

THE BENEFICE OF JOHANNES SYLVIUS EGRANUS IN EGER

Dieter Demandt

Johannes Sylvius Egranus originated in the Wildenauer family of Eger. In some aspects he was a sympathizer of the Reformation, but he worked mainly as a humanistic reformer within the traditional Church. For more than two decades he owned, in absentia, a *benefice* at the local Frauenkirche in his hometown of Eger, which came about when the local synagogue was converted. Later he was probably pushed into renouncing the *benefice* by the rigid attitude toward these matters of Thomas Müntzer, with whom he argued on the subject, while both of them were working in Zwickau. Müntzer had, in accordance with his criticism of the materialist orientation of the clergy, renounced a *benefice* which he owned, in absentia, through the Michaelskirche in Braunschweig.