

The Expulsion of the Salzburger



Engraving by David Böecklin from Die Freundliche Bewillkommung Leipzig: 1732

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On October 31, 1731, the Catholic ruler of Salzburg, Austria, Archbishop Leopold von Firmian, issued an edict expelling as many as 20,000 Lutherans from his principality. Many propertyless Lutherans, given only eight days to leave their homes, froze to death as they drifted through the winter seeking sanctuary. The wealthier ones who were allowed three months to dispose of their property fared better. Some of these Salzburger reached London, from whence they sailed to Georgia. Others found new homes in the Netherlands and East Prussia.