

MS. GALL. OCT. 10

**Binding:**

Flexible parchment binding of a monastic type, characteristic of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Marbled paper of the protective cards is well preserved, but it seems to be paper from the group of French patterns, which was used in the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Wolfe, pl. XXIII, n<sup>os</sup> 8 et 9). The recto of the first protective card and verso of the last protective card, which have belonged to the manuscript from the very beginning (the same filigree as in the case of pages containing the text), are dirtier than other pages. Therefore, the manuscript might not have had a binding for some time and although in this case the binding is not original and does not come from the same period as the manuscript, it is certainly the first binding of this manuscript, made in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**History:**

The writing is characteristic of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. From the textual data, it turns out that the copies conveyed in the manuscript were made between 4<sup>th</sup> December 1642 and 14<sup>th</sup> May 1643. The manuscript contains, for instance, a text written in Italian: it must have been either a French copyist with fluent knowledge of Italian or an Italian copyist who spoke French, which seems more probable considering the bonds of the French royal court with the Italian environment thanks to Marie de Médicis, mother of Louis XIII. Considering the character of the texts, the manuscript was probably made in France. It was incorporated in the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828, perhaps in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (in the case of a pressmark visible on the spine, its writing seems to be characteristic of this period).

**Content:**

The manuscript contains copies of letters and treatises written in the years 1638-1642: the oldest is dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 1638, the most recent, 16<sup>th</sup> September 1642. The texts were written in French, Italian and Latin. There are a number of them – 42 in total. Some of them were printed in following print editions, e.g.: Michaud-Poujoulat, « Nouvelle collection des Mémoires pour servir à l’histoire de France », tome troisième, Paris 1838; « Cinq-Mars ou

une conjuration sous Louis XIII » par Alfred de Vigny, tome deuxième, Paris 1838; « Journal de Monsieur le Cardinal duc de Richelieu, qu'il a fait durant le grand Orage de la Cour », première partie, Lyon 1666; les « Archives curieuses de l'Histoire de France depuis Louis XI jusqu'à Louis XVIII » par F. Danjou, 2<sup>e</sup> série – tome 5, Paris 1838. Others are kept in manuscripts, e.g. Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine 21 and 22; Grenoble, Bibliothèque publique, 1503; Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 5037.