

ITAL. QUART. 3

Binding:

Original, Venetian, 16th-century binding, made of gold-decorated dark red leather. Traces of a clasp.

History:

Based on the handwriting and dates appearing in the text (the last of them being 31st August 1580), it can be assumed that the manuscript was created towards the end of the 16th century, most likely in the beginning of the 1580s (Nicolò Da Ponte was the Doge until 1581). For the same reasons (the text is an original) and taking into consideration the type of binding, it can be assumed that the manuscript was made in Venice. The first owner was certainly Orcato Memo, for whom the text was prepared and whose coat of arms appears on f. 1v^o. No information on other owners of the codex is available. The lack of an accession number suggests that the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin came into possession of the codex before 1828.

Content:

The text is a collection of legal instructions from Doge Nicolò Da Ponte to his envoy, applying to various situations connected with his activities. It is divided into 128 paragraphs devoted to finances (remuneration and duties of subordinates), economy (salt trade, sea transport, agriculture), administration (selection of officials, etc.) and law: proceedings in case of illegal trading in salt and other goods, procedures applying to passing through the Duchy of Pola, instructions for lawyers in criminal disputes, recommended penalties for various types of offences and misdemeanours, problems of taxation and tributes. The instructions also apply to diplomatic activities of the duchy and the relations with inhabitants of other nationalities (e.g. Jews), as well as military problems.

The work was not published. With reference to this Lemm, p. 78.



Supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
through the EEA Financial Mechanism and Polish science resources 2008-2011
