

gall. fol. 162

Binding:

Binding from the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Covering of marbled paper. On the spine there is a title label of white paper, bearing the inscription *Henri Arnaud & die Waldenser betreffend* in black ink. In the centre of the front cover there is a gold embossed super ex-libris of the Königliche Bibliothek.

History:

The manuscript consists of 5 codicological units, collected and put together probably at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, before their acquisition by the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. The evidence for this are numbers 1-5 appearing on the initial pages of each part (ff. 1r^o, 2r^o, 14r^o, 18r^o et 19r^o). Later, a librarian of the Königliche Bibliothek marked the parts with letters *a-e*. Documents making up this ms. were written between 1699 and 1794. They are autographs, as well as copies. The accession number – 481 – indicates that the manuscript was acquired in August 1833 from Karl Sigmund Franz Freiherr vom Stein zum Altenstein, a Prussian politician (1770-1840).

Content:

The manuscript contains (in this order) the following texts: a drawing depicting the gravestone of Henri Arnaud, a pastor of the Waldensians (1643-1721); an autograph of the first chapter of the text *Histoire de la glorieuse rentrée des Vaudois dans leurs vallées* by Henri Arnaud; a letter from Petrus (?) Valkenier to Henri Arnaud of 15/25th October 1699; a letter from Jacques Brez, a pastor from Middelburg (1771-1798) to Daniel Mondon; a copy of the records of an ecclesiastical assembly of the Waldensian Churches of 22nd April 1739. The most interesting part of the manuscript is undoubtedly the autograph written by the hand of Henri Arnaud. It is the first quire of a work most likely created in 1689, during the so called Glorious Return (*La Glorieuse Rentrée*) – the Waldensians armed occupation of their native valleys, from which they had been forcefully expelled to Switzerland – considered one of the most important events in the history of the Waldensians, as well as a

symbol of their fight for their fatherland. The text was published in 1710. Its final form differs significantly from the one found in the manuscript. This suggests, that Henri Arnaud made many corrections and additions later on. On that topic, cf. Theo Kiefner, *Il manoscritto di Cracovia*, in *Bollettino della società di studi valdesi*, n° 167, December 1990, pp. 43-64. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm p. 10.