

MS. GALL. FOL. 232

Binding:

Half-binding made of red leather, gilded title, binding is damaged.

History:

Corrections and numerous notes in the margins were written by the hand which wrote the main text, which enables us to state the hypothesis that it is an original text prepared by the author. It is an erudite compilation of various sources. The second part of the work is marked with the year: 1765. Supposing that it is an original manuscript, the use of the epithet *présent* in the title enables us to assume that it was made in the 1760s. The writing also has features characteristic of eighteenth-century writing. Binding is certainly not original. The outside of the binding was covered with “maître relieur” marbled paper, which was used in the second half of the 19th century, and this is the period of origin of the binding. Because of the lack of any other information which would enable us to establish the place of origin of the manuscript, it should be assumed that it is of French origin.

Content:

This is a compilation from various sources, which the author admitted himself. Perhaps the manuscript under description is the only existing copy of the work. Neither other editions nor other manuscripts have been found. It is not likely that the descriptions in these texts were made only on the basis of works of other authors; considering the specific character of these texts, the author probably visited the Ottoman Empire himself. The work is divided into two parts which basically constitute two separate texts: *Description de l'Empire Ottoman* (fol. 2r^o-89v^o) and *Abrege de l'etat present de l'Empire Ottoman 1765*. The first part consists of four articles divided into sections. It is a general description of a geographical, cultural and historical character. The second part presents the political and administrative organisation of the Ottoman Empire.