Matthew Schiner

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∗ around 1465 Mühlebach (today municipality of Ernen), † 30.9./1.10.1522 Rome. Son of Peter, mountain farmer and carpenter, and Anna Welschen or Magdalena (surname unknown). Nephew of Bishop Niklaus (   ). Studied in Sitten and Como, ordained priest in Rome in 1489, chaplain of Ernen, notary. From 1492 chancellor of the Valais country clerk Georg Supersaxo, 1496 pastor of Ernen and non-resident canon of Sion, 1497 dean of Valeria, 1499 successor of his uncle as bishop of Sion and count of Valais.

The transfer of power within the Schiner family in 1499, depicted in the *Lucerne Chronicle* by Diebold Schilling (/de/articles/014484/2011-08-03/) , 1513 (Lucerne

In the first decade of his episcopacy, Matthäus Schiner carried out church reforms and issued directives for the clergy and the people. As sovereign, he ensured peace and order in the county of Valais and was also a clever tactician in foreign policy. In 1507 he extended the armistice with Savoy by 15 years. Since Schiner openly backed the coalition between Milan, the Emperor and the Pope and tried by all means to keep France away from Lombardy, the Roman Curia increasingly called on his diplomatic skills: in 1507 he was papal envoy to the Reichstag in Constance and in 1508 he was a judge in Jetzerhandel in Bern. In 1510 he persuaded the Confederates to support Pope Julius II in northern Italy against France. Since Georg Supersaxo simultaneously persuaded three Valais Zenden to form an alliance with France, the smoldering conflict in Valais after Supersaxo's change of sides in 1505 escalated, and Schiner initially won the battle in 1510. In recognition of his diplomatic services, Julius II appointed him Cardinal of St. Pudentiana in 1511. That same year, Schiner fled his Valais opponents for Rome, where he worked on the anti-French Holy League between the Pope, Venice and the King of Spain, who later also joined England. In 1512, Julius II appointed Schiner first as legate to the Confederates, later as administrator of the diocese of Novara. Also in 1512, with the help of Swiss mercenaries, Schiner drove the French out of Lombardy in a pavier campaign and, together with the Swiss, obtained the appointment of Massimiliano Sforza as Duke of Milan. In 1515, Schiner played a key role in

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concluding the Holy Alliance, which was primarily directed against the Turks. Pope Leo X gave Schiner the supreme command of the papal army. The defeat in the Battle of Marignano in 1515 weakened Schiner's position and in Valais the supporters of Supersaxo gained the upper hand. In 1519 he campaigned successfully for the election of Charles V as Roman-German king. After the conclusion of the offensive alliance against France between Charles V and Leo X, Schiner recaptured Milan in 1521 with a confederate army. When the Pope died in the same year Schiner was entrusted with the administration of the Papal States. Despite the support of Charles V, his candidacy failed due to the resistance of the French cardinals. In the conclave in 1522 Schiner was on the side of Hadrian of Utrecht, who as Hadrian VI. was elected pope. In the same year, Schiner died of the plague.

sources and literature

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Brief information

family affiliation	Shiner (/articles/023599/2011-08-08/)
life dates	* around 1465 † 30.9./1.10.1522

systematics

Politics / Society (1250-1800) / Foreign Foreign Policy (/de/search/category?
f_hls.lexicofacet_string=2/000100.121100.122900.)

Politics / Society (1250-1800) (/de/search/category?
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Religion (Catholicism) / Officials / Archbishops and Cardinals (/de/search/category?
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Religion (Catholicism) / Officials / Canons (/de/search/category?
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Religion (Catholicism) / Officials / Priests (/de/search/category?
f_hls.lexicofacet_string=3/000100.138400.138500.139300.)

citation suggestion

Bernard Truffer: "Schiner, Matthäus", in: *Historical Encyclopedia of Switzerland (HLS)* ,
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