

THE OLDEST STATISTICS OF BOHEMIA ON INDUSTRY AND TRADES

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Within the framework of the great economic reforms of Maria Theresa after the loss of her most important industrial province of Silesia, which were designed to provide compensation in Bohemia and Lower Austria, there came about for the first time the systematic outline of „General Manufactory Tables.“ The idea for this went back to the mercantilists of the late 17th century — thus in 1675 Hörnigk, following the instructions of Becher, had conducted statistical surveys of the trades for numerous Bohemian towns — without his work, however, finding any continuation at first. The first new documentary record was for the year 1756, with a description, by districts, of the existing manufactories in Bohemia. It laid special emphasis on the most recent changes and future projects. The „Loscanische Particular Tabellen“, which are probably connected with it and present the results in statistical form, are extant only for a few districts. From the following years, numerous detailed statistics are available on the distribution of certain branches of industry, e. g. glass-works, clothmaking, stocking-factories and others, in individual districts. The first „General Landes Aufnahm und Manufacturs Tabella des Königreiches Böhme“, however, appeared only in the year 1766. It was prepared on the initiative of Count Joseph Kinsky, and, as the first summation in this form of the economic situation of a crown land, was given the highest recognition by Maria Theresa and Joseph II. Copies of it were forwarded to all the other commercial councillors for them to emulate. Fur-

ther „Commerzial Landes Aufnahms Tabella“ have remained fully extant for the years 1775—1783, but thereafter only for the years 1787, 1788, 1790, 1794 and 1797. The last summary appeared already on printed forms.

The present article gives complete editions of the surveys of 1756, 1766 and 1788. Beyond this, comparative statistics on the development of the individual branches of industry are presented, with an evaluation being made of the global data of the statistics for 1766, 1776, 1788 and 1797. For the years 1766 and 1797 a comparison of the range of production and the value of the products is also possible to some extent. From this emerges in very impressive fashion the great industrial ascent of Bohemia in the age of Maria Theresa and Joseph II.