

ITAL. QUART. 4

Binding:

Original hard cover binding in leather, damaged, dated back to 18th century. Supralibros of Friedrich Hohenzollern, Elector of Brandenburg and king of Prussia stamped in gold on both covers. Pastedowns of marbled paper.

History:

The manuscript was probably made before 1701. It is evidenced by a dedication for Federick, Elector of Brandenburg, that is Friedrich III Hohenzollern (1657-1713). Friedrich was crowned King of Prussia in 1701. However, the manuscript could be a copy of an earlier original, in which case it should be dated to the half of the 18th century, like the binding. The manuscript has no accession number and bears Friedrich's ex-libris on the cover, which suggests that it might have belonged to the collection of the Prussian Library from the beginning, and was created in court circles. The usage of French arguments – used in the Prussian court – in an Italian text also hints at this. It could have also been created in Italy, e.g. in Turin, where the author temporarily resided and where French was also used, and presented to Friedrich. It is not included in the old library catalogue from the early 18th century, which, however, does not prove anything, since no uniform catalogue existed then.

Content:

Libretto in 3 acts, argument and actors in French, text in Italian. A typical musical comedy about love adventures: a wealthy peasant wants to give the hand of his daughter, Fillis, to the heir of a great fortune named Cloco. But the girl loves Lidio, the younger brother of the candidate chosen for marriage by her father, who will inherit nothing. The clever Lidio wins his brother's fiancée and causes Cloco, who does not love Fillis and only wants her fortune, ends up without a girl and without money. The author is Pietro d'Averara of Bergamo, active between the 1680s and 1720s. He wrote about 40 librettos, of which about 20 survived in print. However, few details of his biography are known. He worked with popular composers, such as: G. M. Buini, A. F. Martinengo, F. Ballarotti, C. F. Pollaroli, P. Magni or F. Gasparini. The libretto was written before 1701. However,

bibliographies do not list a libretto of this title (cf. C. Sartori, „Libretti italiani a stampa dalle origini al 1800. Catalogo analitico con 16 indici”, Bertola Locatelli 1990). Probably unprinted.

With reference to the manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 78.