

ITAL.QUART.11

Binding:

Hard cover binding of the Berlin Library, 19th-century. Cardboard covered with brown marbled paper. Supralibros of the Königliche Bibliothek stamped in gold on the front cover.

History:

The manuscript was created between 1811 and 1830. Terminus post quem is the last date found in the text, while the terminus ante quem is the year of purchase for the Königliche Bibliothek. It could have been created in northern Italy, as indicated by paper produced in the Ghigliotti paper mills near Genoa and in Lombardy, but since it contains texts by a Sicilian poet, that is not a decisive argument for this location. The manuscript consists of two parts: a vast collection of pieces, and a single piece, not included in the table of contents and perhaps added only during binding in the library. These parts were written by two different hands, but in a similar period. Ital.quart.11 was purchased together with other manuscripts containing Italian literary works: ital.quart.9, ital.quart.10, ital.quart.12, ital.quart.13 in 1830, from Francesco Valentini, a professor of Italian language and literature in Berlin, author of Italian language textbooks, Italian-German dictionaries and treatises on Italian theatre, published in Germany in the first half of the 19th century. Ital.quart.12 and ital.quart.11, containing Domenico Tempio's pieces, were written by the same hand.

Content:

Dramas, narrative poems and short poems by the Sicilian poet from Catania, Domenico Tempio (1750-1821). The manuscript is not a transcript from print, and might have been created before the first edition. The first edition of his poems appeared quite late: "Operi di Duminicu Tempiu catanisi", t. I-III, Stamparia di li Regi Studi, Catania, 1814-1815; next, after the poet's death "Poesie di Domenico Tempio", T. 1-4, Catania, N. Giannotta 1874. 21 pieces from the manuscript were published in the first edition. In the second edition, 41 pieces from the manuscript are found (some published previously), still another was included in a 1907 edition. It seems, however, that a dozen of poems, usually occasional, was not published in any of the contemporary editions.

With reference to the manuscript, cf. Lemm p. 78.