

MS. GALL. QUART. 21

Binding:

Binding made of brown leather, slightly damaged, with gildings, in the French style, original.

History:

Exactly the same binding as in the gall. quart. 22-24 manuscripts. All four manuscripts discuss the matters of the Kingdom of France in the 1740's, with certain exceptions in the described manuscript. Therefore they are linked through their bindings and content. Copies included in this manuscript were made between 1739 and 1754 in France. On the outside front part of the binding there is a visible gilded super ex-libris in form of a heraldic shield, containing many elements: there is an eagle and a crown at the top. This means that the first owner belonged to the royal family. On the outside back part of the binding there are initials which can be deciphered as *MA* or *JA* – unidentified; above them there is a crown. It refers to the initials of the first owner. The copyist was the first one who at the same time rewrote the gall. quart. 22 manuscript. The manuscript was incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828. Considering the closeness of pressmarks of the gall. quart. 21-24 manuscripts, all four were incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek at the same time, directly from the first collection to which they belonged.

Content:

The manuscript contains texts, the subject of which refers to the finances of the Kingdom of France in the years 1688-1750. Other manuscripts conveying the same texts have not been found. The following two texts are an exception: *Observations et réflexions critiques et politiques sur les affaires des finances, en l'année 1750* (fol. 139r^o-223r^o) – cf. manuscript 899, Library of Trinity College in Dublin and manuscript 580 of the National Archives of the Netherlands; *Arrangemens des Milices du Roiaume, es années 1737, 1748 et 1750* (fol. 225r^o-244v^o) – cf. manuscript 905, Library of Trinity College in Dublin and manuscript 584 of the National Archives of the Netherlands. It is a very interesting collection for the historians working on the period of reign of Louis XV. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p.

16, and Krzysztof Kotuła, « Finances of the Kingdom of France in four Manuscripts of the Berlin collection », in « Fibula » 1/2008 (1), pp. 30-35.