

MS. GALL. FOL. 126

Binding:

Binding made of red saffian, gilded, protective cards made of marbled paper, the style of which is very similar to the paper called Placard pattern (cf. Wolfe, 1 type, pl. XXIII), used in France at the end of the 17th century and in the first half of the 18th century. Considering the fact that these texts were written in 1713, this is the original binding.

History:

These are not original letters, but regular copies. However, it is possible that they were made by the same author, Baron von Fabrice. The manuscript was made in the first half of the 18th century, after 1713. The originals were made in Bender (today's Tighina), on the territory of the Ottoman Empire (today's Moldova). The copies might have been made anywhere and there is no evidence enabling us to determine the place of origin of the manuscript. The marbled paper of the protective cards is French, therefore it might be assumed that the manuscript had been made or at least had been bound in France. The manuscript was incorporated in the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

The author of the letters is Baron Friedrich Ernst von Fabrice, ambassador of the Duchy of Holstein to Charles XII, the Swedish king (1697-1718), in the years 1710-1714. These three letters included in the manuscript come from 1713 and they depict the climax of the conflict between Charles XII and the Turkish authorities, which forced Charles XII to leave Bender. The letters are full of details and the narration is characteristic of novels. Perhaps it is a later modification of part of the letters included in the book of « Anecdotes du sejour du Roi de Suede à Bender; ou Lettres de M^r. le Baron de Fabrice pour servir d'eclaircissement à l'histoire de Charles XII », Hambourg, 1760, re-edited in 1761. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 8 – Iwona Piechnik, « Scandinavian accents in the Berlin collection of manuscripts Gallica, kept in the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków », in « Fibula » 1/2009 (2), pp. 22-42 (pp. 28-34) – Aneta Deja, « Analyse de 'Trois lettres de Mr Fabrice, envoyé

extraordinaire' contenues dans le manuscrit gall. fol. 126, à la Bibliothèque Jagellonne de Cracovie (ancienne collection de la Preussische Staatbibliothek zu Berlin) », MA thesis [typescript] written under the supervision of Piotr Tylus, Kraków 2009.