

Letter 168: 20 September 1523, Sélestat, Jacob Wimpheling to Capito

Wimpheling copied this letter into his personal copy of Gerson's *Opera* (Basel, 1489), vol. 1, fol. 2, now in the Municipal library of Haguenau. The text has been printed in O. Herding et al. eds., *Jacobi Wimphelingi Opera selecta* (Munich, 1965-), vol. 3-2, 873-4. The editors give the date of the letter as "zwischen 6.IX. und 25.X. 1523". Wimpheling does in fact provide a date, but the editors misread the words in question as 'verbi gracia Mathei auctoritate 23'. The correct reading is 'Vespera Matthaei anno 23,' i.e. 'On the eve of [the feast of] St. Matthew, in the year 23'.

[*Summary*]: Wimpheling complains that Capito replied harshly to his fatherly admonitions. He reminds Capito that he swore allegiance to the catholic church when he took office and asks him to admonish Bucer to moderate his language. At present he seems to emulate Luther and Hutten's strident tone. Wimpheling wants to see the church reformed, not destroyed through schism.