

Preface — V

Illustrations — IX

Introduction — 1

I An Intellectual Vagabond — 5

An Adventurous Life — 5
An Orthodox from Frankenstein — 6
Pietist from Strassburg to Giessen — 8
Gold in the Glass Hut — 19
Alchemist in Berlin — 27
Doctor in the Netherlands — 40
Goldmaker in Altona — 49

II The Case Against Dippel in Altona — 59

The Brief Version — 59
Act 1: Dippel and the Suppressed Fellow Human Beings — 60
 Dippel's Letter to Frederik IV in 1717 — 60
Bandau v. Meyer — 64
Lieben v. Buÿser the Widow — 68
Dippel's Zeal for Justice — 71
A City Council in Arms — 74
Four Heinrichs on a Raid — 76
Attacking Incompetent Judges Is Not Libel — 80
Act 2: The Campaign Against Corruption — 83
 March 1719 – The Case Explodes — 83
Two Portugallöser — 85
Reventlow's Shapeshifting — 88
Dippel Panicking — 92
A Cascade of Culprits — 101
A Middleman Caught in the Middle — 103
Act 3: Reventlow's Letter Storm and a New Commission — 110
 Reventlow on the War Path — 110
Raising the Stakes: From Libel to Blasphemy — 117
The Threat of a Golden Gallows — 129
Two Trunks and a Speedy Commission — 134
What Goes on in That Commission? — 137

The Mystery of a Sealed Parcel — 144

Dark Depths of Interrogations — 145

A Punishment on the Edge of Summer — 149

A Sentence Without Law? — 152

Act 4: The Shaping of a Punishment — 156

 Machinations in Copenhagen — 156

End Game with Burning Writings — 165

A Mirror Separating the Sheep from the Goats — 172

The Innocent Joys of Jail — 175

You Cannot Order the Moon to Shine — 177

A Political Theology of Altona — 181

III Dippel on New Adventures — 192

Prisoner for Life on Bornholm — 192

Tumult in Stockholm — 208

Copenhagen Without Chains — 212

The Holy Land of Berleburg — 218

IV An Impartial Intellectual and the Taste of God — 230

Appendices

Timeline — 243

Register of the Dippel Case Files, State Archives Copenhagen — 249

Other Archivalia — 255

References — 257

Name Index — 267