

Abstract: The library is not there for servants – Disorder, Prohibitions and Change of Personnel in the Library of Maximilian I of Bavaria

Around 1620, Maximilian I of Bavaria faced a dilemma regarding the Aulic Library (Hofbibliothek) at Munich. On the one hand, lending and displaying books was a way to show prestige. On the other hand, the knowledge contained in the Library was to be used for propaganda, which was impossible if the books were loaned or misplaced. Elder library clerks ignored this problem or were inept.

Therefore, Maximilian appointed a devoted young official, Dr. Esaias Leuker, as head of the Library. Leuker put the duke's concept of order into practice or, at least, created an appearance of order. To accomplish this, he drafted a number of administrative records which he regularly submitted to the duke. Furthermore, he was an important propagandist author for Maximilian in the 1620ies. As a clerk and as an author he embodies the Library's transformation from a show of prestige to a propaganda tool of the State.

Keywords: Munich, Aulic Library; librarians; Duke Maximilian I of Bavaria; Dr. Esaias Leuker

Schlagworte: München, Hofbibliothek; Bibliothekare; Herzog Maximilian I. von Bayern; Dr. Esaias Leuker