

gall. fol. 208

Binding:

Half binding made of black leather. Covering made of Touriniquet type marbled paper. Pastedowns and flyleaves of Nonpareil type marbled paper, used in 1840-1870. On the spine, the title *ANALYSE DE L'ALMAGESTE. MANUSCRIT AUTOGRAPHE DE L'ABBÉ HALMA* in gold; below, embossed, the name *E. NIEDRÉE*. The person in question is Jean-Édouard Niedrée, a book binder active from 1836-1864. The cover was made some time after the death of the manuscript's author, Nicolas Halma. Up to that point, the sheets were stored unbound. Binding in a good state of preservation.

History:

The manuscript is an autograph written by the hand of Nicolas Halma (1755-1828), a French mathematician, known mainly for his translation of Ptolemy's *Almagest* into French. This is confirmed by a collation of our copy with an autograph from the National Library of France (ms. n.a.f. 22817, fol. 158r^o). The manuscript was created in the 19th century, before 1828 (year of the author's death). The accession register of the Königliche Bibliothek contains a note stating that the manuscript comes from the "Caylus" library. This most likely applies to the Caylus family of Essaigne. Later on, the manuscript was acquired by S. Calvary & Co., an antiquarian and publisher from Berlin. It entered the accession register on 22nd July 1890.

Content:

The manuscript contains an unpublished text by Nicolas Halma, entitled *Analyse de l'Almageste d'après Ptolémée et l'abrégé latin de Regiomontan*. It is an analysis of thirteen books of the *Almagest*, enriched with references to the Latin version of the treatise created by Johann Müller, also known as Regiomontanus (1436-1476). The first version of the text, transcribed by a secretary, was enriched with numerous notes and corrections by the hand of Nicolas Halma himself. Cards of various size, containing the authors additional comments, were also added to the original version. The corrections stop appearing around

the middle of the manuscript. It is possible that the author abandoned finishing his work, or that the work was interrupted by the author's death. Without any doubt, the text contained in ms. gall. fol. 208 possesses great value; the work has never been published and other manuscripts of the same text are not known. The manuscript should be of interest to all historians of science investigating that period. With reference to this manuscript cf. Krzysztof Kotuła, *Nicolas Halma's unpublished work*, *Fibula Newsletter* 1/2009, pp. 15-21, and Lemm, p. 13.