

MS. GALL. FOL. 224

### **François Sabatier**

#### **Binding:**

The spine is made of cloth, veneers are made of marbled paper.

#### **History:**

The manuscript contains notes and commentary on Goethe's "Faust" which have a form of a notebook. It is the original manuscript. Information about the time and place of its origin is indicated in the colophone on the page 137r<sup>o</sup>: *Terminé les notes et la révision le 24 mars 1881 La Tour de Farges*. La Tour de Farges is a castle in the south of France, which belonged to the family of Sabatier d'Espeyran from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the owner of this castle was François Sabatier, a man of letters, author of the translation of "Faust". In the foreword to this translation (Paris edition dated 1893), we can read that in the year 1881 François Sabatier completed the translation and the commentary on it (p. VI). Therefore, the commentary and the notes included in the manuscript were written by his hand. The manuscript was purchased by the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1925. It was transferred from the department of old prints to the department of manuscripts of this library and it was included in the accession register on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1925, under the number 1925. 144.

#### **Content:**

In the foreword to the quoted Paris edition of Goethe's "Faust" from 1893, we can read that the translation of this work was the main, if not the only, occupation in the mature life of François Sabatier (p. VI). This translation-adaptation is still meaningful. The author had died before the printed edition appeared; before he died, he had obligated his wife, Caroline Ungher-Sabatier, to publish it. The commentary and the notes included in the manuscript are a good reflection of the author's work. They were published in 1893 together with the French edition of "Faust", after which they are presented and they still seem an interesting and

helpful source to use when working on “Faust”. There is no use comparing the manuscript, the commentary and the notes with their printed edition, because the author did not authorise their publication. Therefore, from the textological point of view, their value is higher than that of the edition.