

Marian Kowalski MA

University of Warsaw

Supervisor: Prof. Joanna Godlewicz-Adamiec

Brief summary of the dissertation

Literature and homily – a literary studies perspective on the collection of homilies of Duke Bishop Christopher Andrew John Szembek

Duke Bishop Szembek was one of the most important bishops of Warmia. He preached the sermons relevant to this work in the first half of the 18th century. The selection to be examined was published by the Jesuits in 1740 in Braunsberg (Braniewo). This anthology, *Seelen-Stärckender Rosen-Seym, Zur Erquickung Krafftloser Hertzen, Von den Hoch-Fürstlichen Stamm-Rosen Des Durchlauchtigsten, Hochwürdigsten Fürsten und Herren, H. Christophori Andreae Joannis Graffen in Shupow Szembek, Bischoffen zu Ermland und Samland, Des Heil. Römischen Reichs Fürsten, Der Lande Preussen Praesidis gezogen; Das ist Heilsames Gottes-Wort, Mit welchem Ihro Hoch-Fürstlichen Durchlaucht In denen anvertrauten Bischöfflichen Stifften ein Christliches Volck Auff dem Tugend-Weeg Heiligen Lebens angefrischet, Nunmehr Andren Gottliebenden Seelen Zur Christlichen Sitten-Lehr, Von den Unterthänigsten Dieneren PP. Soc: Jesu bey der H. Linde zusammen getragen*, consisting of three volumes and 314 pages, is located in the Old Prints department of the Warsaw University Library.

The sermons, which were given on the occasion of various feasts related to Catholic life, are written in Baroque German language. The aim of the work is the analysis of the sermons from a literary point of view. According to the literary research method of investigation, this study begins with empirically ascertainable facts, which at first are recognized and then explained, which corresponds to hermeneutics. The work attempts to justify the thesis that the sermons are to be assigned to devotional literature ('Erbauungsliteratur'). Due to its complexity, analysis of the text corpus requires an interdisciplinary approach. The content and the structure of the work is closely related to the primary text.

The edification, deepening and consolidation of the knowledge of faith on the one hand, and the promotion of the life of faith on the other, represent the nature and purpose of the sermons. Content and sources and also structure of chosen sermons (analysis of literature) will be a scope of research and also their influence on their recipients (literature interpretation).

This collection of sermons, the text corpus, has not been scientifically studied. Consequently, the novelty and aim of this work is to conduct a research on this area.

