THE SMALL TRADES AND HANDICRAFTS IN PRAGUE IN THE LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY

Peter Heumos

In the period under survey, the occupational-industrial structure of Prague and Bohemia was marked by the predominance of small-trades enterprises. The small trades — in Prague above all shoemakers, tailors, glovers, joiners and locksmiths — were only partly still conducted along handicraft lines and were, generally, closer to the capitalist form of goods production. Signs of this were the relatively high extent of endowment with machines, the dominance of cottage industry as the enterprise organizational form, the high degree of division of labor, and piece-work. The economic development of the small trades in this period appears, in general, to have been satisfactory. Around 1900 a third of the small-trades working force still lived with masters, but the disintegration of this patriarchal form was proceeding apace.

THE TRADITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Gustav Grün er

The „Ständische technische Lehranstalt zu Prag“, established in 1806, was an outgrowth of the „Prager Ingenieurschule“. The language of instruction was German. By 1864 instruction in this frequently redesignated institution was bilingual, but in 1869 it was split into Czech and German polytechnical institutes, each of which subsequently assumed the name of „Technische Hochschule“. Though no like division occurred in the Technical Institute founded in Brünn in 1849, a separate new Czech college of technology was established in 1899. These four institutions of higher education remained through the interwar period, and only after 1945 were a number of new ones added, while the German institutions were closed down. Today there are ten higher institutions in the ČSSR with a technical orientation. Between 1870 and 1880 Austria established, at the level below the Technische Hochschule, higher vocational schools (Gewerbeschulen) for the purpose of training medium-level technicians. The state vocational school of Brünn became the model for a new school form from which a quarter of all the young people of a given age group today graduate.