

gall. quart. 156

#### Binding:

Half-binding made of brown fabric. Covering of marbled paper. Pastedowns and flyleaves of white paper. The binding does not possess any elements allowing its precise dating, but seems to be original. Its state of preservation is very good.

#### History:

The manuscript is an autograph, which is proved by the signatures of Florencio de Basaldúa on fols. 3r<sup>o</sup> and 175r<sup>o</sup>. The date and location of the manuscript is possible thanks to a note on fol. 175r<sup>o</sup>: *Calcutta. 25 mai 1910*. Under the dedication on the same page, there is the date *Calcutta, le 2 de Mars 1911*. Therefore, the text was originally written – probably by the hand of a secretary – before it was decided to offer it as a gift. This explains the careless workmanship, unusual with books offered as gifts: it is all written on ruled paper of poor quality, the handwriting is moderately careful handwriting and part of the text is written in pencil, as if the author planned to introduce corrections to the text at a later time. The manuscript was dedicated to the ruler, whom Florencio de Basaldúa addresses as *Altesse Impériale*. This is probably Wilhelm II, the last German Emperor and King of Prussia from 1888 to 1918. The accession register of the Preußische Staatsbibliothek holds the information that the manuscript was presented to the library by the heir to the throne. This is probably Wilhelm of Prussia, also known as the *Kronprinz* (1882-1951), the last heir to the throne of the German Empire. The manuscript reached the Preußische Staatsbibliothek in 1925.

#### Content:

The manuscript contains the text authored by Florencio de Basaldúa, the Argentinian consul general in Kolkata, entitled *Mémoire sur la race rouge dans la préhistoire universelle*. The text was published for the first and only time in 1911, in Calcutta. Interestingly, at the same time a Spanish version of the text (entitled *Memória sobre la raza roja en la prehistoria universal*) and an English one (entitled *Memoir on the Red Race in*

*Universal Prehistory*) was published in print. It is possible that ms. gall. quart. 156 served as the basis for the French edition. Unfortunately, it could not be established. Printed copies of this work are extraordinarily rare and a collation with our manuscript proved to be impossible.