

MS. GALL. FOL. 125

Sommaire de l'histoire du monde et Sommaire de l'histoire de France

Binding:

Parchment binding, monastic, typical of the 17th and 18th century, the manuscript predates the binding by around one hundred years.

History:

The manuscript was made in France in the first half of the 17th century, perhaps in a monastic environment. It reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

This is a compilation of various sources, medieval and later – the anonymous author uses the same method as medieval authors of similar chronicles. Many seventeenth-century works bear this title, but none of the manuscripts or old prints conveying similar compilations seems to correspond with the text of this manuscript. It is probably not a copy made on the basis of a print edition. The author of this compilation was French, proofs of which can be seen in the text (cf. fol. 8r^o). At first the author introduces a short *Sommaire de l'histoire du monde*, which is a pattern used by medieval authors and which means starting with pre-historic people, then ancient history: the history of God's Chosen People, the Persians, the Romans etc. The main part is *Sommaire de l'histoire de France*. There is no special heading introducing this main part: the author simply begins with the history of Pharamond, the mythical ancestor of the Merovingians. Almost all the chapters are devoted to particular kings of France: 61 chapters out of the 62 which can be found in the manuscript. The longest chapters are devoted to the kings who lived between the 15th and 17th century: Charles VIII, Louis XII, François I^{er}, Henri II, François II, Charles IX, Henri III and Henri IV, the last of whom was certainly a contemporary of the author. This particular part certainly has the biggest historical value. The work ends with the murder of Henri IV which took place on the 14th of May 1610. There are numerous handwritten notes

in the margins referring to the content of the work. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 7.