

ITAL. QUART. 68

Binding:

Binding from the second half of the 19th century, separated from the manuscript, the whole in a cardboard box. Covers of pseudo-marbled paper, ribbons for tying on three sides. Probably made in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin.

History:

Based on the type of writing, dates in the text and other data (the figures of Popes Clement XIII and Alexander VIII), it can be assumed that the manuscript was created in the 18th century. Since the documents are thematically linked and the opening printed text was published in Rome in 1718, it is assumed that the whole was created in Italy, in circles tied to the Catholic Church. The texts were a collection very early (perhaps already in the 18th century). This is evidenced by comments from that period in various texts of the collection. There is no data on the owners of the codex, up to the point of purchase by the Royal Library in Berlin - 21st September 1893 – from Francesco Casella of Naples. Up to this point, the codex probably remained in Italy, perhaps in circles tied to the Congregazione Veneta dei Monaci di S. Lazzaro degli Armeni.

Content:

In its present form, the codex is a collection of documents, to a large extent copied by a single copyist. It consists of 18 codicological units. The majority of texts refers to Congregazione Veneta dei Monaci di S. Lazzaro: accusations against its founder, Mekhitar, as well as testimonies and arguments in defence of his order. Various versions of the monastic rule and correspondence with members of the Sacra Congregazione di Propaganda Fide, whose remarks are inserted in the text of the rule, are also found. There are also reflections on the usefulness of translations of the Holy Bible into vernacular languages and a translation of the Gospel according to John into Italian.

No editions of handwritten texts were found. Versions of the monastic rule may be stored at the seat of Congregazione Mechitarista Armena in Venice. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 82.