

## ITAL. QUART. 18

### Binding:

Original binding (250 × 195 mm) in marbled paper over paper boards (marbre escargot, ~Marbled paper, tab. XXIV, 1-18 – 18<sup>th</sup>-century). On the spine, a label with the title. *Toralli, Rime e Prose*.

### History:

The manuscript was created under direct supervision by the author, Vito Niccolò Toralli (his signatures on f. 6v<sup>o</sup> and on f. 183v<sup>o</sup>). The preparation of the manuscript finished in January 1772 (183v<sup>o</sup>: *Napoli, 6 del 1772*). The copy was meant as a gift for Frederick II, King of Prussia. Very interesting drawings by the Dutch landscape artist, Willem Fortuyn (1721-1788), decorating the manuscript. There are no explicit traces of the manuscript reaching the king, but it is indirectly mentioned in *Handschriftenkataloge der Königlichen Bibliothek und Preussischen Statsbibliothek Berlin. Dienstkatalog 8: Codices manuscripti italici ( Mss. Ital.)*, n. 13. Probably the king or his chancery presented the manuscript to the library.

Lemm, p. 79.

### Content:

ff. 2r<sup>o</sup>-189r<sup>o</sup> VITO NICCOLÒ TORALLI: RIME E PROSE PANEGIRICHE IN ONORE DI FEDERICO II RE DI PRUSSIA.

A collection of panegyric sonnets devoted to king Frederick II. The author, Vito Niccolò Toralli of Naples, is further unknown. He sent his work as a gift to the described ruler (he mentions this himself on f. 184r<sup>o</sup>). The work consists of a dedication, an introductory part (7r<sup>o</sup>-9v<sup>o</sup> – 4 sonnets and a panegyric in Latin), a main part (120 numbered panegyric sonnets and “Presepe del Santo Natale” – with commentary in author’s prose) and a closing sonnet (184v<sup>o</sup>) with commentary.