

MS. GALL. QUART. 86

Binding:

Binding made in the same period as the manuscript, very ordinary, it was meant to have been a temporary binding: certain codicological features indicate that the manuscript was meant to have been bound in a luxurious way.

History:

Comparison with the original letters written in French by Friedrich von Gentz, excludes the assumption that the manuscript is original: cf. Aut. 58 Gentz manuscript (from Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, presently kept in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow). It is a regular copy made by an anonymous copyist shortly after the original had been made, in 1805 or 1806, in Germany or Austria. From the very beginning the manuscript shares its history with the gall. quart. 87-89 manuscripts. On 21st July 1851 the manuscript entered the accession register of Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin and it came from a person named Ambruster (Carl Ambruster in Vienna? J. Ambruster in Leipzig?).

Content:

The text is a memorial devoted to the war in 1805: the Third Coalition against Napoleon Bonaparte. Friedrich von Gentz (1764-1832), a German publicist in the service of Austria and the king of Prussia, was an anti-Napoleonic author. Because the Fourth Coalition is set up in the period of summer-autumn of 1806, the work was made in 1805 or in the first months of the next year (cf. the use of the expression *derniere guerre* in the title), probably in Germany: in 1805 the author is staying in Austria, but he comes back to Dresden after the French army enters Vienna. The memorial consists of three parts: 1) *Exposition des faux calculs qu'on a faits par rapport à la Russie* (pp. 1-40); 2) *Faux calculs par rapport à l'Autriche* (pp. 41-90); 3) *Faux calculs par rapport à la Prusse* (pp. 91-210). The second volume is included in the gall. quart. 87 manuscript. It is a work of a political scientist who in a detailed way analyses events contemporary to him. With reference to this manuscript cf. Lemm, p. 19.