

gall. quart. 127

Binding:

Binding made of brown leather, the spine is rich in gilded ornaments, pastedowns and flyleaves made of marbled paper.

History:

This manuscript is the fifth out of six volumes of the collection of songs (the remaining ones are mss. gall. quart 123-126 and 128). Considering the date, which appears on the third volume of the collection (1725), the period of using marbled paper, which the flyleaves and pastedowns are made of, and characteristic features of writing, the manuscript was made in the second quarter of the 18th century. All the volumes were copied by the same hand and have identical binding; it might be assumed that they were made in France. The manuscripts come from the collection of Thomas Phillipps, a famous bibliophile (1792-1872). In 1902 the manuscripts were sold by the Sotheby's auction house and bought by Karl von Hiersemann, an antiquarian from Leipzig. In 1904 von Hiersemann sold them to the Board of Directors of Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin, the proof of which is the accession number on f. Iv^o gall. quart. 123: acc. Ms. 1904. 129.

Content:

The gall. quart. 123-128 manuscripts are a collection of around 1100 political and satirical songs which were written between 1580 and 1721; the whole collection is called *Recueil de chansons choisies en vaudevilles pour servir à l'histoire anecdotique*. Research conducted by Claude Grasland and Annette Keilhauer enabled to find that there are many collections with the same title. However, these researchers concentrated only on the manuscripts, in which the pieces are organized in chronological order. But there are also rare copies, in which the songs are organized according to the melody; mss. gall. quart. 123-128 belong to this group. Research in Bibliothèque nationale de France enabled to find a group of manuscripts (mss. fr. 9347-9350), which are extremely close to the Cracow copies, as far as their content and method of presentation of the text is concerned. Texts of songs, majority of which remains

unpublished, are a very interesting source of information about the mind of people of the period in which those texts were written. With reference to these manuscripts cf. Lemm, p. 21.