

MS. GALL. QUART. 24

Binding:

Binding made of brown leather, slightly damaged, with gildings, in the French style, original.

History:

Exactly the same binding is in the gall. quart. 21-23 manuscripts. All four manuscripts discuss the matters of the Kingdom of France in the 1740's, with certain exceptions in the gall. quart. 21 manuscript. Therefore, they are linked through their binding and content. The origin of the copy probably does not exceed 1743, considering the fact that the future tense was used to refer to the next year: *Enfin on donnera au commencement de l'année prochaine un etat juste du nombre reel et effectif des troupes de terre de France, au premier janvier 1744* (fol. 108r^o). The manuscript was made in France. On the outside front part of the binding there is a visible gilded super ex-libris in form of a heraldic shield, containing many elements, not very well preserved and therefore unidentified; there is an eagle and a crown at the top. This means that the first owner belonged to the royal family. On the outside back part of the binding there are initials which can be deciphered as *MA* or *JA* – unidentified; above them there is a crown. It refers to the initials of the first owner. The manuscript was rewritten by the copyist of the gall. quart. 23 manuscript. The manuscript was incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828. Considering the closeness of pressmarks of the gall. quart. 21-24, all four were incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek at the same time, directly from the first collection to which they belonged.

Content:

The manuscript contains texts, the subject of which is very similar and refers to the same period: the number of men and the state of the army in France in 1743. Other manuscripts conveying the same texts have not been found. It is a very interesting collection for the historians working on the period of reign of Louis XV. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 16, and Krzysztof Kotuła, «Finances of the Kingdom of France in four Manuscripts of the Berlin collection», in «Fibula» 1/2008 (1), pp. 30-35.