

MS. GALL. QUART. 158

Pierre-Jean-Paul Berny de Nogent (Chevalier de Berny)

Binding:

Half-binding: spine made of cloth, covering made of marbled paper; it is not the original covering; it seems to have been made at the beginning of the 20th century.

History:

This is an autograph made by Chevalier de Berny. This is without doubt Pierre-Jean-Paul Berny de Nogent, born on 9 August 1722 in Chartres and deceased on 22 January 1779 in Strasbourg, who called himself «Chevalier du Mérite», «Chevalier de l'ordre de Saint-Michel de Cologne» and «Chevalier de Berny», founder of four Masonic lodges, maintaining contacts with various personages in Europe. The quality of the manuscript demonstrates that Chevalier de Berny was a skilled calligrapher. For more information on this person, cf. the website of the American Philosophical Society. The manuscript was made in 1744 in France, perhaps in Paris, as the author of the text and the manuscript often stayed in Paris at that time. The history of manuscript ownership is unknown, marks indicating anything in this respect might have been lost together with the original covering. It is possible that it reached Berlin quite early because of the author's ties with Germany (and possibly the Berlin lodge). The manuscript was entered into the accession register of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin on 29 January 1934 under No. 1933.95.

Content:

The work is divided into a large number of parts. One of them comes from the printed edition of *Les Maçons trahis par l'amour* (fol. 16r^o-19v^o) – the passage in question might be the «Temple de l'Amitié qui lie les F. . . Maçons. Dédié à tous les frères en grades. Aux Trois Amis vertueux ouvrant leurs bourses aux besoins», no printing date, 1773 (edition not found, quoted in: Paul Fesch, Joseph Denais et René Lay, «Bibliographie de la franc-maçonnerie et

des sociétés secrètes», 1^{er} fascicule, Paris 1912, p. 139, and in: Pierre M. Conlon, «Le siècle des Lumières. Bibliographie chronologique», vol. XVII, 1773–1775, Droz, Genève 1997, p. 64). The text of the manuscript is an apology of masonry addressed to women, with a short presentation of the objectives of the organisation, its philosophy, duties of masons, rituals etc. The text seems to have been copied from a printed edition (cf. e.g. *l'Imprimeur au Lecteur*, fol. 5v^o) – a fake impression, intended by the author. Printed editions have never been found. As regards this manuscript and the text it contains, cf. Mateusz Baran, «La Franc-maçonnerie vue par un franc-maçon du XVIII^e siècle : l'analyse du manuscrit Gall. Quart. 158 (disponible à la Bibliothèque Jagellonne de Cracovie, en provenance de la Preussische Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)», master's thesis [typescript] written under supervision of Piotr Tylus, Kraków, 2009.