

MS. GALL. QUART. 8

Binding:

Binding made of red leather, very richly ornamented, in the French style, probably made in the same period as the manuscript.

History:

The manuscript was made in the years 1740-1786: the year 1740 is mentioned next to the name of Frederick William (195v^o) [= Frederick William I, king of Prussia 1713-1740]; Frederick II the Great (ibidem), who died in 1786, is also mentioned, yet the date of his death was not given. Writing of this manuscript is also characteristic for the 18th century. The French origin of the manuscript seems to be confirmed by the French style of the binding. It is a compilation made by an anonymous author, probably for his own use, and therefore it might be assumed that this is an original manuscript. On the other hand, considering the luxurious character of the binding, it is possible that the manuscript was made not by the author, but someone else. Also in this case, for an experienced bibliophile, it would still be just a regular copy. The manuscript was incorporated in Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

This is a work of an anonymous Catholic author. It is divided into particular centuries and each century is accompanied by a chronological table. The history begins in the first century of Christianity and it ends in 1700. On fol. 195v^o there is a *Suite des princes contemporains*, among whom there are the kings of Prussia. Chronological abbreviations of the ecclesiastical history (Fr. *Abrégés chronologiques de l'histoire ecclésiastique*) published in print were numerous in that period, however, among those which have been compared with the present manuscript, there is no work which would be its equivalent. Perhaps it is an unpublished original work, result of the author's personal research, or it is a paraphrase of a well-known published work, the author of which was an anonymous enthusiast of history. Other manuscripts of this work have not been found. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 15.