

ZGAE 60 (2016)

ARTICLE

Martin Müller, The Warmian Theologian and Historian Franz Hipler (1836 –1698) Science and Journalism between Romanticism and Modernism, Confession and Nation

The publications of Franz Hipler, Warmian theologian and historian, are reassessed for current narrative elements of a disenchanted secular modernism leading to a nation-state. The article is based on several monographies and periodicals, but mainly on the *Pastoralblatt für die Diözese Ermland*, edited by Hipler from 1869 to 1898.

Influenced by theologians and philosophers like Schlüter, Döllinger and Günther, who were romantically inspired and later partly banned or excommunicated, Hipler combines the historic-critical method with mystical appearances. These findings apply to his dissertation on the authorship of writings ascribed to Dionysius Areopagita as well as to his treatises on the Marian apparitions of Dietrichswalde and on the Warmian Dargel Sect.

Being council theologian of the Warmian Bishop Krementz, he initially published articles critical of the infallibility dogma in the *Pastoralblatt*. Then, after his late submission to the dogma, he started a sharp publicist exchange with the Old Catholics.

Hipler, the historian and hagiographer, does not offer a providential German national history, but shows a cultural and historical affiliation of – at least – Early Modern Warmia to the East-Central European Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania and he rejects any one-sided national assignment as scientifically inadmissible backward projections.

Moreover, in his *Pastoralblatt* we find evidence for the intention of a centralizing and disciplining modernization management of the Catholic milieu of East Prussia, when Hipler comments on the approach to typical themes of the 19th century such as the social question, the development of mass media, Catholic associations or the Sacred Heart Mass Devotion.