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Bullinger, Heinrich: Briefe von Januar bis März 1547, bearb. von Reinhard Bodenmann, Alexandra Kess und Judith Steiniger, Zürich: Theologischer Verlag Zürich, 2019 (Heinrich Bullinger Briefwechsel 19), 495 S - ISBN 978-3-290-18186-4-

Reading the letters published in Volume 19 of Heinrich Bullinger's correspondence is a little bit like picking up a novel and starting in the middle of the book. The story being told is that of the Schmalcaldic War, which was also the dominant topic of the letters from 1546 published in the previous three volumes of Bullinger's correspondence. The 137 letters contained in volume 19, covering the first three months of 1547, document the reaction of Bullinger and his friends to the disastrous outcome of the war for the Protestants. The largest number of these letters were exchanged with fellow reformers in Augsburg, Basel, Constance, and St. Gallen, but Bullinger also received letters from correspondents in Venice, Marburg, and the territory of the Cologne archbishop-electors.

Overshadowing all other topics in this volume is the situation of Constance. Ambrosius Blarer sent 26 letters to Bullinger over this three-month period, and there are seven extant letters from Bullinger to Blarer. The correspondence between the two reformers continued to be a mix of Latin and German, indicating that the letters were intended to be shared with allies on the council of each reformer's hometown. As the other cities of south Germany surrendered to the emperor, Blarer desperately sought Zurich's support, and he enlisted Bullinger's aid in trying to persuade the French to provide Constance with money for defense. Bullinger worked behind the scenes to influence the Zurich council, but he was unable to do much more than provide moral support for Constance.

Blarer reported on the atrocities committed by Spanish troops in Württemberg, especially towards pastors; this had caused an influx of refugees to Constance. As the situation developed, he informed

Bullinger of the terms imposed by the emperor on Ulm and on Duke Ulrich of Württemberg, while Oswald Myconius and Johannes Gast in Basel passed on reports from Strasbourg. Much of the news that came to Basel concerned the course of war in Saxony and Bohemia, but there was also concern about the fate of nearby Montbéliard: were the rumors true that the territory had been sold to France?

Bullinger was kept apprised of the developing situation in Augsburg through letters from the Stadtschreiber Georg Frölich and the pastor Johannes Haller. Both correspondents criticized the city's peace settlement with the emperor and decried the lack of a written guarantee that religious reforms would not be rescinded. Haller also reported on the unrest in the city. He and the other Zurich pastors in the city feared for their safety and asked to be recalled by the Zurich council. Bullinger's admonition to constancy provoked an aggrieved response from Haller, and another of the Zurich pastors in Augsburg, Lorenz Meyer, complained that they awaited death not because of their witness to the truth, but »because we are Zwinglians and Swiss.«

Bullinger's correspondence also sheds more light on the theological disagreements between Zurich and Strasbourg, which had ramifications for Bern. In December 1546, the Zurich students studying in Strasbourg had refused to participate in the Lord's Supper, which caused the Strasbourg pastors to protest to their counterparts in Zurich. In early January the Zurich pastors wrote back justifying the students' decision not to receive communion because they did not share the Strasbourg understanding of the sacrament. At about the same time, a conflict over the Lord's Supper was developing in Bern's territory; this caused Zurich's pastors to explain their understanding of both the ministry and the Lord's Supper to Bern's pastors. One upshot of these controversies was Bern's decision to transfer its students from Strasbourg to Zurich, where they would receive the »pure teaching« of the gospel. At about the same time, Calvin was reading Bullinger's manuscript treatise on the Lord's Supper; he sent his lengthy critique to Bullinger at the end of February. This epistolary exchange would be an important stage in the negotiations that resulted two years later in the *Consensus Tigurinus*. In Basel, Francisco Dryander also read

Bullinger's treatise, which he found preferable to an unpublished work on the Lord's Supper by Simon Grynaeus.

Sixteenth-century correspondence can be a daunting source for historical research because of the many allusions to people, publications, and developments familiar to the correspondents but not to modern readers. The editors of this volume have provided tremendous help to those readers, however. Reinhard Bodenmann's lengthy introduction lays out the historical background and discusses several of the major topics. It is a superb overview of this three-month period that highlights the value of the letters contained in the volume. Each letter has a German summary that comes close to a translation and annotations that shed light on the letter's contents without going into too much detail. Letters that have been published elsewhere are not included in the volume, but their detailed summaries are a significant improvement on the older publications; this is particularly true of the letters contained in the *Corpus Reformatorum* edition of Calvin's correspondence.

Perhaps most importantly, this volume shows how important Bullinger's correspondence is not only for church historians but for early modernists more generally. The letters provide important new information on the aftermath of the Schmalkaldic War as well as on the transmission of news, and they give valuable insights into many aspects of daily life in the sixteenth century. It is a significant loss to the scholarly world that the publication of Bullinger's correspondence will end with the volume covering the remaining months of 1547.

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Daniel Timmerman, Heinrich Bullinger on Prophecy and the Prophetie Office (1523-1538), Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2015 (Reformed Historical Theology 33), 329 S - ISBN 978-3-525-55089-2.

Es ist ein mutiges Unterfangen des nunmehr reformierten Pfarrers in den Niederlanden, Daniel Timmerman, in seiner Dissertation an der Apeldoorn University of Theology eine großangelegte Studie über »Prophetie« und das »prophetische Amt« bei Heinrich Bul-