



Universalitas & Pervasivitas

IL COSTITUIRSI E DIFFONDERSI DELLA S.J. E SUOI ECHI (1540 - 1773)

di A. Pisani

Schede autori Contesto teologico e filosofico

Christopher Besoldus

Christopher Besoldus (Christoph Besold) (1577 – September 1638) was a German jurist and publicist whose writing is seen as important for the history of the causes of the Thirty Years' War.

Life

He was born of Protestant parents in 1577 at Tübingen, Württemberg. He studied jurisprudence, and in the early 1590s was a close friend of Johannes Kepler. Besold asked permission of the classical scholar Vitus Müller (Veit Müller, 1561–1626) to defend theses based on Kepler's dissertation (on astronomical topics); he was denied the chance.[1][2] Later, when Katharina Kepler, Johannes Kepler's mother, was prosecuted on witchcraft charges, Besold was one of the jurists dealing with the case, which was dropped.[3]

He graduated as Doctor of Law in 1598; and in 1610 became professor of law at Tübingen. Among his pupils was Johannes Valentinus Andreae.[4] His advice was frequently sought in juridical questions by the civil administration.

He read the Scriptures, the writings of the Church Fathers, and of the medieval mystics. He was publicly converted to Catholicism at Heilbronn in 1635. Two years later, he accepted the chair of Roman Law at the University of Ingolstadt. He was considering the offer of a professorship at the University of Bologna, tendered him by Pope Urban VIII, when he died at Ingolstadt.

Works

His works are numerous, with 102 scholarly writings known.[5]

The *Thesaurus Practicus* (1629), an alphabetical and encyclopedic work defining legal and other terms, ran to many editions, being taken up by his student Johann Jacob Speidel (died 1666) and others.[6]

His publication of three volumes of documents from the Stuttgart archives gave offence because their contents tended to prove that the immediate dependency of the Württemberg monasteries on the Empire (*Reichsunmittelbarkeit*) implied for the local dukes the obligation of restoring the confiscated religious property. His writings are important for the history of the causes of the Thirty Years War.

He translated the satirical *Ragguagli di Parnaso* of Trajano Boccalini.[7]

References

* "Christopher Besoldus". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company. 1913.





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Notes

1. ^ <http://www.depauw.edu/sfs/backissues/8/christianson8art.htm>
2. ^ Edward Rosen, Kepler's Somnium: the dream, or posthumous work on lunar astronomy (2003), p. 107.
3. ^ <http://www.archive.org/stream/renaissancerefor35victuoft#page/n115/mode/2up>
4. ^ Herbert Jaumann, Handbuch Gelehrtenkultur der Frühen Neuzeit (2004), p. 93.
5. ^ (German) <http://www.philso.uni-augsburg.de/web2/Politik1/besold1.htm>
6. ^ (German) <http://www.uni-mannheim.de/mateo/camenaref/besold.html>
7. ^ R. J. W. Evans, Rudolf II and his World (1973), p. 281.

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