

## GRILLPARZER AND THE BOHEMIAN LANDS

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His often fierce criticism notwithstanding, Franz Grillparzer always deeply loved the Danube monarchy. Indeed, it was a central existential question for Grillparzer to come to terms with Austria's destiny and mission.

The Bohemian lands were at the core of Grillparzer's preoccupation with Austria. He knew the land and the people and had some knowledge of the

Czech language. He studied the history of Bohemia, and repeatedly turned to this history for themes, figures, places of action and dramatic constellations. He viewed the Czechs as fellow Austrian citizens entitled to equal rights and bearing the common political task. This did not, to be sure, keep him from regarding them as a „tribe“ speaking a mere dialect. He ascribed the rise of Czech national awareness chiefly to an imitation of German nationalism, which he likewise deplored. But in many passages of his diaries and reflective writings, he used Czech examples for the discussion of Austrian nationality problems. He drew, as it were, an individual physiognomy of the Czechs and sought the subconscious well-springs of their national temper and cultural behavior. And he elevated all of this to the plane of the cosmopolitan diction of his classic art, the horizons of his patriotic-monarchist political creed, and his ecumenical humanity. These currents are examined in detail with reference to Grillparzer's dramas „Die Ahnfrau“, „König Ottokars Glück und Ende“, „Ein Bruderzwist im Hause Habsburg“, „Libussa“ and the Drahomira fragment.