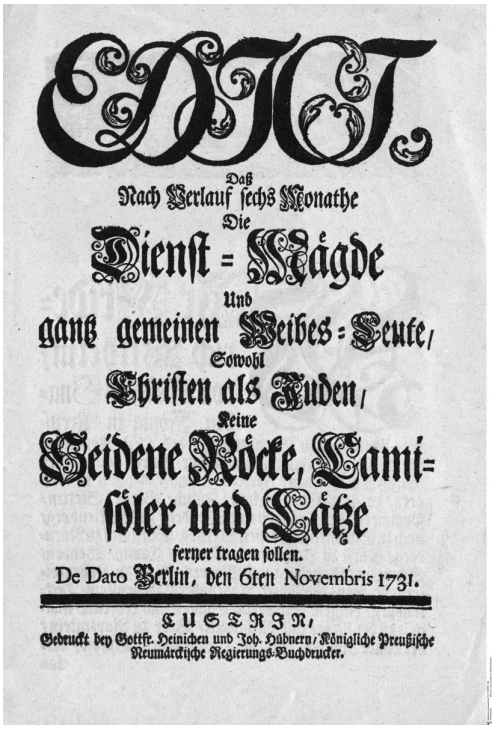
Edict Protecting Prussian Wool Manufacturers: No Silk Skirts or Camisoles (November 6, 1731)

Abstract

This Prussian edict forbade, “after six months’ time,” all maidservants and other female commoners, Christian and Jewish, from wearing silk dresses, camisoles, or pinafores. This edict reasserted longstanding government restrictions (throughout Europe) on commoners’ indulgence in luxury goods, to which the propertied classes staked an exclusive claim. At the same time, it also functioned as a protectionist measure to favor domestic textile production in Prussia, where the silk industry not yet been established.

Source



EDICT.

Daß
Nach Verlauf ſechs Monathe
Die
Dienſt = Mägde
Und
gantz gemeinen Weibes = Leute,
Sowohl
Chriſten als Juden,
Keine
Seidene Röcke, Camiſöler und Lätze
ferner tragen ſollen.
De Dato Berlin, den 6ten Novembris 1731.

CUSTRIN,
Gedruckt bey Gottfr. Heinichen und Joh. Hübnern, Königliche Preußiſche Neumärckiſche Regierungs-Buchdrucker.

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