

GALL. FOL. 144

Binding:

Paper binding, not original, typical of the Royal Library (pièce de titre is made of yellow paper with the title written in black ink; au centre du plat there is the embossed in gild ex-libris of the Royal Library at Berlin). Previously the manuscript had probably remained unbound.

History:

This Voltaire's tragedy, one of the two last tragedies of this author, was written in 1777 (Voltaire sent it to his friend and patron - d'Argental on the 15th of August 1777); hence this date is the terminus post quem of the manuscript. The manuscript is not an autograph; it does not contain any information or evidence which would enable us to identify the author of the copy and/or its first owner. It is not known how the manuscript reached the Royal Library. Lack of accession number indicates that it belonged to the Royal Library before 1828, which is the year when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

Two sons of Agatocle, tyrant of Syracuse, fight for a captive Carthaginian woman; Agatocle passes the crown of Syracuse to the noblest one – Argide. This is a poor play, which was admitted by the author himself. Critical editions: Kehl, Moland, *Voltaire intégral*; the Cracow manuscript differs from them by the details of not great importance (punctuation, capital and small letters). With reference to the text cf. R. Pomeau (ed.), *Voltaire en son temps*, Fayard/Voltaire Foundation, 1995, vol. II, p. 536; *Voltaire intégral*, Théâtre, vol. VI, avertissements et notice bibliographique, <http://www.voltaire-integral.com>. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm: p. 8.