

GALL. QUART. 46

Binding:

Bright blue cardboard binding made in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Previously the manuscript probably existed in form of folded signatures covered in one bifolio, one part of which is currently the garde-collée initiale, and the second one – garde volante initiale.

History:

The manuscript was made after 1750, because in its initial part there is information about the price of wax from that year. The fact that the only Spanish port mentioned in the notes is Cadiz, could suggest that the manuscript dates from the period before the so-called Decree of Free Trade allowing other Spanish ports to trade with America; that means it was made before 1765. It is an autograph. However, it does not contain any information with the name of the author or the owner. It might have been a merchant of French or other nationality, because in the 18th century French was the language which was commonly used in Europe in trade and other fields of life. The title suggests that the trade centre was in Cadiz, however, in further part of the manuscript there is information from other European cities; paper of Dutch origin (watermark with the name of the producer of paper: Van der Ley and his coat of arms: Posthorn, cf. Churchill, 321, 1698-1815) does not determine the author's nationality either, as it was commonly used in the entire Western Europe and a merchant engaged in the international trade could easily buy paper from a different country. The fragment in German, concerning trade with Silesian wax, could indicate that the author is a French Protestant who settled down in Silesia. It is similarly difficult to establish the addressee of the manuscript. Its content of a professional and personal character and also its form of a notebook indicate that it was designed for a narrow circle of users. Taking into account the fact that in several places there are explanations on how to register entries in the account books, these notes might not have been made only for the author's own use. It seems that the manuscript was intended for the author and his closest co-workers and trainees in this profession, e.g. for a son. However, it cannot be excluded that these notes were to remind how to register entries and the notebook was used only by one person. The manuscript does not have any signs of owners other than the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Lack of the accession number indicates that the manuscript reached this library before 1828, which is the year when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript is a merchant notebook which contains practical information related to trade, prices of merchandise, freight, middlemen, units of sale, examples and formulas for conversion of currency, measures and weight used in various European countries, addresses

of good factories, list of the most marketable merchandise, types of ships sailing to the New World, etc. Information refers to various merchandise (cloth, wax, spices, etc.) from various places of the world (Bambourg, Breslau, Lion/Lyon, Buenos Ayres, Indes, Amsterdam, Leipzig, Constantinople, Marseille, Piemont, Gothenbourg, Braband, Brest, Francfort, Florence, Turin, Vicence, Lucques, Silesie, Mexique, Lauban). It consists of 15 "chapters": *Annotations et Remarques, touchant le Négoce à Cadix*, 1r^o-3r^o; *Remarques pour l'achat, la préparation & le Négoce de la cire blanchie* [en allemand], 3r^o-4r^o; [*Les sangalles sont très bonnes pour le Mexique*], 4r^o-5r^o; [*La Compagnie d'Hollande bonnifie aux acheteurs*], 5r^o-6r^o; [*La Banque à Amsterdam*], 6r^o-6r^o; [*La Banque à Bambourg*], 6v^o-6v^o; [*C'est de la Auvergne que se tirent les peaux pour les gans de Grenoble*], 6v^o-6v^o; *Lion: Tarif de ce que paient d'entrée à Lyon les Etoffes plombées venant de retour d'Allemagne* 7r^o-8r^o; *Compte simulé pour le calcul de ce que revient l'aune d'Angleterre*, 8r^o-8r^o; *Calculs*, 8v^o-10v^o; *Remarques sur les Velours de Gênes*, 11r^o-11r^o; *Calculs des Frais de l'Angleterre & autres Marchandises des Modes, de Lyon à Leipzig*, 11r^o-11r^o; *Calculs des Droguets petit de* [illegible word], 12v^o-12v^o; *Notte de diverses bonnes fabriques en Italie*, 22r^o-22v^o; *Evaluation de quelques Articles de la Marchand[i]se sur le pied que leur Déclaration* [illegible sign] *est admise à l'accise de Leipzig*, f.23r^o. After most of the entries there is one or there are several empty pages certainly intended for supplementary information. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 17; M. Chrobak, «Notes of an eighteenth-century merchant in the Jagiellonian Library Berlin Collection, «Fibula», 1/2010 (4), pp. 7-12.