

gall. quart. 79

Binding:

Binding made of dark brown leather, original, the spine is ornamented with gildings, pastedowns made of marbled paper.

History:

The manuscript is not an autograph. Considering the date of origin of the text (the 1750's), writing and watermarks of paper, the manuscript was made in the second half of the 18th century. Considering the language, it can be assumed that it was made in France. Ex-libris on the inside cover indicates that before the manuscript was included in the collection of Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin, it had been in possession of Frederick William III of Prussia (1770-1840). On fol. Ir^o there is the accession number: *Access. 2176*, which indicates that the manuscript was acquired by the Royal Library at Berlin on 29th October 1844.

Content:

The manuscript contains an abridged version of the fifth book of the work *Traité de la guerre souterraine, relativement à celle qui se fait à découvert par les effets de la poudre dans les mines, le canon et les bombes, pour l'attaque et la défense des places, fondé sur un grand nombre de nouvelles expériences faites par ordre du Roi*, the author of which is Bernard Forest de Bélidor (1698-1761), a military engineer. Comparison of our copy with ms. in folio 105 from Defence Historical Service (Service historique de la Défense) in Vincennes enabled to state that this is a faithful copy of the chosen excerpts of the original; in this case, it does not represent high value. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 19.