

## ALL AROUND THE BASKET IN THE SUDETENLAND

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The development of such seemingly peripheral material objects of the peasant economy as the basket, whose use goes back to the Germanic era, is by no means an arbitrary one. A cartographic presentation of the material produces some very interesting insights. The use of certain basic types in the Sudeten lands was determined by the facts of settlement history and by tribal membership. Map 3 illustrates the use of winnowing baskets in the Upper German area as opposed to large, tall baskets in Central Germany in the early flailing process. Maps 4 and 5 show how such cultural innovations as the introduction of the potato had a decisive influence on basket-weaving.

An equally important revolution was brought about by the changeover from pasture to stall husbandry, above all with respect to the peasant's work indoors. The tall, large baskets proved no more suitable than the oversized winnowing baskets for the purpose of carrying and pouring in mixed feed, which was making rapid headway because it was easily digestible and nourishing.

The use in agriculture of dossers strapped over the shoulders is shown by Map 7 for Bohemia (except eastern Bohemia). In the remaining Sudeten German areas carrying straps or cloths were used, but these are not dealt with here.

It is interesting that the boundaries shown here are identical with the dialect boundaries. Worth special attention is the fact that eastern south Moravia, whose linguistic topography reveals a strong central German influence, followed the central German area also in this regard.