

gall. quart. 49

Binding:

Binding from the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Covering of marbled paper. On the spine there is a title label of white paper, bearing the inscription *Ueber den. Tod Ludwig XIV. u. den Reg. Antritt Ludw. XV.* Pastedowns and flyleaves of white paper. In the centre of the front cover there is a gold embossed super ex-libris of the Königliche Bibliothek.

History:

The manuscript consists of three separate codicological units, all created around the same time and thematically connected. All recount the events of September 1715 in France, and this date must be considered the *terminus post quem* of their production. Considering the language of the texts, it is safe to assume that they were all produced in France. The documents bear no traces which would allow the identification of their first owner. There are, however, signs pointing to the fact that they were stored together even before acquisition by the Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin, and that they were a part of a larger collection. In the original pagination, the cards of the manuscript were assigned numbers 75-90. It is not known how the manuscript reached the Königliche Bibliothek. The manuscript bears no accession number, therefore it entered the Königliche Bibliothek's collection before 1828, when the accession register was introduced.

Content:

The manuscript contains three texts. The first, untitled, bears the date 12th September 1715 and is a short account of the illness and death of the King of France, Louis XIV. The text is concluded with an account of the meeting of the Parliament of 12th September 1715, held in the presence of the young king Louis XV. The second text is an account of a Parliament meeting of 2nd September 1715. During this meeting the will of Louis XIV was partly challenged. As a result of those events, Philippe d'Orléans (1674-1723) was proclaimed Regent and the factual ruler during Louis XV's minority. Other manuscripts containing any of those two texts could not be found. It seems they were never published in print. The third

text, referring to the September events, is a copy of a preface delivered by Philippe d'Orléans on the day of Louis XIV's death. The text appears in the memoirs of Mathieu Marais (1664-1737; cf. Henri Duranton, Robert Grandroute, *Mathieu Marais, Journal de Paris*, Saint-Étienne, Publications de l'Université de Saint-Étienne, 2004, t. 1, p. 44). With reference to this manuscript, cf. Lemm p. 17.