

MS. GALL. QUART. 16

Binding:

Flexible binding made of blue paper, very ordinary.

History:

The manuscript was made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century – writing is characteristic for this period. The year 1721 is the terminus post quem of its origin. The treatise conveyed in the manuscript, as well as the texts it is accompanied by and related to, were distributed around Europe and the manuscript could have been made anywhere. Its place of origin is uncertain. It was incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

The manuscript contains “Traité des trois imposteurs”, which is accompanied by: “Dissertation sur le livre des trois imposteurs” and “Epître de Frédéric Empereur à Othon”. The same texts are included for example in mss Paris, Bibl. Mazarine 1193 and Lyon, Bibl. Mun., P. A. 72, however, they are organized in a different order. Whereas the following order: Dissertation – Epître – Traité, as in this manuscript, can be also found in ms. C<sup>o</sup> V 21 of the Helsinki University Library. The first edition of “Traité des trois imposteurs” is published in 1719 in Rotterdam, under the following title “La vie et l’esprit de M. Benoît Spinoza”. The author of the treatise was probably Jean Vroese (1672-1725). The next edition was published in 1721 under the title “Traité des trois imposteurs” – there are significant differences between those two editions. The described manuscript enters the tradition of the edition from 1721. The same treatise is included in the gall. oct. 2 and 3 manuscripts belonging to the same collection, however, contrary to this case, it is not accompanied by additional texts. It is close to the gall. oct. 3 manuscript, but it is more complete. With reference to other manuscripts conveying the same treatise cf. Miguel Benítez, “La face cachée des Lumières: recherches sur les manuscrits philosophiques clandestins de l’âge classique”, Paris 1996, p. 51, n<sup>o</sup> 185. Contemporary editions: Pierre Rétat, facsimile of the edition from 1777, in “Images et témoins de l’âge classique”, vol. 3, Saint-Etienne 1973; Silvia Berti, “Trattato dei tre

impostori”, Turin, Einaudi, 1994 (on the basis of the edition from 1719). With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 15.