style of watermarks indicates that it was made in Italy, perhaps in the north.

It was purchased by Königliche Bibliothek in 1872, however, in the acquisition register of this library there is no information concerning the place of origin of this manuscript.

Content:

1r^o-81v^o ESTRATTO DEI SEGRETI MEDICINALI. (Excerpt from medical secrets) is divided into four books. It is a manuscript made by the author of the summary-excerpt on the basis of the print edition of “*Secreti diversi et miracolosi*” ascribed to Gabriele Falloppio. *Secreti* were circulating under the name of Falloppio, although they were not written by him. Recipes from our manuscript are substantially shortened in comparison to the print edition (editions from 1620 and 1640). The differences concern the macrostructure (division into 4 books instead of 3 as it is done in the print version), as well as the microstructure of the work (substantial simplification of the recipes, consistent removal of introductory and descriptive parts, ascription of great significance to the ingredients of the recipes, only partial reconstruction of the original recipes). The following is an example of the simplifying method adopted by the author of the manuscript: in the print edition from 1640 the recipe “Per far dormire uno” is two pages long (65 and 66) and in the ital. oct. 4 manuscript it is only 14 lines long (and it covers only the second part of the print edition). Therefore, this text is an original study of the previous print editions and it was never published in the version from our manuscript. Whereas the editions of *Secreti* had been numerous since 1563: “*Secreti diversi, et miracolosi; ne' quali si mostra la via facile di risanare tutte le infirmita del corpo humano; et etiandio*

s'insegna il modo di fare molte altre cose, che a ciascuno sono veramente necessarie. Raccolti dall'Eccel.mo Gabriel Falloppia; et da varie persone sperimentati”, Venice 1563.