SPALATIN, GEORG, 1484-1545.
Georg Spalatin letters, 1528, 1536

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Spalatin, Georg, 1484-1545.
Title: Georg Spalatin letters, 1528, 1536
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 122
Extent: 0.02 cubic ft. (2 items)
Abstract: Consists of two letters written by Georg Spalatin.
Language: Materials entirely in German.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Additional Physical Form
The Georg Spalatin Letters are digitized and available on the Pitts Theology Library website.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Georg Spalatin Letters, Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, Archives and Manuscripts Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed from accession numbers 91-026 & 92-066b

Collection Description

Biographical Note
G. Spalatin (real name Burckhardt; Jan. 17, 1484-Jan. 16, 1545) German jurist and promoter of the Reformation. Born at Spalt near Nuremberg, studied at Erfurt and Wittenberg, terminated his
study of law at Erfurt in 1505, and became a teacher in cloister Georgenthal. In 1507 he became
pastor at Hohenkirchen and in 1508 he was consecrated as a priest, but the Erfurt humanist
regard this merely as the basis of financial security. In 1509 he entered the service of Frederick
the Wise of Saxony as tutor of Prince John Frederick. From 1511 to 1516 he taught Princes Otto
and Ernst of Brunswick-Lueneburg at Wittenberg and in 1512 became librarian of the elector's
castle library. From 1516 he was the most trusted counselor of Frederick the Wise (privy
secretary, historiographer, father confessor, and court chaplain). He was particularly responsible
for church and university affairs. It was this function that enabled him to give assistance to the
cause of Luther whom he had learned to know in 1513. He gained the elector's good will for
Luther, served as go-between, and always stood at Luther's side with his good counsel. The
correspondence between him and Luther is very extensive. As pastor of Altenburg (where he had
been a member of the monastery chapter since 1511) he reformed city and monastery in 1525.
From 1526 he participated in visitations which led to the introduction of the Reformation in the
electorate of Saxony. Later he also took part in the visitation held in the duchy of Saxony. After
Frederick's death in 1525, he served his successors in solving church problems. He cooperated
in drafting the Augsburg Confession. 'Annals of Saxony' is his most important literary work. His
translations of the Latin works of Luther, Erasmus, and Melanchthon became noteworthy


Scope and Content Note
This collection consists of two letters written by Georg Spalatin. The first letter, on paper
measuring 22 x 33 cm., is written to the "Noble and Right worthy Heinrich von Einsiedel" in
Gnansteyn. The matter being addressed is the refusal of Brosius Berger to take an oath, thus
hindering Katharina Gockritz from getting married. Mention of consultation with Doctor Martin
[Luther] is in the letter. With the exception of the upper right corner which is missing, the paper
is in good condition. The date "1528" appears in the upper left corner in a different ink. The
second letter is on paper and measures 22.1 x 21.8 cm. The letter is written to Heinrich von
Einsiedel and was enclosed with a copy of a sermon by Philipp Melanchthon. Within the body of
the letter, Spalatin entreats Einsiedel to "exert your goodwill on the work's behalf". The letter is
dated 1536.

Also included are copies of translations and transcriptions of each letter, prepared by Andreas
Baudler in December 2005.