

The Many Faces of THEODORE BEZA

1519-1605



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE REFORMATION
mir.ch



JUNE 21ST
OCTOBER 27TH

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

(room N° 4)

Montaigne considered him a fine scholar; Catherine de Medici enjoyed his company. As for King Henry IV of France, he worried about his criticisms... **Theodore Beza** played a leading role in 16th century France. Born in Vézelay in 1519, he was also the great architect of the Reformation in Geneva and Europe, after Calvin's death, whom he admired above all. The author of 100 books, a tireless translator of the Bible, a poet and a successful preacher – he preached in front of 6000 people in Paris –, Theodore Beza represents one of the most important figures of Protestantism that followed in the footsteps of the Luther, Zwingli and Calvin generation.

In 2019, the **International Museum of the Reformation** celebrates the 500th anniversary of his birth by exhibiting in its prestigious salon a representative and original sample of

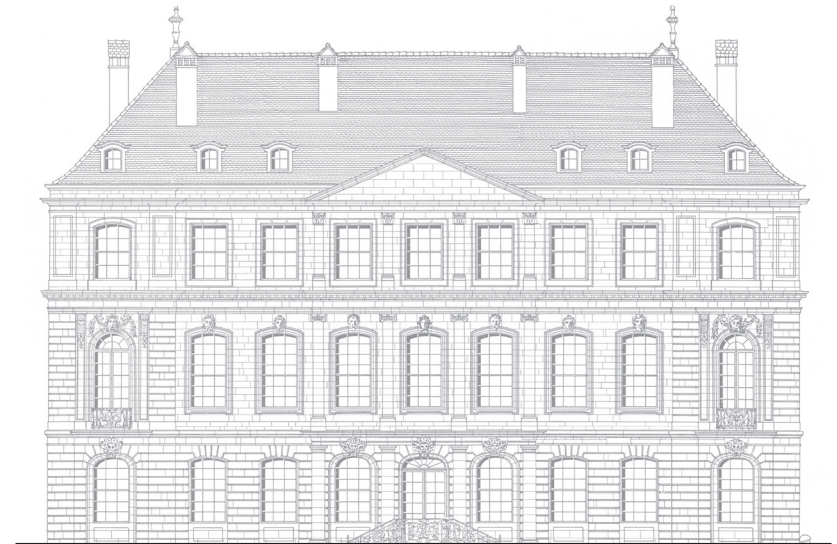
items related to him: his famous *Icons of the Reformation*, an erotic poem from his youth, a political text co-published with *Machiavelli's Prince*, a letter from King Henry IV, the famous anonymous portrait of the Reformer as a young man or the famous oil on canvas made by Ferdinand Hodler in 1884 depicting Calvin and the teachers in the court of the Collège de Genève... among many other objects on display.

In total, 36 items presenting Theodore Beza as a poet, thinker, pedagogue and diplomat, a great Reformer who was also a great Genevan, the first rector of the Academy, which he founded with Calvin, a moderator of the Compagnie des pasteurs for 15 years and witness to the Escalade in 1602 (even though he was not aware of it, having been sound asleep!)...



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE REFORMATION

500 YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE HEART OF THE CITY OF GENEVA



FIND OUT ABOUT THE REFORMATION FROM 1517 TO THE PRESENT THROUGH ...

- The introductory film
“The Reformation in 7 minutes” (room N° 15)
- 11 short films on the Bible (room N° 16)
- The temporary exhibition:
“The Many Faces of Theodore Beza” (room N° 4)
- and 13 exhibition rooms



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE REFORMATION

1 TICKET COUNTER AND SHOP

The entrance to the Museum is located in the courtyard of the Maison Mallet. Next to the ticket counter is the Museum shop, which offers a wide selection of items and books about Geneva and the Reformation.

2 THE BIBLE

Rare Bibles from the 16th century are displayed and remind visitors of the pivotal role that Scriptures played in the expansion of Protestantism. Reformers such as Luther translate the Bible into the vernacular and further explain it in treatises or sermons they preach at church, as can be seen on the famous *Temple de Paradis* painting.

3 POLEMICS

The Reformation brought about polemics with the Roman Church. Both sides fight through caricatures and pictures. The Pope was depicted by Protestants as the devil, while Catholics imagine Calvin and Luther as they are about to enter Hell...

4 THE SALON

Dedicated to temporary exhibitions, the Salon hosts in 2019 a presentation of Theodore Beza, Calvin's successor in Geneva. He was a versatile 16th-century figure, a poet, teacher, thinker and diplomat.

5 THE REFORMATION IN FRANCE AND THE WARS OF RELIGION

Enriched by the generosity of collector Jean-Paul Barbier-Mueller, this room presents over 80 documents related to the rise of the Reformation in 16th-century France and the eight religious wars it provoked. At the heart of the violence, Saint-Bartholomew's Day massacres are presented through unique testimonies.

6 CALVIN AND GENEVA

This room contains particularly interesting items related to Calvin's time in Geneva, including two letters from the French Reformer and the first and last editions of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* published during his lifetime. The first register of the Company of Pastors draws a lively portrait of nascent Calvinism.

7 THE MUSIC ROOM

Reformation favours music over other artforms. While sitting on pews facing the

Tables of the Law, visitors listen to Huguenot psalms, Lutheran chorales and contemporary versions of Protestant songs from overseas.

8 THE REFORMATION IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

A banquet gathers around a table Reformed theologians and philosophers, from Calvin to Rousseau. The conversation revolves around predestination, a doctrine relating to the election of some and the damnation of others. For two centuries, this debate had a profound impact on the Reformation, particularly on the occasion of the Dordrecht Synod (1618). H15 et H45.

9 THE REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES, THE REFUGE & THE DESERT

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes by King Louis XIV plunged Protestant France into exile and the "desert", a period of hiding. They leave the French Kingdom for Europe,

the Americas or South Africa, they gather in remote regions such as the Cévennes, like the Hebrews in the desert. The Waldensians of Piedmont (Italy) also go through terrible ordeals.

10 REFORMATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Three centuries after Calvin, artists celebrate his memory and that of the then nascent Reformation with grandiosity. The painter Hornung depicts his death and Anker his profile portrait, while Toepffer paints genre scenes of gatherings outside countryside churches.

11 THE GOOD WORKS TRAIN

Throughout the 19th century, Western Protestants, concerned about the effects of industrialisation, created many institutions to help the most disadvantaged cope with the difficulties of modern life: the "train of good works" draws up a representative list.

12 THE 19TH CENTURY CONTINUED

During this century, which saw the development of science, colonialism and nationalism, Protestantism was fragmented into several schools of thought, ranging from a return to Reformed Orthodoxy through individual conversion to a radical critique of Christian dogmas. Reformed Christians undertook major intellectual work to adapt Protestantism to the rapid changes of that era.

13 THE 20TH CENTURY

In times of such extreme tension, Protestantism is on the path to modernity: the first female pastors are nominated, Karl Barth brings about a major theological renewal, heroic figures emerge, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a victim of Nazism. A visual journey retraces the American epic, from stagecoaches to rockets, from the emergence of Pentecostalism to megachurches.

14 THE 21ST CENTURY

The nascent 21st century brought about a resurgence of conflicts mixing religion with politics. Pentecostalism is expanding widely in Africa, Latin America and Asia. As for historical Protestantism, it is positioned as an alternative. An audio-visual display on five screens allows visitors to see various excerpts from religious services from all over the world.

15 THE REFORMATION IN 7 MINUTES

Produced by Arte France Développement, the new film introduces visitors to the Reformation and the MIR collections. It makes it possible, in under seven minutes, to understand the beginnings of Protestantism, and helps visitors appreciate even more all the precious items they are about to see while visiting the MIR.

16 11 SHORT FILMS ON THE BIBLE

Turned into a projection room, the Compagnie Hall will host, until October 27th, a selection of 11 films recounting as many famous stories from the Old Testament. Conceived by artist Serge Bloch & writer Frédéric Boyer, and read by actor André Dussolier, these animated stories, each lasting four minutes, let visitors into the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark or the Tower of Babel.

