

MS. GALL. OCT. 7

Binding:

Luxurious, richly gilded original binding made of brown leather.

History:

This is not an original manuscript, but a regular copy. Writing has features characteristic for the 18th century. Considering that the marbled paper, which the protective cards are made of, is of German origin and considering the fact that the texts included in the manuscript were written in Germany, it might be assumed that the manuscript itself was made in Germany as well. Considering the pressmark, the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin shortly after this library had come into existence. Anyhow, because of the lack of an accession number, the manuscript was not incorporated in the Königliche Bibliothek before 1828.

Content:

The first text contains rules of conduct directed to a specific young man who had just entered the world. It was written in Germany, by an anonymous author, for a young Protestant of noble birth who probably came from a family of French Protestants who had taken refuge in Germany after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The following is a list of chapters: « De la Religion » (pp. 6-23), « De la Vocation » (pp. 23-27), « De la Société » (pp. 27-35), « De l'Amitié » (pp. 36-41), « De l'occupation » (pp. 41-45), « Du discours » (pp. 46-53), « De la propreté et de l'ordre » (pp. 54-56), « De la Retraite » (pp. 57-59), « Des Disgraces » (pp. 60-61), « Du Mariage » (pp. 62-65), « De la Lecture » (pp. 82-85). This text had not been published in print; other manuscripts have not been found. The author of the second text: "Idée d'un philosophe", was Samuel Werenfel, representative of Liberal Protestantism. With reference to this text cf. A. Fairbairn, « L'Idée d'un philosophe : le texte et son auteur », dans A. McKenna et A. Mothu (dir.), « La Philosophie clandestine à l'Age classique », Voltaire Foundation, Oxford, 1997, pp. 65-77. With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm, p. 23.