

Revenue Book of the Geradstetten Pastorate 1532

It was two years before the beginning of the Reformation. Duke Ulrich had been expelled and lived in exile in Mömpelgard [formerly a ward of Württemberg, now Montbéliard, in eastern France] and Switzerland. The Swabian Confederation and the House of Austria occupied the Duchy of Württemberg. The regime installed by King Ferdinand ruled the state and brought all the unsettled finances into order. This included the revenues of the Church. In this context we can understand the setting down of the income of the Geradstetten pastor. Pastor Jochen Vochenzer pulled this together with the town council and the major into a “Zinsbuch [Revenue Book].” This Zinsbook had a cover of parchment taken from an old purchase record from the year 146?: *Linhart Scheckeler sold to Merklin Stulhart...*

On the front page of the Revenue Book the pastor described the circumstances of the write-up:

*Zins Büch of the pastor of Geradstetten and community on Saturday after Valentine written by Jochen Vochenzer, Pastor. Ulrich Hockstul, Württemberg mayor. Endriss Löhlin, Zilhard mayor and Hanssen Kuntz... Palmers. Michel Webers. Michel Wächtelers. all for the town council of Geradstetten.
Done in the year as one counts fifteen hundred thirty two.*

And on the same day the trustee of the Fifth Roman Emperor [Karl V] drove through town with his entourage to the parliament in Regensburg. And after that on the...day there was a festival.

This Revenue Book belongs to the records of the church administration in Schorndorf, and is preserved only in fragments. But we learn from it the names of the two mayors, Ulrich Hockstuhl for the Württemberg part and Endriss Löhlin for the Zillhardt part.

In Regensburg the so-called “*Ewige Reichstag*” [permanent parliament] met, a standing congress of German empire components with a fixed seat in this city.

A new description of the income of the Geradstetten pastorate was ordered by Duke Ludwig in 1573, and that one has been completely preserved. It shows us that the Geradstettener kept their word to provide the pastor with a decent living. In this compilation, all revenues that come to the pastor, and are named in the record of 1491, appear. Beginning with *Clainen zehenndt* [tithe?], the usual delivery to the pastor of garden yields like peas, lentils, cabbage and beets, as well as fruit preserves.

Along with this came the income property of two farms with barns, yard, gardens. Also itemized are nine fields, seven pastures, and four garden plots around the church, as well as 5 Morgan [Hectare] of vineyards. Not to mention a pair of summer hens at *Johannes Baptistae*. All in all, not luxurious, but a pastor could live on it.