

ITAL.QUART.43

Binding:

19th-century hard grey cardboard binding. Owners' ex libris on the pastedowns.

History:

The manuscript was created in Italy – probably in Turin – in the first half of the 19th century. Location and dating of the manuscript based on watermarks - Avondo paper-mill, active in Serravalle (Piedmont) from 1787 – and dates in the text. Terminus post quem: 1823. Texts (transcripts of Francesco Napione's works) are written by two hands. Binding original, contemporary to the manuscript. The manuscript belonged to Bononi Friedlaender, a Berlin numismatist of Jewish descent (1773-1858), as evidenced by his ex libris on the front pastedown. After his death, the manuscript was passed on to his younger son, Julius Friedlaender (1813-1884), who became the director of the Berlin Münzkabinett in 1861. On the back pastedown, Julius's ex libris with the maxim ANIMUM REGE and the initials JF. After Julius's death in 1884, the manuscript was passed on to the Berlin Königliche Bibliothek, as stated in the inscription on 1r^o *Erworben aus dem Nachlass des Directors des K. Münzcabinets Dr. Julius Friedlaender in Mai 1884* and the entry in the accession register Acc. Cat. der Drucke No. 260.867. The Friedlaenders were probably not the first owners of the manuscript, as evidenced by notes in Italian made by a hand different than that of the copyist. Julius Friedlaender could have purchased the manuscript for his father during his trip to Italy in 1838, 1839, or a longer stay in 1844-47.

Content:

They are 7 treatises on numismatics by Gian Francesco Napione (1748-1830), a historian and writer, great erudite with ties to the Savoy court. He published many works on history, economy, political science and literature. He also translated Latin authors. The writings in the manuscript were never published. It is probably a copy with commentary. Some works are unfinished.

With reference to the manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 81.