

THE HISTORY OF THE PRAGUE JOURNAL
"DER KRANZ" (1820-1824) AND THE FAILURE
OF ITS SUCCESSOR PROJECTS "ELPORE",
"DER PILGER", AND "BOHEMIA"

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The study reconstructs the history of the Prague journal, "Der Kranz" using, for the first time, filed documents. The author succeeds in proving that "Der Kranz" was founded as early as 1820 by Václav Rodomil (Wenzel Richard) Kramerius, modelled upon other projects. Only in July, 1821, however, did it become an official journal, Willibald Schießler taking the post of editor. "Der Kranz" may be characterised as a predominantly entertaining journal in typical Biedermeier fashion, with a lot of space devoted to glorifying Bohemia's past. Due to clashing personalities and conflicts with the Vienna court censor, editors changed frequently. In December 1822, Schießler was forced to retire because of a conflict with Chief Constable Sedlnitzky. His successor, Adolf Gerle, stood alone at the helm until 1824, when the "more dependable" Karoline von Woltmann became co-editor. Since, on a personal level, there was a great deal of disagreement between them, Gerle elected to leave the journal in March of the same year. As to Woltmann's departure and the end of the literary ambitions of the "Kranz", sources give different explanations. Because Viennese and Prague authorities consciously delayed decisions, none of the successor projects could be realized. Only after 1827 did a new generation of journals come into being: the sophisticated "Monatsschrift des vaterländischen Museums" and the rather more entertaining "Bohemia".