

MS. GALL. OCT. 23

Binding:

Binding made of morocco leather, richly gilded, original, of a high bibliophilic value.

History:

The title page (fol. IVr^o) informs us that this is an original manuscript written by the hand of an Author. It was probably made in the second half of 1757. The place of origin is not certain. It was probably intended for the wife of Frederick the Great, Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel: cf. the gilded heraldic shield on the binding. The fact that the manuscript was intended for the wife of Frederick the Great explains why it reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin so late – Elizabeth and Frederick had lived in separation since 1740. The manuscript entered the accession register of the Königliche Bibliothek on 23rd February 1872 under number 9762.

Content:

The text is a praise of Frederick the Great. Its author is Ramier de la Raudière, of whom not much is known: he was a Protestant, was born in Germany, lived in Tournai, and shot himself in 1784 in Aix-la-Chapelle. The text was published in print for the first time in 1756, in the « Ulissipeade » collection. However, considering the fact that in the manuscript, in three notes at the bottom of a page written by the hand of the text, which means by the author's hand, there are references to three battles which took place during the Seven Years' War: the Battle of Prague (6th May 1757), the Battle of Kolin (18th June 1757) and the Battle of Hastenbeck (26 July 1757), and so in this case we are dealing with a new state of the text and therefore the value of the manuscript exceeds the value of the print edition from 1756. The next edition was published in Holland in 1760, in the same collection containing various works of Ramier de la Raudière, but under a different title: « La Lyre Protestante ». However, this edition was not intended for sale: the author signed all the copies and gave them to some great personalities. Therefore it is difficult to compare it with the manuscript. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 23.