

gall. quart. 110

Binding:

Original binding made of leather, rich in gilded ornaments, gardes initiales made of spot paper, mid- to the late 18th century.

History:

The manuscript is not an autograph. Considering the period of using marbled paper, which the protective cards are made of, and characteristic features of the writing, the manuscript was made in the second half or at the end of the 18th century. Taking into account the French origin of the binding, which is original, it might be assumed that the manuscript was made in France. It was acquired by the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin in 1879, from O. Harrassowitz.

Content:

The manuscript contains four texts written by Voltaire or ascribed to him: *Idée de la Personne, de la manière de vivre, et de la Cour du Roi de Prusse* (3r^o - 13r^o), a pamphlet on Frederick the Great, of which hundreds of handwritten copies were circulating around Europe since the beginning of 1752, wrongly ascribed to Voltaire; *Déclaration de M^r. de Voltaire détenu en prison à Francofort par S.M. le Roi de Prusse en 1754* (13v^o - 14v^o), a declaration of servitude submitted to Frederick the Great, who ordered to arrest Voltaire during his escape from the royal court; *Les J'ai vu de Monsieur de Voltaire* (15v^o - 16r^o), a political poem, in fact written by A.L. Lebruna (1680-1743); *Au Roi de Prusse le 10.Nov.1756* (16r^o - 16v^o), a poem addressed to Frederick the Great, juste after the outbreak of the Seven Years' War, in the period of Voltaire's disappointment with the Prussian king and his fascination with the Austrian empress, never sent to the addressee. The Cracow manuscript was not taken into account in any of the critical editions of the above texts; it contains minor, insignificant differences. Its content varies from the content of prints published under the same or similar title (*Pièces fugitives*, London 1772; *Pièces justificatives*, Kehl 1785). With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 20.