

MS. GALL. OCT. 19

Binding:

Original binding made of red leather, with gildings, of a very good quality compared to the bindings of modern French manuscripts in this collection.

History:

The manuscript was made in France in 1816. Its first owner was Etienne Méjan (1766-1846), a famous French bibliophile, and then Frederick William IV (1795-1861): *DONUM / FRIDERICI WILHELMI IV. / REGIS AUGUSTISSIMI / DIE 15. SEPT. 1847. / EX BIBLIOTHECA STEPH. MEJAN / COMITIS*. Frederick William bought Etienne Méjan's collection in 1847, after his death, and he immediately gave it to the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. The same ex-libris is in the ital. quart. 24 manuscript.

Content:

The text is anonymous: only initials can be found in the manuscript, which probably belong to the translator: *CH. P****. The manuscript conveys a biography of Eugene de Beauharnais (1781-1824), who, as a son of Josephine, was an adoptive son of Napoleon Bonaparte. The history of his life is divided into sixteen chapters: birth, the most significant events, quiet period in Munich after the Congress of Vienna. The French translation was made just after the original in German had been written. This edition has not been found; the text was probably not published as this little work is not quoted in the biographical note devoted to Eugene de Beauharnais which was published just after his death in « *Annuaire nécrologique, ou complément annuel et continuation de toutes les biographies, ou dictionnaires historiques ; contenant la vie de tous les hommes remarquables par leurs actes ou leurs productions, morts dans le cours de chaque année, à commencer de 1820 – orné de portraits* », rédigé et publié par A. Mahul, année 1824, Paris 1925 (with reference to the bibliography referring to Prince Eugene cf. pp. 42^b-43^a). The manuscript under analysis is a copy. Other manuscripts have not been found.