

ITAL.QUART.35

Binding:

Original hard binding in leather, 18th-century with modest gilt ruled ornamental floral motifs on board edges and on the spine.. Pastedowns of marbled paper.

History:

The manuscript was created after 1770, that is after the publication of Algarotti's biography by D. Michelessi. Dating based on the marbled paper used for the binding points to years 1780-1800. The place of making of the manuscript could be Germany or France, where this type of paper was used (Marbled Papers, XXIV, 22; Turkish pattern). However, the French and the type of binding could be indicative of France, paper bearing similar watermarks was used at the end of the 18th century in Northern Italy (~Eineder, 1666). The manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in 1872 (accession number: *Acc 9766*), but no information about its provenance was available. No traces of previous owners.

Content:

It is a French translation of Francesco Algarotti's (1712-1764) biography: D. Michelessi, „Memorie intorno alla vita ed agli scritti del conte Francesco Algarotti”, Venice, Giambatista Pasquali, 1770. A French version, published in print, also exists: „Mémoires concernant la vie et les écrits du comte François Algarotti”, translated by Giovanni Francesco Salvemini de Castillon (1708-1791), J.Decker, Berlin 1772. A comparative analysis of the text with ital.quart.35, as well as the original and Castillon's translation showed that the manuscript does not contain Castillon's version. It is, however a faithful translation, preserving the integrity of the original text, together with an anonymous ode to Algarotti placed at the end of the Italian and French edition. The author of the translation is unidentified. No information on other transcripts available. No printed edition.

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