

ITAL. QUART. 14

Binding:

Original 17th century binding made of purple velvet, an attached coat of arms and decorations were removed (during theft or an intentional removal of traces of an owner). Traces of a clasp.

History:

Based on the handwriting of the first copyist and the dates appearing in the text (the last is 17th August 1601) it can be safely assumed that the manuscript was made in the early 17th century. The second copyist added documents with earlier dates, but since he wrote on pages prepared for the first copyist, they cannot be evidence of an earlier making of a given fragment. Considering the above data, it can be assumed that the manuscript was made in Venice (it is an original). Its first owner was Francesco Contarini for whom the text was made. Inscriptions on the pastedowns may be evidence that the manuscript reached a private collection quite early (17th century). However, the letter *F* might denote Contarini himself. No certain information of other owners is available. The manuscript could have remained in Italy until its acquisition from Fincke, a Berlin bookseller (in 1835) by the Berlin Library.

Content:

The text is a set of legal advice from Doge Marino Grimani. It was written at the beginning of the 17th century (between 1601 and 1605 – the last year Grimani was in office). It is divided into 260 paragraphs devoted to financial, economical, administrative, diplomatic, military and legal problems, as well as to questions of Church property.

A large fragment completes the content of the previous collection. It is divided into 4 paragraphs on problems of the prison system. The text is unfinished: page 215v^o has the catchword, succeeded by the table of contents (which does not include the fragment from pages 206r^o-215v^o).

The work was not published. With reference to this Lemm, p. 79.