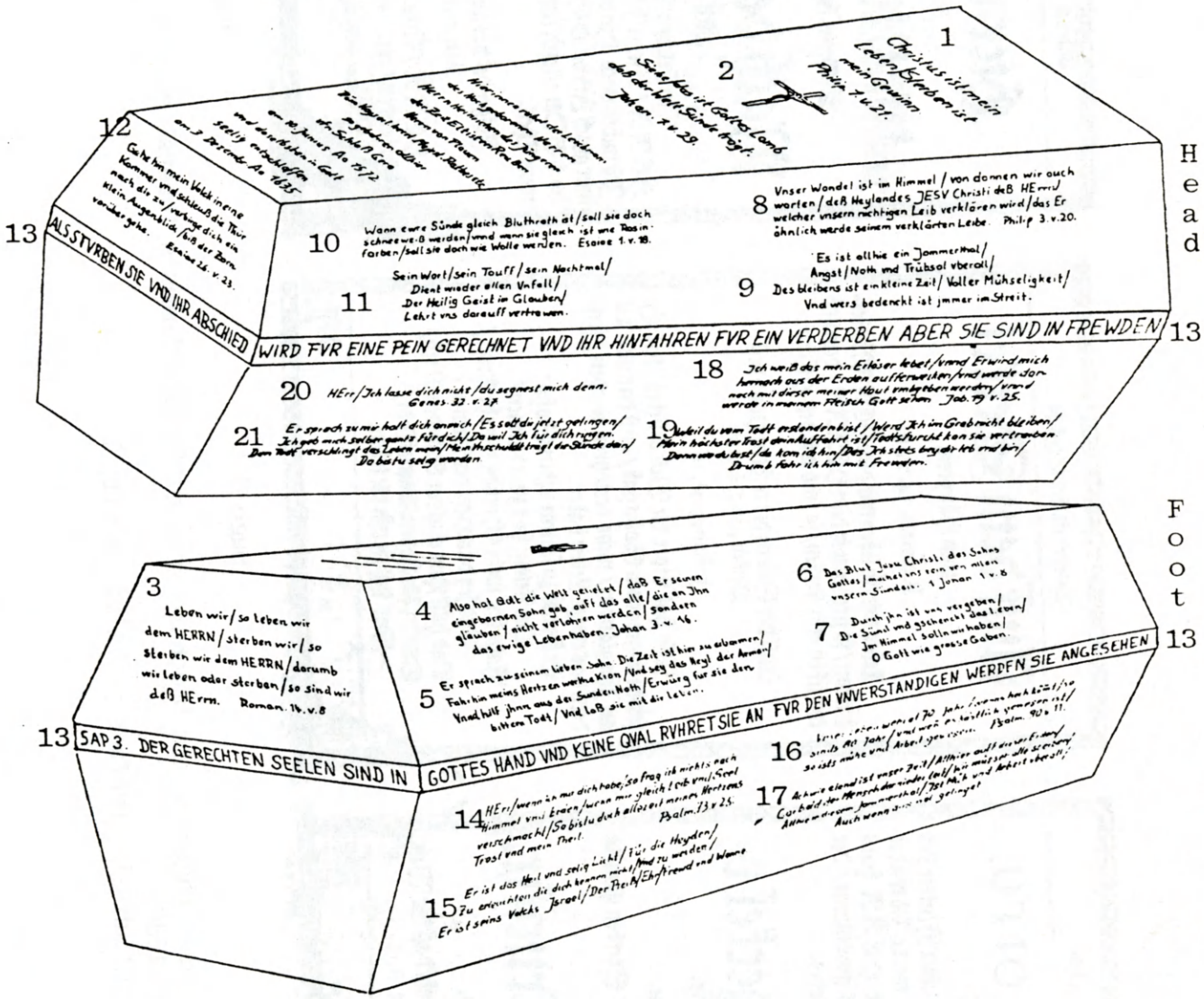
and (atypically for the time) chorale stanzas; each of the eight chorale strophes acted as an exegesis of the preceding Bible verse in a pattern that proclaimed the story of salvation in Christ.



Schematic: Position of texts inscribed on Posthumus's coffin. Arabic numerals indicate the order of the texts as they appear in Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien.* Photographs of the coffin are on the opposite page.[6]

[6]The coffin lay in the Reuss family tomb at the parish church of St. John in Gera from 1636 to 1922. The church burned down in 1780, and the ruins were razed in 1824. When a road was to be built in 1922, the grave contents had to be transferred to the Salvatorkirche in Gera, where they remain to this day. The Gera *Stadtarchiver*, Kretschmer, took photographs and made a diagram of the coffin text layout in 1921 (Henning 45). Kretschmer also discovered a