

Verbessertes Leipzig, oder Die vornehmsten Dinge, so von Anno 1698 an biß hieher Bey der Stadt Leipzig verbessert worden... Antonius Weizius (Leipzig, 1728) pp. 1-4.

Chapter 1

About the improved city of Leipzig generally.

Whoever had visited the world-renowned City of Leipzig (I do not wish get into the etymological research regarding its name at this time particularly since many have already spilt a lot of ink pursuing this matter) at the end of the preceding century and have now, at this time, had an opportunity to see it again, will certainly marvel not just a little at the tremendous growth and improvements that are apparent. To be sure, such an individual will hardly be able to comprehend how it might have been possible that a city whose fame had already reached to the stars many centuries ago, could have been transformed so noticeably and splendidly in so many different ways in such a short period of time. When I, however, write about these improvements, I am thinking primarily about the many beautiful and splendid public as well as private buildings in and directly outside the city walls that have been built in this famous commercial city under the protection of the Elector of Saxony since 1698 until now in 1728. Likewise the very praiseworthy organizations and charitable institutions have increased and improved. For since the salutary effect of the Reformation until 1699, you could hear God being praised in only two churches within the city walls. These were the two main churches, St. Nikolai and St. Thomas. But now all true believers can hear sermons delivered from six pulpits in six outstanding churches. In addition to the already mentioned two main churches, there are also the following churches: St. Paul, St. Peter, New Church and St. Georg also known as the Orphan Church. In all of these God's Word and the Commandments are taught. In addition to these we can add the two churches outside the city gates: St. John in front of Grimm's Gate and the Hospital Church in front of Ranstadt Gate, the latter having been rebuilt from the ground up in some parts and only renovated in other parts and thus placed in the service of the true God. However, there is also a tiny chapel in the cemetery just outside Grimm's Gate. This is where the old, poor people living in the Hospital tend to have communion four times a year. This service is provided to

them by the Pastor at St. John's, not to mention the fact that he also delivers sermons to them twice a week when a prayer hour is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In addition to all of this, a room is also provided for the Reformed Lutherans in the Elector of Saxony's Government House and for the Papists (Catholics) a similar arrangement in the Pleißenburg Fortress made possible by a special arrangement/concession most graciously granted by His Highness, The Royal Polish and Elector of Saxony. In both of these locations, each community of believers [the Reformed Lutherans on the one hand and the Papists {Catholics} on the other] have very cleanly provided the necessary furniture for their sacraments in [*zierlich* = dainty/petite/delicate tiny chapels [*Capelgen* = a diminutive form of chapel]. The Catholics held their first Mass here on June 3, 1710 and heard their first Papist sermon on June 8, 1710, while the Reformed Lutherans began with their services a few years earlier beginning in 1702, before which time they had at first been meeting in Auerbach's courtyard, after that in the Cabbage Garden on the hill called Cabbage Hill, then in Schönfeld's courtyard, where a special house had been constructed for their use.

p. 63 [In discussing the University of Leipzig Library, Weiss refers to the current librarian, Christian Friedrich Börner, who had done much to improve and expand the library, even to the extent that he purchased an 'entire' Jewish synagogue: "...durch Anschaffung einer gantzen Jüdischen Synagoge, (so ehemahls der vortreffliche Schwedisch-Pommerische Theologus, Herr. D. Johann Friedrich Meyer im Besitz gehabt)" ["...through the acquisition of an entire Jewish synagogue, (this had previously belonged to the excellent Swedish-Pommeranian theologian, Dr. Johann Friedrich Meyer)"] – no more details about the time and circumstances of the real estate transactions involved are given.