

MS. GALL. QUART. 36

Binding:

Parchment binding with modest gildings. It is certainly the first binding of this manuscript.

History:

The year 1643 – the date of the Battle of Rocroi, is the terminus post quem for making this manuscript. Writing is characteristic for the 17th century. It does not seem to be an autograph. The manuscript includes two versions of the same document: the French one and the Spanish one, rewritten by two different copyists and combined in one volume. Both versions represent different palaeographic features and it is possible that they were not made at the same time. Only in the Spanish version there are visible alterations made by a later hand, which means that the manuscript was used later, probably in Spain. Moreover, on the verso of the initial protective card, there is a visible inscription: *tomo 16*. Hence, initially the manuscript was probably in Spain and perhaps its both component parts and the binding were made in Spain. The manuscript was incorporated in Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin before 1828.

Content:

The Battle of Rocroi took place in 1643 between France and Spain. The author gives a detailed description of the preparations for the battle and of the battle itself. It is an attempt to justify the defeat of the Spanish army. An anonymous author, known only by his initials, took part in the battle on the Spanish side. The original of this text is the Spanish version. It is difficult to determine whether the French translation was made by someone else or by the author himself. The date and place of writing this letter are defined neither in the original nor in the translation and perhaps the form of the letter is a sheer fiction. The text does not seem to have been published in print and other manuscripts have not been found. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 17.