FACT SHEET · PDF · VOLUME 02

1770–1772 at a Glance

Key dates, prices and connections during the years of dearth and hunger in the Ore Mountains.

Three years that changed Carl's world

Pietzonka presents the hunger crisis not as a single sudden event but as a chain: unusual weather damaged the harvests, grain became scarce, prices rose, and hunger and disease followed. In Pietzonka's interpretation, these years became a decisive period in the youth of Carl, then about ten years old.

Key dates

Date	What Pietzonka reports
January 1770	1 Scheffel of rye: 1 thaler 12 groschen; a 7-pound loaf: 26 pfennigs; average daily wage: 4 groschen.
18–22 March 1770	Snow; many birds freeze to death; the winter crop is ruined.
Summer 1770	Wet summer and poor harvest. Pietzonka identifies this crop failure as the cause of the beginning price surge.
December 1770	1 Scheffel of rye: 4 thalers 12 groschen; a 7-pound loaf: 4 groschen 8 pfennigs.
1771	Mild winter; snow again in May; rain until August. Pietzonka describes the harvest as destroyed.
July 1771	1 Scheffel of rye: 10 thalers.
January 1772	1 Scheffel of rye: 12 thalers; a 7-pound loaf: 8 groschen 3 pfennigs. Bohemia blocks grain exports to Saxony.
June 1772	1 Scheffel of rye: 13 thalers 15 groschen; a 7-pound loaf: 10 groschen or more.
1772	Another failed harvest in the mountains; grain later arrives from other countries. By Christmas, Pietzonka gives the bread price as 4 groschen again.

What the figures show

A direct conversion into modern euros would be misleading. The development within the same historical price system is more informative: Pietzonka's rye price rises from 1 thaler 12 groschen in January 1770 to 13 thalers 15 groschen in June 1772. At the same time, he gives an average daily wage of 4 groschen for January 1770. The figures show how dramatically the relationship between earnings and staple food changed.

Scharfenstein and Großolbersdorf

For Carl's immediate region, Pietzonka gives stark indications of mortality. He reports that the Großolbersdorf register of deaths stops after the entry of 18 July 1771; by then 75 people had already been buried that year. For 1772 he gives 154 deaths. The register begins again only in 1774, when he gives 21 deaths.

How certain is what?

Mark	Classification	Example in Volume 02

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●	historical	Weather sequence, crop failures, price data, hunger crisis, mortality and court repertory.
○	reasoned historical conclusion	Pietzonka considers it highly probable that Carl's father Johann Christoph died during the famine.
✦	artistic	Specific dialogue, encounters, Strups and the dramatic sequence of the children's book.

The one connection to remember

Volume 02 shows a world in which weather, harvests, prices, social order and survival are directly connected. The crisis is historical; the specific children's-book story makes it tangible through narrative.

SOURCE NOTE

Working basis: Johannes Pietzonka, Karl Stülpner – Legende und Wirklichkeit, 2nd edition, Sachsenbuch 2006, especially pp. 19–22 and the chronology. Note: the source predominantly uses the spelling "Karl"; the book series uses "Carl".

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