

CLOCKMAKERS IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA (1630—1850)

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The purpose of this study is to supplement Bailly's catalog of clockmakers, which is very incomplete as far as the Bohemian lands are concerned.

It took Bohemia almost half a century to recover from the consequences of the Thirty Years' War. Prague had been reduced to the level of a mere provincial town, and no data is to be found on clockmakers in the second half of the 17th century, though a number of clocks from this period are preserved in museums. The revival of this craft in the 18th century, however, made necessary the extension of new privileges and a reorganization of the guild structure. At this time practitioners of the craft were still classified as either large or small clockmakers. In Bohemia only a few clockmakers were active in rural areas, while there were clockmakers who resided permanently in Pilsen. As for Moravia, there were guild organizations in Olmütz and Brünn. Guild rules notwithstanding, many clockmakers remained independent.

Sources used for Prague were birth, marriage and death registers of the town's Catholic parishes, as well as — to the extent they are available — guild books and registers of town inhabitants. Municipal registers were not used for this study, as they have been handed down to us only in very

incomplete form. The most important documents for Brünn are those preserved in the municipal archives. As far as the smaller towns in Bohemia and Moravia are concerned, the author has confined himself to material which he found in museums.