

MS. GALL. QUART. 148

Notes sur le masque de fer

Binding:

Half binding; the spine made of red leather, veneers made of marbled paper; the binding is probably original, made in Poznań.

History:

Information concerning the place and time of origin and name of the copyist can be found in the colophone on the fol. 25v^o, written by the hand of the copyist: *Wörtliche Copie der Handschrift (II. P. b. 24) der Raczyńskischen Bibliothek in Posen. / L Kurtzmann / d. 3. 3. 84.* This means that L. Kurtzmann completed the making of the copy of the text on the 3rd of March 1884. Certainly he made it for his own use, in order to include it in his collection: cf. the stamp containing his name which can be found on the page 1r^o. The copy was made on the basis of the manuscript from the Raczyński Library (Biblioteka Raczyńskich) with the pressmark *II. P. b. 24*. Kurtzmann was the co-author of the catalogue of the Raczyński Library: «Katalog der Raczyńskischen bibliothek in Posen», bearbeitet von M. E. Sosnowski und L. Kurtzmann, Band I, Posen, 1885. The manuscript was included in the accession register of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin on the 15th of February 1921 as a gift from doctor A. Meyer from Wiesbaden, sent through the Landesbibliothek Nassau.

Content:

The text was written after 1751. It presents the legend of the man in the iron mask and the way it was created. In this case we deal with the style of an author who had a literary talent. The author reminds of his predecessors who wrote about this subject. Contrary to what the title says, the text does not contain notes as such, but it is a kind of memorial. The author quotes the sources which he used. It is a kind of summary of everything which had been previously said about the man in the iron mask. The manuscript is the codex descriptus and

therefore it does not represent any textological value. Sometimes it seems that the copyist did not really understand the text which he was rewriting.