

ITAL. QUART. 58

Binding:

Binding contemporary with the manuscript (18<sup>th</sup> century) of the French type (Cf. Devauchelle, II, tav. XI): hard, elegant, covered in paper of mosaic ornament, floral motifs in red and gold.

History:

The manuscript was written around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century in Vienna. The dating and localisation were established on the basis of watermarks: Lorenz Häberl's paper mill operating in Garsten in the Steyr region of Upper Austria in 1729-1750. (Eineder, Labarre, *The ancient paper-mills*, v. VIII, no. 320.) as well as actors performing in the play. These include people connected with the environment of the Viennese court around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century: **Maria Gabriella Colloredo di Stahremberg** (1707-1797) wife of count **Rodolfo di Colloredo** (1706-1788), **Francesco Desvalls markiz Del Poal**, a Spaniard living in Vienna and having relations with the Habsburg court, a confidante of countess Marianna d'Althann, a friend of Metastasio and others. The catalogue number on the front cover: *No: 8* is a mark of an unidentified owner, perhaps Doctor Wenzel. Since the manuscript reached the Königliche Universitäts Bibliothek zu Berlin (catalogue number *312*) from the legacy of a Doctor of Law C.G.Wenzel in 1882; and was handed over to the Königliche Bibliothek in 1893 (accession number: *acc. 1893.137*).

Content:

Opera libretto in three acts, untypical structure: a prose work, few arias. The libretto is based on Boccaccio's short story "Il falcone" (Dec., V, 9). No print of the text was found in the opera librettos' bibliographies (cf. C. Sartori, "Libretti italiani a stampa dalle origini al 1800. Catalogo analitico con 16 indici", Bertola Locatelli 1990. Perhaps the text was written for the Viennese court or some aristocratic salon (e.g. countess Stahremberg's). The list of actors includes figures from the world of policy and culture, connected with the environment of the Viennese court around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The text probably unpublished.

With reference to the manuscript: cf. Lemm, p. 82.

