

ITAL. QUART. 22

Binding:

Full binding of French type from 18th century. Spine with 5 raised bands. The compartments with elaborately gilt decorations of floral motifs. Pastedown of marbled paper (Marbled Papers, Tav. XXIII, 12 Dutch curled, first half of 18th century).

History:

The manuscript was probably made in the 18th century. The *terminus post quem* is 1699 – the date of publication of G. Leti's work, of which this is a transcript. Such dating is also indicated by the type of binding and the paper used for the pastedowns. Considering its shape, the binding could have been made in France, but this is not a conclusive argument. The text was written by three copyists, but in the same period and with retained continuity. The location of the making of the manuscript is difficult to establish, since the biography of Pope Sixtus was very popular all over Europe and circulated in handwritten transcripts due to Church censorship obstructions. The manuscript was purchased for the Königliche Bibliothek in Frankfurt, in 1846, at the antiquarian bookshop of the famous Baer booksellers: accession number 2357.

Content:

The manuscript contains the biography of Pope Sixtus V by Gregorio Leti (1630-1701), an Italian Protestant. The book, just like the rest of Leti's works, was placed on the „Index Librorum Prohibitorum”. It is an abbreviated transcript, closest to the first edition of 1669 (Gloritio Gree, Lausanne). Subsequent editions: 1686, 1698, 1701, 1721, 1852 are more comprehensive and contain many descriptions and analyses of the organization of the Papal State and the Papacy. The transcript does not preserve the division into 3 volumes. The structure of the print edition is generally maintained, but significant abbreviations were made. In the relatively faithfully copied fragments, lexical and stylistic differences are visible. The whole is much shorter than the print version (making up about 60% of it).

With reference to the manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 80.