

ITAL. QUART. 44

Binding:

Binding from the 19th century (283 × 210 mm), covered with brown marbled paper, made in the Königliche Bibliothek (cf. super ex-libris). On the spine there is a label saying : *Desiderj, Descr. di / Cascimir. 1737.*

History:

The date (1826) and place (Rome) of writing are clearly marked –a dated letter to Ritter includes information (3r^o) that it concerns a copy of *Handschrift der Bibliothek des Jesuitenhauses in Rom*. The copy (second codicological unit) was made at the order of Karl Ritter, a well-known German geographer. The rewritten text is a description of a Jesuit Ippolito Desideri's journey to Tibet. Ritter ordered the copy for research needs - he worked on his great geographical work depicting lands around the world. After Ritter's death his library was purchased by the Königliche Bibliothek through the agency of a bookseller, T. O. Weigel from Leipzig - cf. (Ir^o): *Aus dem im Januar 1867 erworbenen Nachlass Karl Ritters* ('Acquired from Karl Ritter's legacy in January 1867'); (3r^o) accession number: *acc. 9362*.

Lemm, p. 81.

Content:

I

ff. 1r^o-2v^o LETTER TO KARL RITTER FROM 1826, in German.

II

ff. 3r^o-6r^o IPPOLITO DESIDERI: NOTIZIE ISTORICHE DEL THIBET - FRAMMENTO "DESCRIZIONE DI CASCIMIR". (AN ACCOUNT OF TIBET - FRAGMENT "DESCRIPTION OF KASHMIR). A copy of a nineteenth-century manuscript kept in a Jesuit monastery in Rome (currently in the Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (catalogue number Goa 71 or Goa 72). Description of the text of Desideri in C. Wessels, "Early Jesuit travellers in Central Asia 1603-1721", Hague, 1924 and in E.G. Bargiacchi, "Ippolito Desideri S.J. Opere e bibliografia", Roma, 2007. Italian edition of the text: L. Petech (ed.), "I missionari italiani nel Tibet e nel Nepal", Roma, 1952-1956 (volumes V, VI, VII).

English translation: F. De Filippi, “An Account of Tibet: The Travels of Ippolito Desideri of Pistoia, S.J. 1712-1727” (Introduction of C. Wessels), London, 1932. The text of the manuscript referred to by Ritter in the work “Asien”, vol. II, p. 434.