POST-REFORMATION AND MODERN TIMES
Readers who come away from Georg Mayer’s writing with a sense of respect or even admiration must feel frustrated when they see that next to nothing is known about his life. Today we know fifteen pamphlets that he authored, thirteen of them datable to the years 1554 to 1562 and written in support of Caspar Schwenckfeld. Most of these answer specific attacks upon the theological positions of the gentle but independent-minded Silesian nobleman. In 1572 a credible reference identifies Mayer as the—nominally Lutheran—pastor of Leeder (now belonging to the municipality of Fuchstal between Landsberg and Kaufbeuren) which was then a feud of the Rehlinger, a family of Augsburg patricians. Ulrich Rehlinger (†1547), mayor of Augsburg, and his wife and son were known to be followers of Schwenckfeld. Chances are that Mayer already held the pastoral office at Leeder in the 1550s. In a letter of 25 January 1558, Schwenckfeld praised Mayer’s pamphlets as being objective, fair, and measured in their polemic.¹ The editors of the Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum tentatively interpret a manuscript note of 1570 to mean that by then Mayer had turned away from Schwenckfeld’s teachings.² In October 1573, the Bishop of Augsburg took steps to have a reputedly Calvinistic preacher and schoolmaster removed from their positions in Leeder. The editors of the Corpus also speculate that Georg Mayer might have been a brother of the printer Sebald Mayer who operated a press from c. 1550 to 1576 in Dillingen on the Danube between Ulm and Augsburg, publishing