

FREDERICK III, ELECTOR OF SAXONY (1463-1525).

Frederick III, Elector of Saxony letter, circa 1512

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Frederick III, Elector of Saxony (1463-1525).
Title: Frederick III, Elector of Saxony letter, circa 1512
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 087
Extent: 0.01 cubic ft. (1 letter)
Abstract: Handwritten letter, in German, addressed to Samsons Schoffler zu Seyda and Mathes Pustewald, concerning the parish of Neuerdorff, and the death of the Rev. Wust.
Language: Materials entirely in German.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

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Additional Physical Form

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Related Materials

Part of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection of Pitts Theology Library.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Frederick III, Elector of Saxony Letter, Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Frederick III. (1463-1525) called 'the Wise,' elector of Saxony, eldest son of Ernest, elector of Saxony, and Elizabeth, daughter of Albert, duke of Bavaria-Munich (d. 1508), was born at Torgau, and succeeded his father as elector in 1486. Retaining the government of Saxony in his own hands, he shared the other possessions of his family with his brother John, called 'the Stedfast' (1468-1532). Frederick was among the princes who pressed the need of reform upon the German king Maximilian I. in 1495, and in 1500 he became president of the newly formed council of regency (Reichsregiment). He took a genuine interest in learning; was a friend of Georg Spalatin; and in 1502 founded the university of Wittenberg, where he appointed Luther and Melanchthon to professorships. In 1493 he had gone as pilgrim to Jerusalem and had been made a knight of the Holy Sepulchre; but, although he remained throughout life an adherent of the older faith, he seems to have been drawn into sympathy with the reformers, probably through his connection with the university of Wittenberg. In 1520 he refused to put into execution the papal bull which ordered Luther's writings to be burned and the reformer to be put under restraint or sent to Rome; and in 1521, after Luther had been placed under the imperial ban by the diet at Worms, the elector caused him to be conveyed to his castle at the Wartburg, and afterwards protected him while he attacked the enemies of the Reformation. In 1519, Frederick, who alone among the electors refused to be bribed by the rival candidates for the imperial throne, declined to be a candidate for this high dignity himself, and assisted to secure the election of Charles V. He died unmarried at Langau, near Annaberg, on the 5th of May 1525.

Biographical Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition; vol. 11, page 60.

Scope and Content Note

A handwritten letter, in German, on paper. The letter is addressed to Samsons Schoffler zu Seyda and Mathes Pustewald and concerns the parish of Neuerdorff, and the death of Rev. Wust. Letter is dated Tuesday, St. Sixtus's Day [1512].

