

ITAL. QUART. 12

Binding:

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

History:

The manuscript was created between 1812 (date from the manuscript) and 1830 (the year of accession to the Königliche Bibliothek collection). Probably made in Italy, perhaps in Sicily, judging by the contents: a drama by a Sicilian writer. Written by two hands. The first hand made a short comment/rough note; the second hand wrote the text of the drama. The manuscript was purchased in 1830 from one Valentini, a teacher of Italian (cf. accession register). This probably refers to Francesco Valentini, a professor of the Italian language and literature from Berlin, author of Italian language textbooks, Italian-German dictionaries and treatises on Italian theatre published in Germany in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Content:

A comic opera „Lu Jaci in pretisa” by Domenico Tempio (1750-1821) written in 1812, a satire on a quarrel between the cities of Acirelae and Catania about a new administrative division of the region. The manuscript and its later reprints suggest that it was published in 1812: *Domenico Tempio, Lu Jaci in pretisa, Bedduvirdi nelli Torchi di/ lu Maniscalcu Reali MDCCCXII*; the ms. would therefore be identical with this print. Later reprints: „Poesie di Domenico Tempio”, vol. 1, Catania, N. Giannotta 1874, p. 65; Domenico Tempio, „Poesie siciliane”, Catania, Libreria Tirelli 1926, p. 28 list Ferrara as the place of printing. A print from 1812 was not found, however, and the available bibliography does not confirm it. Therefore, it could be a literary hoax. The Biblioteca Civica in Catania holds rough copies, autographs of the drama and numerous transcripts of fragments. Ms. Civ. Mss D.303, written by several hands, contains the entire text together with the title page identical with ital.quart.12, and indicates Bedduvirdi (Valverde – a town in the province of Catania) as the place of publication.

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



Supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway  
through the EEA Financial Mechanism and Polish science resources 2008-2011

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