

## Abstract

The Old Testament book of 1 Sam deals with Saul, chosen by God as the first king of Israel, his election, rejection and fall, and with David, his singer, who defeated Goliath and later became Saul's successor. In this chain of events the prophet Samuel played a major role.

Elisabeth Frenzel *et alii* have commented on the numerous German playwrights who have based their work on the narrative in 1 Sam; her observation that an upsurge in plays about Saul occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> century provides the background to the present exploration of this aspect of German dramatic literature. The research (ch. 3) resulted in 39 titles and reveals a marked rise in the numbers of plays about Saul even during the first decades of 1900, hence widening the scope of the thesis from 1880 to 1920. Based on a survey of the biblical hypotext (ch. 4), an investigation of more than thirty plays (some of the texts seem to be irretrievably lost) is presented in two main chapters, analysing the references to the biblical hypotext under the aspect of the shift of power from Saul to David, and penetrating the varying solutions displayed in these dramatic works. Six of the plays were selected for a close, comparative analysis. The others are examined in a more concise manner, thus encompassing the whole spectrum of drama on the theme of Saul during this time.

The methods used relate to Pfister's drama theory, theories of *Stoff- und Motivgeschichte* (Trousson, Beller, Bisanz) and of Intertextuality (Lachmann, Bloom, Genette). A great variation was found in the many dramatic transformations of the polyvalent themes in 1 Sam and is discussed in the concluding chapter, where amongst others, secular power (monarchy) versus religious aspirations, the conflict between generations, the potential in being chosen and the agony of being rejected are all significant motifs.

During the bibliographical research an until now unidentified manuscript fragment of Lion Feuchtwanger's lost play *Koenig Saul* (1905) was found and is hereby published for the first time (Anhang C: Copyright © Feuchtwanger Memorial Library, University of Southern California).

Title: Harfe, Speer und Krone. Saul und David in deutschsprachigen Dramen 1880 – 1920.

Language: German.

Written by: Inger Nebel, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Department of German, 2001.

Key words and names: Old Testament, 1 Samuel, Bible dramas, *Stoff- und Motivgeschichte*, Intertextuality, *poetæ minores*, synecdoche, monarchy vs. religious power, powerlessness, chosen, rejected, conflict between generations, king, prophet, Endor, Saul, David, Samuel, Jonathan, Merab, Michal, Lion Feuchtwanger, Marie Eugenie delle Grazie, Paul Heyse, Franz Jung, Eberhard Koenig, Reinhard Johannes Sorge, Johanna Wolff.