

PORCELAIN FROM KLÖSTERLE

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The author, who died in 1958, presents a well-organized historical survey of the Count Thun porcelain factory in Klösterle on the Eger (in north-western Bohemia). His study is based on material the originals of which are perhaps no longer extant. The first part, dealing with the alchemistic and other tentative efforts to make porcelain in Klösterle, is presented here in a concise summary form, but it was published in full in *Stifter-Jahrbuch* 4 (1955), pp. 182—222. The rise of this enterprise, originally founded by the verderer J. N. Weber, started when Count of Thun became the owner at the beginning of the 19th century, and above all under the director K. Venier, who introduced technical improvements at mid-century and thereafter by which a very high level of productivity could be achieved. Naturally, setbacks were unavoidable when changes in the political situation also affected market opportunities.

More impressive than this framework are the details given on the different patterns, prices and forms of marketing, on the organization of the work, on the training of young workers and craftsmen, and on the administration of the enterprise and its shortcomings. The sections dealing with social conditions within the factory, social welfare provisions, sickness and relief funds, the consumer's cooperative, as well as wage remuneration and the workingmen's association in connection with the „labor question“ in the late 19th and early 20th century — these all deserve particular attention.

A lengthy appendix contains a compilation of the greater part of the material used in the study; its inclusion in such detail would only have encumbered the main body of the text. A number of plates with selected examples of Klösterle porcelain are also included.