

MS. GALL. QUART. 18

Claude Dupuys

Binding:

Binding made of pigskin, with rich ornaments in the 16th-century style including for instance the figures of saints and King David. The binding is original and was made in Wolgast (Wologoszcz).

History:

On the page 7r^o-v^o, there is the dedication (written by the hand of the text) in which we can read, for instance: *A treshault seigneur et prince, monseigneur Ernest Loÿs, duc de Pomeranie etz* [signed by:] *Vostre treshumble et tresobeÿssa[n]t serviteur Claude Dupuys parisien*. The manuscript containing the collection of proverbs was made for Ernst Ludwig (1545-1592), the duke of Wolgast. With reference to this dating and location, cf. fol. 8r^o: *ce dixiesme de septembre, l'an 1568, à Volgast*. It is the original manuscript, made by Claude Dupuys. It was registered in the old catalogue of the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin: Cat A 557, 8.

Content:

The dedication provides information about the addressee of this collection: duke Ernst Ludwig, the circumstances of its origin (during the absence of the duke), there are references to the author of this compilation and his Paris origins; the dedication also refers to the usefulness of the proverbs included in the collection. According to the author's intention, it was supposed to be a book for use, which was emphasised in the title: *en grand usage*; it was to be used, among other things, for learning French. It is probable that Claude Dupuys was teaching Ernst Ludwig French. Claude Dupuys is not the author of the proverbs which have various origins, but he is the author of their choice, compilation and the author of the commentaries which accompany the proverbs. This is a unique compilation, not published, preserved only in one copy which was written by the hand of Claude Dupuys. The proverbs appear in the alphabetical order. The last part is entitled: *Aulcuns aultres dicto[n]s ...* (118r^o-

129r^o), where the proverbs do not appear in a specified order. Some of the commentaries were written in French, others - in Latin. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 16 – Piotr Tylus, «16th century French book of proverbs in the Berlin collection (ms. gall. quart. 18)», in «Fibula» 2/2009 (3), pp. 51-57.