

MS. GALL. QUART. 14

Binding:

Original velvet binding.

History:

On the basis of the characteristic features of writing it might be assumed that the manuscript was made in the 17th century. Because there are quotes of «Lettres de M. Costar», published in the years 1658-1659, the date of origin of the manuscript has to be placed in the second half of the 17th century. It seems that the manuscript had been made slowly, within certain period of time, which is determined by the character of this collection: sometimes writing becomes less neat, the shade of ink changes. French dominates compared to Italian and Latin, therefore, because of lack of other information, it might be assumed that France is the place of origin of the manuscript. It was incorporated in Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

The manuscript contains a collection of thoughts, proverbs, maxims and quotations of various authors. Apart from French, also Italian and Latin texts are present in the manuscript, however, French dominates. The copyist might also have been the person who made a choice of those thoughts, proverbs etc. This choice is original and one of a kind, i.e. there is no other collection like this, which would contain exactly the same thoughts, proverbs, maxims and quotations organized in exactly the same order. Therefore, the copyist was the author of this compilation, an erudite using various sources. The manuscript therefore seems to be an autograph made ad usum proprium. It does not refer only to quotations taken from other authors. Some of them are summarized, changed by the compiler; indirect speech dominates which also makes this collection original. The author of this compilation left many empty pages which certainly were to have been covered with the text later, but it never happened. The author mainly refers to ancient sources (Seneca, Cato, Plutarch, Pindar, Cicero etc.), but also modern authors (Petrarca, Montaigne). With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 15.