

“BÖHMISCHE DÖRFER”
REMARKS ABOUT AN IDIOM

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The history of the expression *Böhmische Dörfer*, which is commonly used in German, is traced here until the time of the Thirty Years War. *Böhmisch* stands for incomprehensible and foreign. This is in contradistinction, however, to specific variants of thieves' argot, for example, *böhmisch lernen*, as a synonym for stealing or pilfering, which first appeared in Viennese slang at the beginning of the nineteenth century.