ITAL. QUART. 33

Binding:

Binding from the 19th century (220 × 150 mm): half-binding covered in marbled paper (~Devauchelle, II, Tab. XLVI, 2 – papier d'Annonay, circa 1810-1840). On the spine a title embossed in gold letters: *Libro del Nascimento de Ale.r.M.*. Superexlibris of the Königliche Bibliothek.

History:

Dating on the basis of the writing and the minatures (42 minatures on 16 pages). (1r[o]) *Questo foglio è di Dom Londi di Brani*. According to Hilka this means that the manuscript did not have any binding when the above words were being written. The codex once belonged to the Biblioteca Riccardiana (Florence), where it was a part of the codex 1222, cfr. G. Grion, "I nobili fatti di Alessandro Magno", Bologna 1872 p. CLXXI. Hilka (cfr. A. Hilka, "Die Berliner Bruchstücke der ältesten italienischen Historia de preliis", p. 234) was wondering how the codex reached Berlin from Florence, but was unable to find the answer. On account of the fact that the codex was bought by the Königliche Bibliothek with inheritance from Friedrich von der Hagen (1780-1856), we can assume that it was von der Hagen who brought the manuscript from Florence (in 1816/1817). Accession number: *4727*. (1r[o]) catalogue number on the top: *Ms. ital. 4° No 33*, accession number on the bottom: *(4727)*; (1r[o], 16v[o]) stamp of the Königliche Bibliothek. (IIr[o]) a slip of paper, (75 ×19 mm) with information on Alexander's history text in the Qualichino d'Arezzo version (from the Biblioteca Heberiana), which, however, has nothing to do with the manuscript ital. quart. 33 (another manuscript and another text).

Lemm, p. 80; A. Hilka, "Die Berliner Bruchstücke der ältesteen italienischen Historia de preliis", in "Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie", 41 (1921), pp. 237-251.

Content:

ff. 1r°-16v° Historia de preliis, (History of Alexander), Italian fragments. Contains fragments of *Historia de preliis*, a series of adventures of Alexander the Great, popular from the antiquity to the Middle Ages. It combines historical and legendary events. According to the confirmed Vandelli's identification, the version in the manuscript is an old translation of the text of "Historia de preliis"(Pseudo-Callisthenes) into Italian. Edition of the manuscript text ital.quart.33 in A. Hilka, "Die Berliner Bruchstücke der ältesteen italienischen Historia de preliis", in "Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie", 41 (1921), pp. 237-251). Hilka reconstructed the proper order of pages which were bound in incorrect sequence. Hilka's proposal: (p. 236): I = f. 2; II = f. 1; III. = ff. 14 +15; IV = ff. 13 +4 + 5; V = ff. 10 + 11+ 16; VI = ff. 3 + 6 + 7; VII =ff. 8 +9 + 12. In Hilka's edition the beginning and the end of these fragments goes as follows: "... (fol. 2r) in sé tre cerchi: 10 prima contenea in sé .XII. intendimenti, 10 secondo .XII. animali, nel terço apparea lo sole e la luna, e per queste cose aperse la cantera dell'avolio e di quella uscirono sette splendienti stelle manifestante l'ora e la natività degl'uomini e .VII. pietre intagliate: le due erano ordinate a guardia degl'uomini". ...-... "...(fol. 12v) ... Et incontanente ke Allexandro udio mentovare lo nome suo, incontanente fue turbato e la faccia sua ismorta. Disse la reina: 'A cciò ke ttu ci vengni, ti dirò, Allexandro.' Et queste cose dicendo preselo per la mano e menollo in un altro letto e mostroli... (richiamo: la figura)." A general study of Italian versions of the story of Alexander the Great: J. Storost, "Studien zur Alexandersage in der älteren italienischen Literatur", Halle 1935. J. A. Ross wrote a critical study including an analysis of the miniatures in our manuscript, the study is entitled "Alexander Historiatus: a Guide to Medieval Illustrated Alexander Literature", London 1963, p. 62.