

ITAL. QUART. 20

Binding:

20th-century binding made of red artificial leather, made in the Berlin Library.

History:

The manuscript is dated (f. 93v^o): 10th January 1561 (Venice). The date in the manuscript in fact corresponds to 1562, since in Venice a new year started in March. The manuscript is an original. Its first owner was Francesco Priuli for whom the text was made. The original binding was replaced with a different one, perhaps the current – however the manuscript did not remain unbound for long, as evidenced by the state of preservation of the external pages. The pressmark on the fragment of paper inserted into the codex (not attached) may be evidence of belonging to a different collection. Due to the lack of evident traces of other owners, it is assumed that the manuscript remained in Italy until it was purchased by the Berlin Library from Fincke, a Berlin bookseller, on 19th August 1842.

Content:

The text is a set of legal instructions from Doge Girolamo Priuli to his envoy to the city of Qatar, Francesco Priuli. It regulates questions of his activities. It is divided into 158 paragraphs devoted to relations with Turks, finances (taxation and duties to the metropolis), economy (trade, agriculture, especially fishing and fish trade, transport of goods, cases of smuggling), law: instructions for lawyers in criminal disputes, problems of taxation and tributes, procedures in property claims. Instructions also apply to relations with foreigners (especially Jews): no privileges could be granted to them; military problems were discussed. The procedure of resignation from office of the envoy is also described.

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