

MS. GALL. QUART. 89

Binding:

Binding made in the same period as the manuscript, very ordinary, it was meant to have been a temporary binding: certain codicological features indicate that the manuscript was to have been bound in a luxurious way.

History:

Comparison with the original letters written in French by Friedrich von Gentz, excludes the assumption that the manuscript is original: cf. Aut. 58 Gentz manuscript (from Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, presently kept in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow). It is a regular copy made by an anonymous copyist shortly after the original had been made, which means after 1807, in Germany or Austria. From the very beginning the manuscript shares its history with the gall. quart. 86-87 and 88 manuscripts. On 21st July 1851 the manuscript enters the accession register of Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin and it comes from a person named Ambruster (Carl Ambruster in Vienna? J. Ambruster in Leipzig?).

Content:

The manuscript contains the work of Friedrich von Gentz (1764-1832), a German publicist in the service of Austria and the king of Prussia, who was an anti-Napoleonic author. The work does not seem to have been published in print, maybe because it was designed for a small group of people, as the author wrote himself: *Ces observations n'étant écrites que pour un cercle extrêmement resserré ...* (fol. 3v^o). Other manuscripts have not been found. The original was made in December 1807 – cf. date on the title page (fol. 1r^o): *Observations sur la déclaration de S. M. l'Empereur de Russie du 7 novembre 1807 Ecrites au Mois de Décembre 1807*. It refers to the declaration of the tsar Alexander I against England. The work consists of sixteen chapters and two supplements (*[Observations sur la contre-déclaration de Sa Majesté Britannique]* and *[Observations sur les notes du Moniteur ajoutées à cette contre-déclaration]*), which together with the text form an integrity. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 19.