

## **The Bernese hymnbooks between 1606 and 1853. Analysis of the repertoire of the hymns outside the Genevan Psalter (working title)**

The dissertation project is dedicated to the development of the repertoire of the so-called "Festlieder" (hymns outside the Genevan Psalter) in the Bernese hymnbooks between 1606 and 1853, focusing on the reception and selection of church songs in the context of the musical, theological and social conditions of their time.

The prerequisites for this are a reliable list and description of the Bernese hymnbooks in the mentioned period, which have so far only been rudimentarily examined, as well as the recording of the songs contained therein. The relationship between rhyme psalms and other hymns must be quantified and – as far as can be deduced from sources at all – brought into connection with this relationship in worship use. The description and analysis of the linguistic, theological and musical development follow as the most important part of the work, since hymns have always appeared in innumerable versions and deviations in text, melody, metre and rhythm which can also occur in combination. In addition, their origins should be clarified as far as possible. This will make it possible to examine the tradition and the history of the "Festlieder" in the different hymnals.

In addition, hymnals from other "hymnal centres" in German-speaking Switzerland – Zurich, Basel, Schaff-hausen – are to be consulted for cross-comparison after the inventory has been carried out and during their later evaluation, in order to track down analogous developments in adjacent hymnal traditions or even to determine a Swiss general trend.

Finally, the hymnbook question in the 19<sup>th</sup> century will be discussed as an excursus, as various attempts to create new and competing song collections culminated in the Bernese cantonal hymnbook of 1853.

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