

JOSEF LOBMEYR (1792-1855):

GLASS MERCHANT, GLASS MANUFACTURER, GLASS EDITOR

Compared with Ludwig Lobmeyr, the life and works of the company founder Josef Lobmeyr are for the most part very obscure. In his standard work written in 1925, Robert Schmidt leaned heavily on the autobiography of Ludwig Lobmeyr to portray the first period of the company under Josef Lobmeyr. The oldest surviving accounts book (starting with 1823) and the 18 volumes of production drawings, which Ludwig Lobmeyr dedicated to the Austrian Museum for Art and Industry in 1882 and 1892, served him as sources. Only in very few instances does Schmidt draw upon documents in the company archives from the Biedermeier period, although these particular sources are extremely informative.

They contain paper patterns in the original measurements and the inscriptions (frequently giving details on function, decoration, techniques, the number to be produced, the glassworks making the product, the refiners, dates, etc., s. ills. 8-10, p. 15) on them provide information barely known previously. The attempt has been made in this publication to decipher the severely abbreviated notations (s. pp. 401-403), however many of them still remain a puzzle.

In the first surviving book of accounts by Josef Lobmeyr, containing the years 1823-24 and labeled with a "B" at the beginning, we find the names of several important business partners of the time: Rösler (s. pp. 92-94), Hafenbrädl, Blechinger, etc. We find further details about their businesses and other refiners and glassworks mentioned in the Lobmeyr patterns, along with their locations, in contemporary publications and maps (s. pp. 406-415):

*"In the Silberberg works and Bonaventura works. Factory director: Mr. Barth. Rössler. Crystal glass, fine colored glass in all colors, cutting and chalk glass; in the Bonaventur works: sideboard and mantel clock glasses, also cylinders . . . / Domain Krumau. In Ernstbrunn at Christ-ianberg. Mr. Johann Blechinger, hollow, table and refined glass wares . . . / At Heraletz, the authorized lease-holder: Mr. Ignaz Hafenbrädel, table glass."* (Handbook 1844, p. 718).

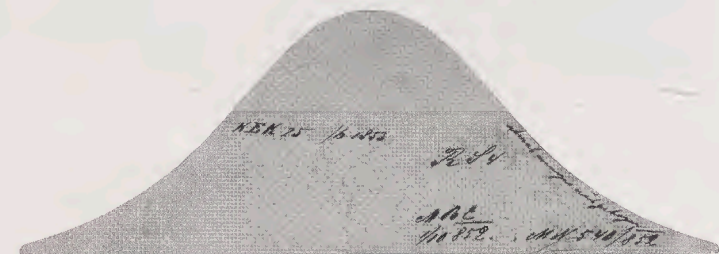
Josef Lobmeyr, whose own production in the Slavonic glass works of Marienthal and Zvečevo we have so far not been able to identify, got most of his glasses from specific centers of the Bohemian glass industry. Among them were the Haida-Steinschönau glass refinery district in northern Bohemia and the Harrach Glassworks in Neuwelt (s. p. 415, ills. 832, 833). In southern Bohemia they were the areas north of the Austrian border around Gratzen with the Bouquoy glassworks at Silberberg and Schwarzthal and the Meyr's Nephews works in Adolph, Winterberg, Eleonorenhain and Ernstbrunn (s. p. 411, ills. 827, 828). Then, farther to the west, the Bergreichenstein area with the Vogelsang works and the Goldbrunn works (s. p. 410, ill. 826), along with other glassworks specialized in specific products. Part of the selection of wares during the first period of the company is illustrated in representative examples on a business card (p. 141, ill. 344): services, centerpieces, hanging lamps and chandeliers.

More detailed information is provided by a Viennese address book from the year 1849: *"Hr. Lobmeyer Joseph, owner of the glass factories in Marienthal and Zwechewo in Slavonia, a citizen, glazier and glass merchant, presents his extremely rich and brilliantly stocked glass wares factory outlet from the most ordinary to the finest refined crystal in all colors, painted and gilded, made for the most recent demands of industry, art, fashion and luxury; table and dessert services of all types for between 6 to 50 and more people; all kinds of the most beautiful toilet items of the finest taste and to the latest models. A special selection of all sizes of flat French cylinder and English cut and ordinary pocket watch glasses along with other types of larger clock glasses, all kinds of curved showcase panes, ordinary and fine window glass panes of white and colored glasses; also oval and other bells with and without pedestals, pressed glass objects of all kinds in-*



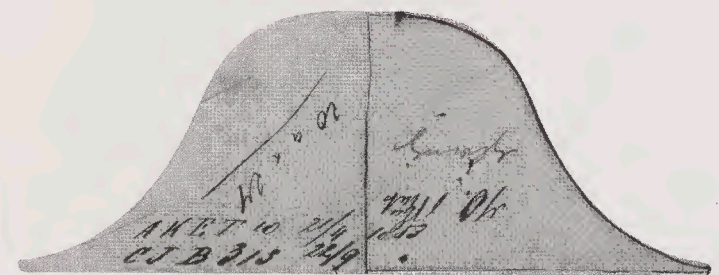
8 Papierschnitt aus der Mappe „Gas- & Rauchschaln, Aeltere“, KEK (wohl Kittls Erben, Kreibitz), 1853; MBE (= unbekannt), 1852; MN (= Meyr's Neffen), 1852; Länge: 21.5 cm, Höhe: 7.4 cm, bez.: „KEK 24/6 1853 / RS3 / MBE / 1/10 852. / MN / 539/852 / etwas weniger stark ausgebogen“

8 Paper pattern from the portfolio "older gas and smoke lamp shades," KEK (= probably Kittl's Successors, Kreibitz), 1853; MBE (= unknown), 1852; MN (= Meyr's Nephews), 1852; length: 21.5 cm, height: 7.4 cm



9 Papierschnitt aus der Mappe „Gas- & Rauchschaln, Aeltere“, KEK (wohl Kittls Erben, Kreibitz), 1853; MBE (= unbekannt), 1852; MN (= Meyr's Neffen), 1852; Länge: 17.8 cm, Höhe: 6.2 cm, bez.: „KEK 25/6 1853 / RS4 / MBE / 1/10 852. / MN 540/852 / etwas weniger ausgebogen“

9 Paper pattern from the portfolio "older gas and smoke lamp shades," KEK (= probably Kittl's Successors, Kreibitz), 1853; MBE (= unknown), 1852; MN (= Meyr's Nephews), 1852; length: 17.8 cm, height: 6.2 cm



10 Papierschnitt aus der Mappe „Gas- & Rauchschaln, Aeltere“, AKET (= probably A. Kittels Erben, T?), 1853; CJB (= C. Janke, Blottendorf); Länge: 13 cm, Höhe: 5 cm, bez.: „AKET 10 21/4 1853 / CJB 313 22/9 " / 70. Stück / Glanz / 20 a x 24“

10 Paper pattern from the portfolio "older gas and smoke lamp shades," AKET (= probably A. Kittel's successors, T?), 1853; CJB (= C. Janke, Blottendorf); length: 13 cm, height: 5 cm

*cluding mounted and unmounted diamonds, also artificial eyes for humans and animals. All relevant orders in this area will be accepted and filled most punctually at the factory outlet, city, Kärntnerstrasse 940, corner of Weihburggasse."* (Gottfried 1849, Address Book, pp. 268-269). Already in 1839, Lobmeyr took part in the "second general Austrian industrial products exhibition" with a rich palette of items (s. ills. 282, 283, pp. 112, 113).

Josef Lobmeyr traveled extensively. In addition to making the obligatory visits to his own glass works, he also cultivated relations with