

MS. GALL. FOL. 159

Binding:

The spine of the binding is made of brown leather and the veneers are made of marbled paper. This is certainly not the original binding. It seems that it was made in the first half of the 19th century, perhaps at the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin.

History:

It is difficult to state whether this is the original manuscript or just a regular copy. Even if this is a regular copy, it was made right after the original had been made. If this is the original manuscript, it has to be assumed that it was made in 1712. On the other hand, if this is a regular copy, its time of origin is the period of 1712-1722. Considering the content of the manuscript, it has to be assumed that it was made in the French Flanders, perhaps in Lille. It entered the accession register of the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin in 1828, under the number 73: purchased in Paris.

Content:

The manuscript contains descriptions related to the holiday called Epinette which would begin on the Sunday preceding the Lent and it would last for fifteen days filled with duels, balls and banquets. The name of this holiday refers to Christ's crown of thorns, but it was not a religious holiday. It appeared in the 13th century and it vanished in the 16th century. With reference to this holiday, cf. e.g. (among the most recent publications): Evelyne van den Neste, «Tournois, joutes, pas d'armes dans les villes de Flandre à la fin du Moyen Age (1300-1486)», préface de Michel Pastoureau, *Mémoires et Documents de l'Ecole des Chartes* 47, Paris 1996. There are several handwritten texts devoted to this holiday which are mainly kept in Lille, but the Cracow manuscript does not correspond to those manuscripts. It is the entirely different text, original in relation to them, kept in one manuscript, not published; it deserves to be edited in detail by a group of researchers of various specialities (taking into account its complexity). This is a very detailed edition presenting the ceremonial, organisational and historical aspect of the holiday.