

MS. GALL. FOL. 145

Binding:

Gilded binding made of brown leather. The type of ornaments on the spine proves that this is a French binding made in the 18th century (cf. Devauchelle, pl. VI – second example from the left; and Macchi, p. 337). Marbled paper on the protective cards is called Placard, or spot pattern, curled, and was used in France in the 17th century and in the first half of the 18th century (cf. Wolfe, pl. XXIII, n^o 4). This is, therefore, the original binding, made around the middle of the 18th century, shortly after the copies included in this volume had been made.

History:

On the front cover and on the outside of the back cover of the binding is the heraldic shield of Louis François Armand de Vignerot du Plessis, duke de Richelieu (1696-1788), from the family of Cardinal Richelieu. He was the first owner of this collection, and is mentioned in two texts included in the collection (cf. fol. 158v^o, 165r^o-v^o). Considering the linguistic features, it might be assumed that the manuscripts collectively bound in this volume had been made by non-French-speaking copyists. The place of their origin is probably Italy. Considering the time in which the first owner lived, the manuscripts reached France quite early. The collection was incorporated in the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

The collection contains 25 various texts, mainly memorials devoted mostly to Genoa or its environs. All of them were made in the 1740s and the copies seem to be from the same period. These are separate codicological units; each of them contains one text, in some cases these are two texts. Six of them were written by Morel de Conflans, engineer and geographer; the rest of them are anonymous. Some manuscripts have the features of autographs. In most cases it was not possible to determine other manuscripts presenting the same texts. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 9.