

Ms. Gall. Fol. 185

Binding:

Marbled paper binding, the spine from dark blue linen. This kind of binding was used in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin in the 19th century. The following copies have the same binding: Gall. Fol. 181, 183-184, 186

History:

The manuscript was written between 1813 and 1854 in England (?). It is a copy of documents initially belonging to Sir Hudson Lowe (1769-1844). The second owner of the originals was

Harris Nicolas (1799-1848), who was about to publish them, however, the undertaking was finally given up. The whole series was then bought by the British Museum in 1854, nota bene, the current copy, together with the Gall. Fol. 181, 184-186 series was included in the collections of the Königliche Bibliothek in the very same year. In 1973 the documents, once in possession of Sir Hudson Lowe, were transferred from the British Museum to the British Library and have been kept there to his day. On account of the place where the documents were kept (England) and mistakes both in the French text, as well as in German names, we may assume that the author of the copy was probably a native speaker of English. There are numerous corrections made in the text by an employee of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. The manuscript was entered into the accession register of the library on the 28th of February 1854, under the number 3903.

Content:

SCHWARZENBERG, BLÜCHER, WREDE, FRESNELM. CORRESPONDENCE. The manuscript contains a copy of general Blücher's (Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, 1742-1819) and field marshal Schwartzenberg's (Karl Philipp Fürst zu Schwarzenberg, 1771-1820) correspondence from 1813 and the beginning of 1814. Schwartzenberg was one of the main commanders-in-chief of the German army in 1813. At the same time Blücher commanded the Silesian Army in central Germany. Apart from the above mentioned correspondence, the copy includes two letters written by other participants of the anti-Napoleon coalition: a letter of a

Bavarian field marshal Karl Philipp von Wrede (1767-1838) and lieutenant's F. M. Fresnelm's (an unidentified figure). All the letters in the collection include exact indications of military manoeuvres and are dated from the 30th of August to the 1st of February 1814. This was a very important moment during the Napoleonic wars, because it was the turning point leading to Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat.