

ITAL. QUART. 41

Binding:

Binding from mid-19th century, made in the Berlin Library. Spine made of brown leather, covers of marbled paper.

History:

The manuscript is dated (f. 177r^o): 29th December 1736 (Venice). The making of the manuscript in Venice is confirmed by a correction of the indiction by the date from XIV to XV, that is to the Greek one used in Venice. Considering the state of preservation of the initial and final pages (significantly more darkened than the rest), the manuscript must have remained unbound for a long time – perhaps the binding was destroyed and was not replaced immediately. The first owner was surely the addressee of the collection: Polo Querini. The person in question, however, is not the Procurator of San Marco from the Republic of Venice (he lived one hundred years earlier). The only sure trace of successive owners is the inscription on f. Ir^o, confirmed by a note in the accession catalogue of the Berlin Library: the manuscript was the property of Ms. Wiener, an inhabitant of Berlin, from whom it was purchased by the Königlische Bibliothek on 28th February 1882.

Content:

The text is a collection of legal advice, written down on the order of Doge Alvise Pisani in 1736 and addressed to his envoy to Bergamo, Paolo Quirini. The document regulates various areas of public life. It is divided into 153 paragraphs, devoted to economy, law (instructions for lawyers in criminal disputes, recommended penalties for various offences and misdemeanours), problems of taxation and tributes and the obedience to the rulers. The proceedings dealing with debtors, confiscation of property and other problems of ownership. Military questions are also discussed, as well as privileges and limitations connected with the function of the Podestà of Bergamo. The instructions also regulate the resignation procedure. The work was not published. With reference to this Lemm, p. 80.

