

## Assistant Teacher Johann David Krauss 1776

Wisdom and Moderation – From the Proceedings of the Church court

Provisor [assistant teacher] Krauss was the first one allowed to teach his own class. When in Dec. 1776 he had to teach alone he gave the young Jerg Michael Palmer a good hiding. His father could not accept this. Harsh words were exchanged, and the young assistant teacher had to listen to himself being called a jackass driver [Eselstreiber]. The Church Court smoothed this over and even added some pedagogical advice:

*d. 18 Dec. 1776*

*Provisor Johann David Krauss complains that on last thursday, because the schoolmaster was in church for a baptism, he was teaching the class. Some small boys however gave him the lip, which he warned them against, but as they did not desist, he gave them several Daezlen. [Exactly what these are we do not know, but we do know that they are what happens to small boys in school when they misbehave. Daezlen probably hurt, but not so badly as a good thrashing.] At this point the pupil Jerg Michael Palmer opened his mouth and burst out, "Stop it, stop it." This was certainly seen and heard by all students. The provisor thereupon went after Palmer and wanted to give him some Dezlen [sic], which he did not want, so he pulled the boy to the blackboard and give him 6-7 blows with a stick across his back.*

*Some days after this as he was going to Herr Speciali in Schorndorf, Palmer's father Johannes Palmer hollered at him on the open street for so thrashing his boy, calling him a slob, a ruffian, and a jackass driver; and threatened if he caught him he would beat him so hard he would not be good enough to beg; he would smash his back with a rock. The provisor said nothing to Palmer in return except: had he tended pigs with that Palmer.*

*No doubt Johannes Palmer deserved a fine for such undue words against the provisor. Because however the provisor is satisfied with an apology, and was himself too involved in the business and had spoken in the town hall with several harsh words in the past, so Palmer shook his hand and made apology. Whereupon the provisor was admonished to use wisdom and moderation in his classroom discipline.*

With the last sentence, this collector of these records must reflect: Were the schools in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century indeed not quite so bad? If one believes contemporary education historians, all they did in school back then was to thrash the children.