

ITAL. QUART. 29

Binding:

A parchment full binding, from 18th century. Damaged. Spine glued from underneath. No pastedowns.

History:

The manuscript was created in 1746, in Rome. This is evidenced by the title page of part II, bearing the inscription *Vita/ di Sisto V./ Tomo. II./ Estratta dalla/ Libreria/ Vaticana/ L'anno 1746*. Therefore, it is a transcript of a print/manuscript held in the Vatican Library at that time. The inscription probably also refers to part I, but the title page of the whole was not preserved: the first page of the signature is missing. Parchment binding, quite damaged; underneath the spine a Latin print from the late 18th century (as the typeface indicates) was glued. The somewhat damaged page 200 indicates that the manuscript remained unbound for some time. The codex was sold in Rome, on 18th April 1827 or 1829 (*comprato a Roma Vendita del 18 apr[ile] 1827[1829?]/ per 80 baj[occhi]* on fol. Iv^o). In the manuscript, a loose piece of paper was found, bearing the note *Vetrani al Pincio/ N[umer]o 35* in ink, made on paper with a watermark similar to the one in the first fascicle. The note could refer to a bookseller/antiquarian from the Pincio district of Rome. The codex was probably purchased for the library of brothers Christian and Clemens Brentano, since it reached the Königliche Bibliothek in 1853, via the auction of the Brentano library held in Cologne by J.M. Haberle.

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 retain the division into 3 volumes; it is divided into 2 volumes and significantly abbreviated. It preserves the general structure of Leti's work but is a type of abridgement; many

fragments were omitted. The whole is much shorter than the print version (making up about 30 % of it). The manuscript, as well as ital. quart. 29, are the reasons for the popularity of Leti's work, whose propagation was hindered by Church censorship.

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