

MS. GALL. QUART. 98

Binding:

Half-binding: morocco leather and marbled paper. Protective pages are not made of mould-made paper, therefore the binding might have been made in the 1830's at the earliest. Whereas marbled paper, which covers the outside part of the binding, is called 'agate' and was in use in the middle of the 19th century (cf. Wolfe, pl. XXI, example 5). The binding was made before 1867, still in the collection of Charles Gérard (de Colmar). The binding is not original. Previously the manuscript probably had a different binding.

History:

The manuscript might have been made in Alsace, perhaps in the town of Colmar, in the second half of the 18th century, after 1759. Similar to the text which it conveys, the manuscript was designed for a young person; the first anonymous owner used it for his education: there are chaotic drawings in pencil, which look like the result of a child's play. The first known owner of the manuscript was Charles Gérard (de Colmar), then in 1867 it came into possession of William I, the king of Prussia who immediately gave it to Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin. Information about this is in the ex-libris on the front endpaper, which contains the emblem of the Prussian kings and the inscription: *BIBLIOTHECA REGIA BEROLINENSIS. / DONO / WILHELMI / REGIS AUGUSTISSIMI / D. XVIII. IUN. A. MDCCCLXVII. / EX BIBLIOTHECA ALSATICA / D. GERARDI / COLUMBARIENSIS*, as well as the accession register in Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz, where the manuscript was registered in 1867, under the number Acc. Gér. 214.

Content:

The abridged history of Alsace conveyed in the manuscript was designed for children and teenagers, the proof of which is the form of the text (alternate questions and answers) and information included in it. The work has eleven chapters divided, in most cases, into articles. The author was a Catholic, perhaps a clergyman, and wrote texts for young Catholics. The

text does not seem to have been published in print; other manuscripts have not been found.
With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 20.