SOURCE SHEET · PDF · VOLUME 02

# Sources and Original Passages for Volume 02

*The key historical evidence – clearly separating source, conclusion and narrative.*

## How we read sources

For the years of dearth and hunger, Volume 02 relies primarily on Pietzonka's evaluation of historical data and archival references. The distinction is crucial: What does the source state specifically? What conclusion does Pietzonka draw from it? And what does the children's book shape as literature?

### 1 · Prices at the beginning of the crisis

● HISTORICAL

For January 1770 Pietzonka gives: 1 Scheffel of rye at 1 thaler 12 groschen, wheat at 2 thalers 8 groschen, barley at 1 thaler 6 groschen and oats at 20 groschen. A 7-pound loaf costs 26 pfennigs; the average daily wage is given as 4 groschen. In his account, Pietzonka equates 1 Scheffel of rye with 80 kg.

### 2 · Weather and crop failure in 1770

● HISTORICAL

Pietzonka reports thunder and high water in the Zschopau in January, snow from 18 to 22 March, spoiled winter crops, a wet summer and a poor harvest. He identifies this crop failure as the cause of the beginning price surge.

### 3 · Price rise and harvest failure in 1771

● HISTORICAL

By December 1770, according to Pietzonka, a Scheffel of rye already costs 4 thalers 12 groschen. For 1771 he describes a mild winter, snow in May and rain until August. In July he gives a price of 10 thalers for a Scheffel of rye.

### 4 · Escalation in 1772

● HISTORICAL

For January 1772 Pietzonka gives 12 thalers per Scheffel of rye and 8 groschen 3 pfennigs for a 7-pound loaf; in June, 13 thalers 15 groschen per Scheffel and 10 groschen or more for bread. In January, according to Pietzonka, Bohemia blocks grain exports to Saxony.

### 5 · Hunger, emergency food and mortality

● HISTORICAL

Pietzonka describes grass, tree bark and roots as emergency foods, followed by fever and mass mortality. Regarding the Großolbersdorf register of deaths, he writes that it stops after 18 July 1771; by then 75 people had been buried that year. For 1772 he gives 154 deaths and for 1774, 21.

### 6 · Carl's father

○ REASONED HISTORICAL CONCLUSION

Pietzonka writes that one can say "with all probability" that Johann Christoph Stilpner became a victim of the famine. The wording matters: it is stronger than mere legend, but weaker than an unambiguous, individually attributable death entry.

© Carl & Strups / intersaxonia gmbh · carlstuelpner.de · Use subject to the terms stated in this document. Private use: download and printing for personal use; no publication or commercial redistribution.

## 7 · A record from Scharfenstein

● HISTORICAL ARCHIVAL REFERENCE CITED BY PIETZONKA

Pietzonka cites the Scharfenstein court repertory for 1772, no. 76, with a report concerning Marie Sophie Stilpner, her son Carl and son-in-law Gottfried Mehner in connection with theft of meat and grain. The hunger crisis therefore touches Carl's family not merely as general background.

## 8 · The specific book story

✦ ARTISTIC

Specific dialogue, encounters, Strups' role, exact movements and the dramatic linking of individual situations are literary construction. The historical crisis is not invented; the book story makes it narratively accessible.

## What Volume 02 may therefore claim

| Statement | Classification |
|---|---|
| Between 1770 and 1772, crop failures and rising prices intensified the food crisis in the Ore Mountains. | ● historical |
| Pietzonka gives specific rye and bread prices as well as a daily wage. | ● historical |
| Hunger, disease, high mortality and migration marked the crisis. | ● historical |
| Carl's family appears in a 1772 Scharfenstein court repertory entry cited by Pietzonka concerning theft of meat and grain. | ● historical archival reference cited by Pietzonka |
| Carl's father died during the famine. | ○ highly probable according to Pietzonka; not an equally secure individual record |
| The exact children's-book plot, dialogue and Strups. | ✦ artistic construction |

## Working rule for the series

The more dramatic a historical story is, the more important the evidentiary boundary becomes. Figures, archival references, conclusions and literary scenes may stand side by side – but they must not blur into one another.

**SOURCE NOTE**

*Central working basis: Johannes Pietzonka, Karl Stülpner – Legende und Wirklichkeit, 2nd edition, Sachsenbuch 2006, especially pp. 19–22; chronology p. 73 in the available edition. Short quoted formulations are used only to identify the source; the remaining text is summarised.*

© Carl & Strups / intersaxonia gmbh · carlstuelpner.de · Use subject to the terms stated in this document. Private use: download and printing for personal use; no publication or commercial redistribution.