

Summary

GOTTHARD LIHNIE AND HIS *SERMONES* ON CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

The study is devoted to a satirical critical treatise in verse on contemporary literary production in Prague and Vienna written in Latin by Gotthard Lihnie at the beginning of the 1780s, and to other related texts. The first edition of Lihnie's treatise, which contained only one *sermo*, incited Johann Alois Schneider, one of the castigated authors, to publish a treatise of a similar kind in response. Lihnie then published in German an apology to his critics in general and Schneider in particular. Finally, a second edition of Lihnie's treatise followed, containing a revised version of the original *sermo* as well as three new ones.

In his work, which consisted of both verse and extensive comments in prose, Lihnie criticized his contemporaries for various deficiencies such as the poor writing, hasty composing and the premature submitting of the works in print, a lack of reverence and piety, and a desire to please the general public. *Sermones* also contained criticism of the content of the individual works. Some of them were considered simply banal, but Lihnie was particularly troubled with texts that – as a result of the relaxation of censorship by Emperor Joseph II – dealt with religion, church or monastic life, in a way that Lihnie, being a member of the Piarist order, considered irreverent. In terms of literary composition and argumentation, Lihnie's treatise was clearly inspired by ancient Latin authors, primarily Horace, Persius and Juvenal, whose verse was adopted or paraphrased on numerous occasions.

Keywords: Gotthard Lihnie; Johann Alois Schneider; satires; literary criticism; 1780s

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