

THE SCHLACKENWALD, BOHEMIA, MINING LAW OF 1548

Translated from Middle High German by Peter Siems and Jack Sullivan

Abstract: Complete texts of early German mining laws are absent from mining history literature in English. A 16th century example from a tin mining district in Bohemia has been translated. The law contains information about the working conditions in the mines, mills and smelters; as well as some aspects of life in the mining communities.

INTRODUCTION

The Schlackenwald law of 1548 is one of many examples of 16th century German mining laws. Schlackenwald, Bohemia (now named Horní Slavkov in the Czech Republic) was the principal town of an important tin mining district that included the smaller town of Schönfeld (now Krasno), and the small mining settlements of Lauterbach and Hube. Tin mining in the district had commenced before 1800 B.C. The district had the largest tin production in Europe during the first three decades of the 16th century.

The 1548 law was part of the reorganization of the Bohemian mining industry by Ferdinand I, the Catholic King of Bohemia and Hungary. This followed the defeat in 1547 of the Protestant rulers of Germany in the Schmalkalden war and Ferdinand's destruction of the independence and privileges of the major free mining towns and nobility in Bohemia in 1547-48. Ferdinand's objective in the law was to increase the revenues to his Royal Treasury from the tenth tax on tin production by attracting miners and mining investors to the district after the ravages of war. The thirty-two articles of the Schlackenwald mining law specify the duties and responsibilities of the mining officials and workers, and control some aspects of the town life.

THE MINING LAW

We, Ferdinand, by the grace of God, Roman King, Perpetual Augmenter of the Empire in Germany, in Hungary and Bohemia etc. Dalmatia, Croatia etc. Royal Prince in Spain, Archduke in Austria, Duke in Burgundy, in Luxembourg and in Silesia, Margrave of Moravia and Lusitania, Count in Tyrol etc. do hereby inform everyone that by the grace of God upon Our Royal estates that some tin mines have reopened in Schlackenwald, Schönfeldt, on the Lauterpach and others in the same district and that domestic and foreign companies have engaged in mining. Therefore, We have decided to take measures concerning the aforesaid tin mines according to the following mine law now and in future time. But whether We, after fortuitous success for the profit of the mines and companies, with good council would improve or change something therein, that we reserve to Ourselves and command accordingly Our existing and future mine managers and mine judges at the aforesaid mines that they adhere themselves to Our Mine law about those companies and, otherwise, to everyone else. Therein, they advance Our gracious will and intention.

Laws and improvement of tin mine workings. An ordinance for the mining towns Schlackenwalden, Schoenfelden, Lauterpach, together with their accompanying mines.

By His Imperial Majesty Ferdinand I of the Roman Empire also of Hungary and Bohemia etc. Printed and published in the electoral city of Zwickau by Wolfgang Meyerpeck in the month of August, after Christ our Saviour's birth MDXLVIII.

The First Article

On advice about the mine tenures and in which manner the same will be withdrawn into our freehold.

Each person who accepts a tenure on Our tin mines from Our Bergmeister according to old custom should occupy it within the next three days after it has been bestowed. When, however, in such aforesaid time, a tenure is not occupied and is still idle then our Bergmeister accordingly by the mining law recovers it. So shall such tenure be returned into Our freehold.

And when such tenures cover an appointed time, and, however, do not accord to be a lawful mine then a check survey is directed. But if three shifts would be found empty and unmined, then such a tenure shall also devolve to Our freehold. Also such tenures shall be returned into freehold at Our pleasure. And therefore, for the time it remains unmined, it is free in the hands of our Bergmeister, and may be leased and, thereby, becomes managed. And if also a tenure of a tin mine is received by a descendant then he has six weeks before the mine will be surveyed and the tenure will be no longer free; where, however, the mine remains idle after six weeks then no prolongation will be had from the Bergmeister with just causes. The same tenures are then also revoked into our freehold at Our pleasure. So shall the mine judge also not have assigned anyone's prolongation of tenure without Our Bergmeister's knowledge.

The 2nd Article

That the Bergmeister at Schlackenwald shall always forward to the Mine Judge for Schönfeld, a copy of the certificate of permission to work a mine.

The mine judge at Schönfeld who is attached to the mines around Schlackenwald has assigned occasionally the tin works at Muhlenberg and at Seiffen. So We intend the same mines, as mentioned above, that have been assigned by the mine judge at Schönfeld shall be valid and remain so. Henceforth, whoever desires our freehold at Muhlenberg or Seiffen should always apply for the same from Our Bergmeister at Schlackenwald. And, therefore, an application to lease goes to the Bergmeister who shall send a copy of the permit by letters under his seal to our mine judge at Schönfeld who then gives permission to begin working. This shall be confirmed and adhered to in the future, according to the text of the mining law.

The 3rd Article

On taking the measure of and stoppage at intersecting veins.

When the Bergmeister takes the measure of the present mine workings, then the miners shall give him one white groschen.

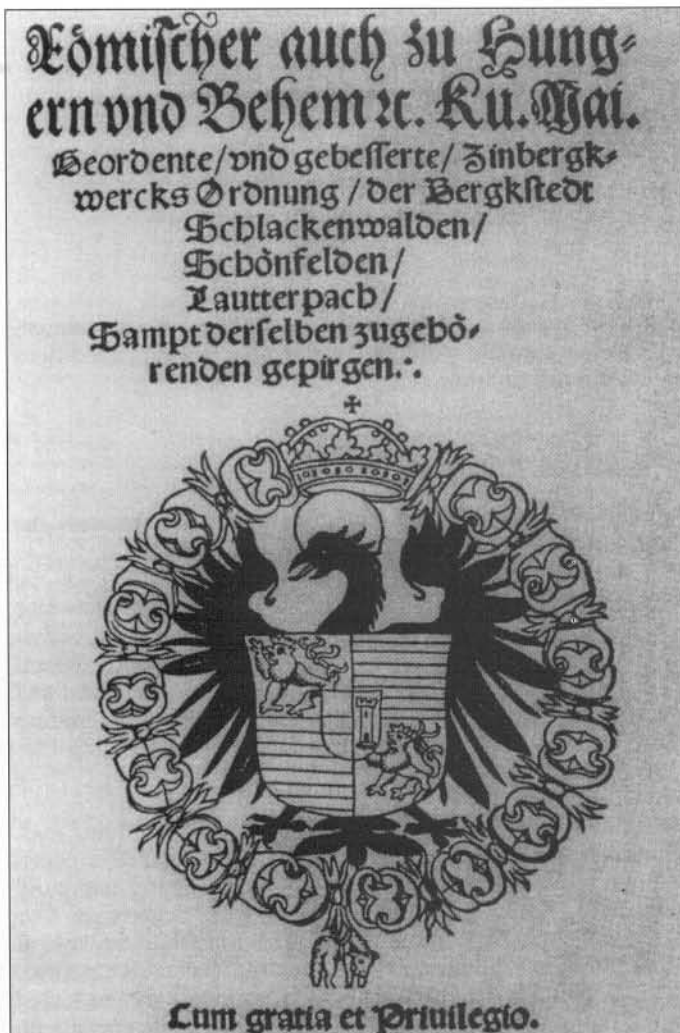


Fig. 1. The Habsburg family coat-of-arms of King Ferdinand I.

In a similar manner, if the mine judge of Schönfeldt takes the measure and defends the workings, then he is given one white groschen. The jurymen then measure the complete workings and are given two white groschen. Also the group of jurymen who adds its judgment on the exposed rocks and workings are given six white groschen.

If, however, a tinstone vein is abruptly intersected and the Bergmeister takes the measure of it, so he shall decide which is the poorer vein. And if the company also desires to be granted the right to mine the intersecting vein but then finds that it is also currently worthless then the Bergmeister shall stop the mining of both parts of the intersecting vein at four and a half fathoms into the hanging wall and four and a half fathoms into the footwall.

The 4th Article

On management of the mines with Master Miners, Shift Foremen or Factors.

Each mining company shall place at every mine a sworn, appointed master miner, with whom Our Bergmeister and jurymen have the authority to direct and govern. And although there was a united company of miners which previously with one another had worked a mine and had no master miner, the same mining companies shall negotiate and select one among them as the master miner who sits with the Bergmeister and jurymen to govern and direct according to need. And all master miners, shift foremen, foremen, and factors at appointment to

their offices and posts shall give their oath and obligation to Our Bergmeister in the presence of the jurymen that they will always, according to their best diligence, loyally manage for Us and their companies.

The 5th Article

On descending and ascending the mine shaft and setting fire.

The foremen or master miners together with their workers, shall with diligence give heed to the ringing of the bell to commence work and to end work. And whichever master miner with his workers delays descending and ascending the shaft after the bell; the same master miner and workers are punished by Our Bergmeister.

And if the workers have begun their shift at four hours after midday, in any mine, if it is secure and there is a need, then one may set a fire; and not before the shift, however, shall anyone set his fire, unless he has announced it beforehand to all shifts and given a signal. Whichever master miner or worker before the previously announced time would start his fire and not announce, as often happens, those who do it, at all times, shall incur a fine of four score groschen as punishment. Whoever also does damage to another person's stopes by setting it afire (as often has happened, that they set afire one another's timber props), and if such a thing would happen, then, after the jurymen's inspection, the culprit or culprits, then each shall incur a fine of four score groschen with no leniency being granted.

The 6th Article

On the mine managers and jurymen descending, examining, and directing.

Our mine managers and jurymen shall, as often as necessity requires and at least once a week, on mine holidays descend into all shafts and mines and check thoroughly the mine pillars and all shafts, winzes, and with much diligence, places with heaps of valuable rock, to check and inspect and give directions, so that waste rock is not mined and that no damage is caused. If, however, against the prohibition of the mine manager or the jurymen, somebody would work so as to cause damage, the culprit shall be fined four score groschen without leniency by the mine manager.

The 7th Article

On mine pillars.

The jurymen shall inspect the mine pillars in each deep shaft. And where they recognize that a shaft or mine is too near another one or is mining so as to cause damage thereby, or the miners do not want to have pillars standing between them on the boundary and encroach on the adjacent mine, they report them to the mine surveyor. And report such encroachments or pillars to the miners and their master miners, fine them four score groschen and forbid them to work that part of the mine. If a person, however, should work the area for his own profit and damage the pillars, he shall be subject to a fine of four score groschen. And after that, he shall be subject to further punishment according to the judgment of the jurymen. And subsequently, according to all necessity, he shall be obliged to line with timber the rock pillar which he has mined out, according to the jurymen's commands and judgment. However, if in the appointed time there should be no lining with timber-work, as the jurymen ordered, he shall incur our penalty.

The 8th Article

On the contracting for work and how the master miners and contract workers should behave.

Henceforth, there shall be no more contracting to mine sulfurous and arsenical tin ore for roasting, without the knowledge or consent of the jurymen or our mine managers. But the jurymen jointly with the workers or their master miners shall descend into the mine to sample the rock ahead of time; and they shall contract according to fairness, and there shall be given to the jurymen two white groschen as incentive money. And when the jurymen then descend each week into the mine, they shall inspect the contract and the work as often as they inspect the miners. And if they find, because of the contracts or work, that there was mining to the disadvantage of the companies, they will take measures to eliminate the same, so that the profits of the companies and the mines everywhere are promoted.

No master miner, because of a grudge, shall discharge any journeyman from a contract from which he might obtain money, unless he then finds fault with the performance of the same worker, or with the work, or that the miner does not want to continue working the place. Then, however, the companies shall deliver to the miner whatever the mine manager and juryman decide in this case.

Furthermore, whatever the master miner working in the mine, according to the performance and conditions in the mines, shall be given, in person, no more than one gulden weekly. Each contract miner working at the extremities of the mine shall receive fifteen white groschen each week as wages. However, if a contract miner should remain in arrears and at fault for something concerning his contract, then he shall be obliged to pay off such debt to the company without any adjustment.

To those master miners; however, who have no contract, one shall give them weekly one gulden and no more for wages. Also, the same shall not have secret contracts with any miners. Also, a master miner in a high contract shall not give one, who has no contract, the place of a high wage contract miner; in particular thereupon, this must not happen. And as much as possible, he shall avoid originating surface mining or to help in other advancement. And the master miner who calculates the same single mine shifts for the week's wages is also prosecuted and should be heavily punished. And, herein, the master miner of the contract miner will no longer calculate the shifts of the worked place. And the single shifts in the workings shall be entered in the general expenses or charges so that others who are distant from the companies can see if the same single shifts are well used.

So also, if a worker has to pay a debt and wishes the company to do something to assist him; the same shall be helped to his weekly wage by Our Bergmeister at sunrise. Where, however, contract money or other back money is owed by him, then shall the worker in fourteen days therefrom be helped.

The 9th Article

On the worker's wages in and about the Hube and their orders.

A miner who works in the deepest, innermost part of a mine in the Hube (a tin-rich body of granite) shall earn no more than fifteen white groschen in each week. Also in a similar manner, a worker at a whim that is hoisting tinstone shall be given as

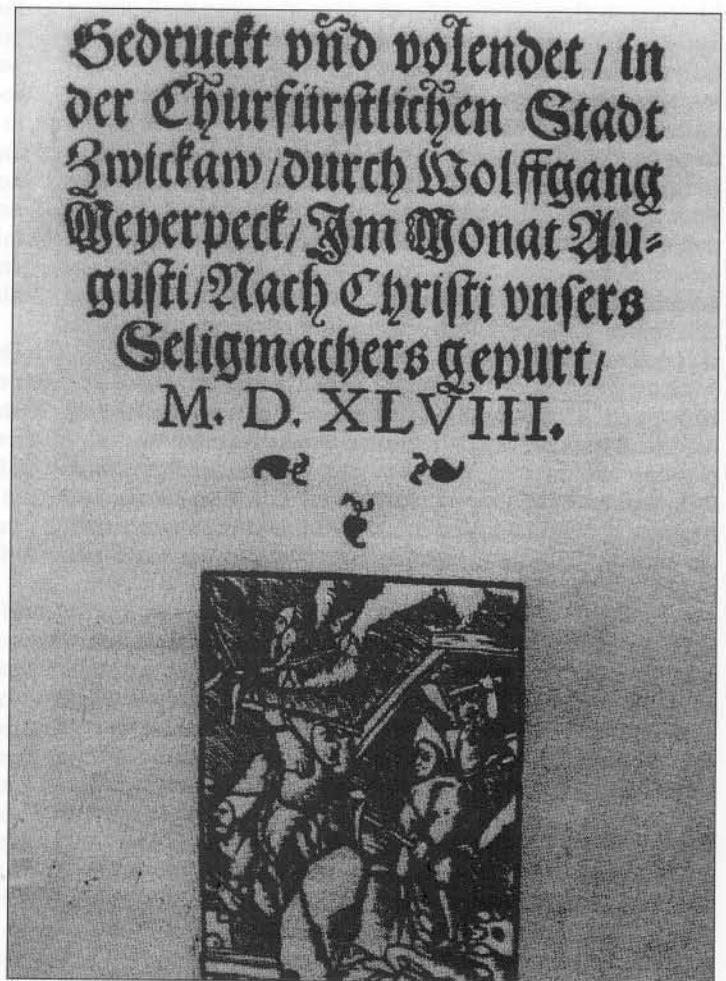


Fig. 2 Frontispiece of the Schlackenwald Law.

wages no more than fifteen white groschen for each week of six shifts. A miner who is a trammer shall have no more than five small groschen for a single shift. And a boy earns three small groschen. However, a boy at a whim that hoists tinstone is given five small groschen for a single shift as wages. And when a holy day occurs in the week then a miner or worker in the mine or in the mill has one or more shifts to rest from work and to celebrate for it. As then he will be on holiday and he shall lose those shifts..

If the hoist men on the whims cause an impact (of the ore bucket) with a miner who is placing timber planks in a two-compartment shaft; also if a mine worker in the shaft bottom overfills a bucket with broken ore and summons it to be raised again on the hoist rope and causes some ore to drop out; thereupon, those men should not deny their guilt. The hoist man has a heavier guilt than the trammer and is punished if he loses attention. The heaps of valuable tinstone ready to haul should indicate that his work is correct over each period of time.

Also, all master miners at the Hube and at Lauterbach, all miners on contract or trainee miners and, likewise, all other weekly workers, have to give a receipt with their separate and clear names for their wages.

The 10th Article

Of the cartage, transportation and carters' ore trunks.

Our mine manager together with his jurymen shall set and stipulate common and fair pay which shall be given in wages for a carter of ore feed for each mill. Whichever carter or

company worker increases those wages, the same shall incur a fine of four score groschen. And because, hitherto, some carters have used much too short and narrow ore trunks to cart for which they have been given wages by the mining and milling companies equally as much as if they had used the large trunks. Such is in violation of the contracts with the companies. So we order, on their account, that our Bergmeister shall make official measurements of the height and width of the tinstone trunks to determine their correctness. The measured trunks should be bound with iron and recorded by the mine manager. One of the correct trunks also shall be made and kept at the mine so that each carter may measure and use it as a standard for the mine's cartage.

If, however, a trunk would turn out to be larger or smaller than the measurement, they should be chopped up by our mine manager and jurymen. And the carter who has used the illegal cart shall be fined four score groschen. Our Bergmeister and jurymen in contracting for the value of the tinstone ore, shall conform to the official measurement of the above-mentioned trunk.

Each company of miners that has tin ore carted from the mine may have and keep its own trunk for the company's accounts, according to the best of its ability, which no carter shall refuse or complain about. And if also someone finds that tinstone was previously placed more or higher in the cart's load than can be contained in them to the detriment of the contracted miners, then the carter shall be fined four score groschen by our Bergmeister.

The 11th Article

About the cord- and shaft-wood.

This regulation shall apply to the bound cord-wood so that nobody accepts cord-wood purchased at the Hube unless it has been previously compared with that measurement established at the Hube and is so ordered. And also a correct and standard quantity of the cord-wood should be placed at the Hube. Particularly, the same cord-wood shall be four feet long between the ends of the logs. Also the wood cutter who fells the wood shall not profit if the cord is not the correct height and width; however, in such a manner also that it is not cut or finished correctly and is of poor quality, so thereto, if he does not remove the same short cord and correct in full as ordered by his sworn duties, he shall be punished.

It shall, however, by such Our order, if a wood cutter uses uncouth words against the companies; or if the wood cutter improperly and abusively leaves, bribes or stops work, they shall be punished by our officials. Also, all wood for shaft or stope which is brought to the mine and is proved to be too valuable for mine use by the jurymen; it shall be left to the foremen and companies to refuse it; therewith also, the mine does not become charged, taxed and assessed.

The charcoal makers in Our territory shall sell no charcoal to somewhere else than to our mines. There should be also a standardized measure of charcoal in each smelting house for comparison so that Our mine managers and jurymen know and judge if the charcoal makers and the companies behave correctly and orderly.

The 12th Article

How the mill master and mill workers should be working in the mills

Each mill master with his workers shall eat whilst it is dark as

the early morning approaches four hours and start work in the mines at first light until Michaelmas (on September 29 and was a quarter day). And the shift must not stop working no sooner than when the overseer strikes (a clapper or bell) at six in the evening, and in weekdays all shall meet at noon to eat and rest for no longer then one hour. On the Saturday, however, they shall not depart sooner than at two hours after noon. From Michaelmas until Easter, however, the master millman and workers start as early as six hours in the morning and at six hours after noon again the shift departs and at noon also eats and rests for an hour.

On how the mill master's wages shall be observed is as previously determined. Also, it is ordered that by no means shall the wages be raised and that no company shall entice away another mill master or mill worker and then, also, not offer any higher wages than was previously given to them. It is also ordered that mill masters shall agree to not promote any millworker who has been previously dishonest or discharged; otherwise they will be punished by the mine managers.

If a mill master would allow an idle shift in the mills or smelters (which he had to shut down because of frequent difficulties with the mill workers and he is neglectful contrary to his responsibilities). He shall be given, thereon, no more then four small groschen for wages. And to a worker who is given fifteen white groschen for a week's wages, also four small groschen for an idle shift. With the other workers, however, who previously were paid wages for single shifts, if they show their duty and willingness to work they shall have an opportunity of permanent weekly wages and are retained by the mill owners.

A worker who works in the fumes (of the roasting furnace) and the washers who wade (in the dressing flumes), each shall be given eighteen white groschen for wages. And five small groschen for a single shift. The other mill workers shall always earn wages according to their merit by word of the mill master according to his sworn declaration and duties, and with the consent of the mill owners and their factors, who decide. But the strongest millmen should be given no more than fifteen white groschen.

Concerning the women and maidens under contract, none shall be given more than nine white groschen each week for wages. Also no servant girl or one who has left that service and goes to ask for work in the mills shall become employed. If, however, a company or millmaster knowingly employs them they shall be punished by the Bergmeister. A woman or maiden on the tinstone roasting furnaces shall be given three small groschen a day for wages.

Mill masters, workers, women, or maidens shall not carry away from the mills any wood, canvas, suet (beef or muttonfat for tallow), iron or anything else named as needed by the mill company and mill managers.

In a similar manner, also the mill masters shall not burn any wood belonging to the mills without the will or consent of the mill owners. However, if it happens, then those persons who violate this shall be severely punished by Our Bergmeister.

Hereafter, if the half-share of water, allowed in the summer time for the upper mills and dams at Schönfeldt, is retained for too long and the share allowed down to the lower mills becomes consumed, then the workers on the water sluice gates shall be required to make up the missing time. Furthermore, we earnestly command, hereupon, that all workers for the same mills should not neglect the time and counting the hours during the day, so subsequently, the water becomes too low

before the work is finished and the processing completed, and it is then impossible to reclaim the missed hours and time. And if the workers, in this matter, are disobedient and insubordinate, then shall our Bergmeister always fine them their weekly wages.

Also should a worker for the mill be granted permission by the mill masters or by their companies to leave for a week or some other time and he does not return to work at the correct time and hour, and, moreover, he has no honest reasons for his hindering and missing the work; therefore, he shall be imprisoned and punished for it by our Bergmeister.

Also no mill worker shall eat when the water is violently driving the crushing and the companies have given their consent to withdraw some water. If this causes the companies to wait for the water during the work period, he shall be punished by our mine managers. And because half of the water thereby went to the stamp mill, the company is caused no harm or impediment, and the work causes a juryman to order sharing the water, so shall the same water shares be fully made up afterwards at the end of the order.

The 13th Article

Of the smelter superintendents, of smelting workers and their wages.

All smelter superintendents who want to be employed in smelting on our mines shall swear loyally a corporal oath without any prejudice that they will have an agreement with Us and the companies for the smelters.

In the smelting house: the furnaces, hearth fires, bellows, moulds, forges and bell shaped buildings, however, they are named, therefore and with all diligence shall be prepared so that no damage or disadvantage, for that reason, results for the companies whose ore is smelting there. And then the smelter superintendent, with all diligence, shall pay attention that by them and other smelting house workers the work is well performed and without danger. And if those in the smelting houses notice a defect in the above mentioned operations, works and other things from which damage may ensue for the companies, they shall notify the smelting superintendent who shall order it to be corrected.

When the companies bring in the tinstone ore, then shall the smelter superintendent before he smelts it, diligently inspect it to see if it is pure and made suitable for smelting. And if he finds the tinstone not sufficiently pure, then he shall, according to his responsibilities, show such ore to the mine manager and juryman who shall then examine it, then to the mill foreman of the company and he shall not smelt the tin-stone before it is made pure and retreated by our mine because of their negligence, so it is not worked to the harm and disadvantage of the companies. The smelter superintendents who have a share in the smelter houses shall behave honourably and without distrust while smelting. If, however, one or more was to be caught in the act of working dangerously for the sake of their own profit, they shall receive our serious punishment and displeasure. The smelter superintendent shall also further the company's profit and advantage with the fires and furnaces, according to their oaths; to wash the coals in the smelting houses and diligently prepare the furnaces and thus attend to the fire where the ore is placed, so that the same, in no way can break open in quantities for their own profit, as has been previously smelted to our disadvantage.

And if our officials find our orders violated by the smelter workers, they shall punish them, as is appropriate, with

severity. Furthermore, the smelter superintendents shall not permit or allow anyone, no matter who they claim to be and even if the tin is even their own or not, to diligently wash the tapped metal and to allow the metal waste scrapings and sweepings to be carried away. If it occurs, however, then the smelter superintendent and the one who poured out the tin shall be severely punished for that reason.

On the smelter worker's wages.

Firstly, according to agreement, a smelter worker working by the day and night shall be given 14 white groschen as wages. Should he, however, smelt one day or night less then this should be handed over to the smelter superintendent. If, however, the smelter worker finishes work two hours early and does not have more to smelt then the wages should be given to him in full. Likewise, if a smelter worker would work two hours longer then he should receive nothing more.

If a company has left over slag to smelt then it shall give the smelter one guilder for use of a furnace. If a slag buyer does not have his own smelting houses to treat slag then he should give it to a smelter for a day and night and come to an agreement with the smelter superintendent regarding the smelter fees. Whichever company does not have its own smelter and smelts it at another one; it shall give the smelter superintendent seventeen small groschen for each hundredweight of tin for profit, hire and materials for the smelting. As often as a smelter worker constructs a new furnace he shall given one gülden. Likewise for lowering a furnace hearth, 12 small groschen. Likewise for pulling down a supporting wall, 6 small groschen. Likewise for closing in a foundation, 16 small groschen. Likewise for a load to build a small wall, 12 small groschen. Likewise for a load to build supporting walls, 12 small groschen.

The 14th Article

On the dressing superintendent and about the tin dressing.

Each dressing superintendent shall at all times be commissioned and appointed with an oath, as hereafter follows; each is obliged to honorably serve the companies and with all diligence float the tin for the company's best advantage. And the dressing superintendents at Schlackenwald, Schönfeldt, and Lauterbach shall all make themselves knowledgeable about the best available wood. So that the companies tin-dressing will not become damaged or depressed.

The 15th Article

On collecting the Tithes.

Firstly, the dressing superintendent shall make a carved tally stick for notching to show how much tin is in each dressing and he determines the weight of tin in hundredweight and pounds and notches the stick accordingly; he retains the tally and gives another tally stick to the owner of the tin. Then the owner shall go with his tally and gives it to the share clerk. Thereupon, the share clerk writes the name of the tin owner on the notched stick and records the weight of tin carved on the tally in his records; then the clerk gives the tin owner a receipt on paper for the one who collects the water tithe owed by the mine owner and for the tithe collector as to how much to him the tin owner has declared, render the water tithe for it, and from the shift foreman also takes a receipt of acknowledgment. Then shall the tin owner whose tin is forwarded, go with both paper receipts to the tithe collector and at that time deliver the receipts to the collector, and thus at this time the tin owner

shall redeem the tin from the dressing as well as pay the tithe collector the regulated tithe and satisfy him. Then the tithe collector gives the tin owner a paper receipt under his seal and therein signs as to the amount of tin the share clerk in his receipt has declared to the tithe collector that the tin owner has in the dressing.

The dressing superintendent shall also let no person's tin be given out from the dressing nor deliver it up unless he has then the paper receipts from the tithe collector under his seal; so shall he also not deliver up any more tin from the dressing than he finds set down in writing on the paper receipt and the dressing superintendent shall take the paper receipts from the tithe collector every Saturday with their tally sticks, go to the collector and keep the tally sticks together to determine whether the carved notches compare with one another or not. And if the dressing superintendents and tithe collectors find that the tally sticks do not compare and that somebody has dealt with them fraudulently, they shall report that to Our Bergmeister who shall punish such, on Our behalf, with severity. Also, no one shall dare, on pain of severe punishment, to sell the tin that has not been tithed.

The 16th Article

That the tin trading shall be free.

In particular, We want to allow hereby, most graciously, a special support of tin mines and to all those who work the same, that each company shall have the power to sell tin as it pleases and according to its advantage and profit, to whom, where and when it wants to.

The 17th Article

Concerning the Adits for Water Drainage and Ventilation.

Each water drainage and ventilation adit which wants to acquire its privilege shall bring in its customary legally determined depth as ten and one half vertical fathoms; where, however, shafts will be present, the depth should be measured from the stakes on the capstan. And if it breaks through into the water drainage and ventilation shaft and brings its drainage channel into it, the one-ninth tax on the net profit shall follow it without fail, and no adit shall cause any other pre-existing adit to lose its privilege, unless it comes at least seven fathoms or seven and one half vertical fathoms under the other adit.

If an adit for water drainage comes upon tin ore beneath the removed water drainage depth, they shall follow it and remain there, and the adit may mine and take possession of the same tin ore as far as five quarters of a fathom vertical from the space between gangway plank above the water drainage channel and the bottom of the mine, from which the waters run into the upper part of the adit, and half a fathom wide

Also, those who mine the adits shall conduct themselves according to Our Bergmeister's and jurymen's counsel and direction, so that the same are worked for the good of the mine and in a proper manner. If, however, they therewith do not conduct themselves in mining the drainage adits according to the mine law and are found to be otherwise, then they shall be punished according to the decision of the Bergmeister and jurymen.

The 18th Article.

Concerning the Mine Surveyor's measuring

If a surveyor on our tin mines at Schlackenwaldt, Schönfeldt,

and Lauterbach were to measure and would find afterwards by an opening or by ocular proof that he had made a mistake, and although by such a number of mines boundaries had been approved reciprocally by the companies or their agents, then shall, nevertheless, our mine managers and jurymen receive, each one corresponding to his investiture and, with it, his fief, previously made over to him and legally entered in the mine's account book, and such a measurement of the surveyor shall then be unenforceable and invalid.

The 19th Article

On the weekly settlement and that no tradesman shall become a shift foreman.

All shift foremen and master miners shall appear on Saturdays at seven hours in the counting house before Our Bergmeister and jurymen and make known their account of what they have invested in the mine, during the week, on the behalf of their mining companies, so that the companies also may be provided with an accounting for the sake of their advances and that for these reasons they may always obtain a report. And whichever shift foremen, master miners or factors do not go to the weekly accounting and do not show any honest reasons for their absence shall be fined a week's wages as resolved by Our Bergmeister.

And so that for the mine work, the most diligent miners are sought and obtained as the shift foremen so that the companies are suitably supervised. Thus, from henceforth, it shall not be tolerated or permitted that any tradesman be a shift foreman or an agent of the companies. We have positively ordered, herewith, that no supervisors of the companies shall take from the mine store, neither tallow, iron, ropes, nails, nor other necessary supplies belonging to the mining operations, to have any gain or profit beyond their fixed salaries, by selling, nor, as can happen, seeking much or little; he shall be punished with dismissal from his employment and by Our Bergmeister's penalty.

The 20th Article

On the books of the miners' provident fund and how they shall be accounted for.

A current shift foreman or mine manager shall deduct weekly a pfennig from each worker's wage and at the settling of accounts on Saturday, they shall consign the funds to the Bergmeister, jurymen, and elders of the miners' provident fund; furthermore, the latter shall deliver the funds for the miners' benefit and they shall also be obliged to settle the accounts concerning the fund. And such an accounting shall be arranged by the elders at a meeting held in each quarter in an orderly manner in the presence of the miners of the collective.

If a member of the miner's provident fund should become sick, so shall the Bergmeister, jurymen and elders of the miner's fund lend money to the ailing miner from the fund according to their judgment of the nature of his illness. However, the sick person is directed to repay as much as is possible.

The 21st Article.

If workers incur injuries in the mines.

If it happens that any person or worker in the Hube or elsewhere should fall in the mine and be injured, then the company of the mine in which he was injured shall be obligated for a period of four weeks, to pay such money in

every week that is owed to the barber-surgeon. This happens to the detriment of profitable and unprofitable mines.

The 22nd Article

On the Quarter-day Valuation.

At our order, it is necessary that the Bergmeister and jurymen go to the largest mines and mining claims with the number of gulden which may be needed. So shall they go to each mine and claim that is producing ore on the second quarter day and will agree to distribute seven groschen as quarter mine money. And all such money shall everywhere be calculated and deposited on the Saturday following the "Golden" Sunday by each shift foreman in the presence of the Bergmeister and Jurymen, in the settling of accounts.

The 23rd Article

On the Mine Blacksmiths.

Concerning the mine blacksmiths: the forges and irons which they have received from a mine manager, company or anyone else, shall be maintained in an orderly fashion, in such a manner that the blacksmiths shall not be allowed an exemption of a weight deficiency of more than seven pounds from one hundredweight of iron. Also, it shall not be permitted to give them anything more beyond the traditional custom of tools and all other items which they need to produce or make for the companies in the mine or mills, because Our Bergmeister shall pay good heed to this.

The 24th Article

On the punishment of thievery which occurs in the mine and mills.

Accordingly, because of the stealing and thievery which is supposed to have taken place until recently in mines and mills, many complaints are forthcoming; so that in many mines and workings, the companies have lost much tallow, iron, tools and wood at nighttime by pilfering and borrowing. Thereby, however, suchlike is missing and removed. It is, furthermore, Our strict command when henceforth, one or more is caught in such thievery, or a tool is found on someone who has dishonestly obtained the same or without the knowledge of the company, be it little or much of the same on whom is found out or thus, beyond that, was caught red-handed and with deceit, he shall be punished, with his life at risk, in conformity with the law.

And, as We have information also that some, during the day and night when no one is present, mix and bury in confusion or ruin the good grinding stones from other mines, dragging them onto their piles, thus pilfering one another thievishly; whoever, from now henceforth, is caught in such a theft or be knowingly denounced and seized, he shall, without any mercy, be punished painfully according to the severity of the law. When also, now and then in the mills: shovels, pick-axes and other additional tools are lost, or milled and unmilled tinstone are taken repeatedly from the heaps of separated ores which were, thereby, in part measured and by suspicion of the protuberant parts of the heaps. We herewith order our Bergmeister, jurymen, and mill superintendents with all diligence to take heed and, wherever they find somebody or believingly find one who sells milled tinstone or the above-mentioned items of tools and mill implements, or would find them in the hands of strangers, to take the same person prisoner from this time on, and, after discovery of the theft, to punish as stated above.

If the master miners, miners, women, or labourers were to sell tallow or iron and deceive those who buy them, and the buyers find this out, then both the seller and the buyer shall be severely punished. Also, if someone is found, man or woman, young or old, whim-drivers of ore, carters, or other workers, who carry away or steal it as thieves, wood or anything else belonging to the companies of the Hube; they shall also, according to the condition of the objects, be punished severely by our Bergmeister.

The 25th Article

Concerning the water manager, water-workers, whim-drovers, trammers, and timbermen.

No fault and complaint involving the water managers, the water-hands, and other workers that they do not attend to their work with diligence or do not descend or ascend the mine at the proper time, shall Our Bergmeister allow to occur and where he perceives deliberate insolence, he punishes them thoroughly. And there also the mine manager has the power to command the whim-drivers, trammers, timbermen and their other workers about this. Our order is not restrained and if the conduct is renewed, then shall Our Bergmeister again punish seriously.

The 26th Article

That beer and wine shall not be served on the mines.

So that fewer faults and less neglect of the work of the companies occurs and ensues at the mines and mine works. So We intend to positively forbid the serving of beer, wine or schnapps to all master miners, workers, and others who live in villages and localities belonging to the mines and mine works. If, however, Our Bergmeister finds that they contemptuously violate such prohibition, he shall suitably punish the same ones.

The 27th Article

Concerning the bestowing of suet (*beef or mutton fat etc. for tallow*).

All butchers who live in Schlackenwalden, Schönfeld and Lauterbach shall not sell their suet elsewhere other than to the highest necessity (for tallow candles) for working Our above-mentioned tin mines. And they shall not offer a hundredweight at more than six Rhenish gulden. When, however, a company would lend money to the butcher for a period of time, it shall not pay him more than six gulden for a hundredweight. However, if he who has lent money to the butcher should sell to the other companies, on the other hand, it shall be no more expensive than seven and one half guilders and it is proven otherwise, so we have decreed a heavy punishment.

The 28th Article

Business at the marketplace is founded on a prerogative and as a rule by negotiation.

It shall be that no seller, vendor, or agent on pain of punishment opens secretly on the Saturday in the marketplace or in public before two hours to midday while the pennant or flag is flown so that any seller can understand. Where, however, the same seller returns, transacts business, and is caught about it, then shall only the seller be the offender and he is punished by the town official and his goods are given to the hospital for the poor and elderly.

The 29th Article

On the judgment of disputed cases.

Our mine manager, jointly with the two appointed jurymen, shall sit every week on two days, Monday and Thursday, and consider all disputed cases for themselves by means of the mine's tally-sticks, interrogate the same parties to the dispute according to necessity, confronting each other and taking pains to have patience with them in a friendly manner.

If, however, they do not attain peacefully the agreement of the parties, then the mine court at Schönfeldt directs accordingly to such laws as our Bergmeister shall decree; shall sit in court and in that very place, so that beneficial justice may be issued and proclaimed by our Bergmeister, judge and town council.

For each mine's tally stick with which a person is regulated, he shall be obliged to give Our mine manager three small pfennigs. And if anyone disregards the law or the tally stick with which he has been charged or and does not appear before the court so shall our Bergmeister punish by fining him four score simple groschen.

Where also disputed cases appear before our mine manager and jurymen to deliberate in court and one party knowingly confesses, then shall our mine manager and the two jurymen have the authority and the full power to make the final judgment and to decree a verdict. And if, also, cases would be submitted to our Bergmeister and jurymen which, with regard to necessity, could not endure any postponement until the next miner's court, so shall the parties, at their request, in the speediest manner possible and without delay, be granted justice and a court day be designated by Our Bergmeister.

The 30th Article

On the Bergmeister's authority and how offenders have to be punished and fine.

All that which occurs outside of the appointed town laws, as at the mine or that which touches upon it with all its appurtenances, shall by our present and future mine managers be brought before a court, punished and fined (excluding the offenses in criminal cases) which We reserve for Ourselves in all ways by Our sovereign authority treat judicially and to punish.

All offenses on the mines at the Hube and surrounding the Hube caused by those at the mine or who go on or ride thereon. Likewise, in mines, on the waste dumps and outside as in mills. Trespass on the stamp works and suchlike places belonging to the mines is prohibited, also criminal violence or abusive words. All such shall be justly fined and punished according to the law by our Bergmeister and his appointed jurymen. And the jurymen in each week shall bring to the mine manager in writing or by word of mouth such cases of offenses truthfully described, so the mine manager shall also defend and deal with them. However, such introduced cases shall be given a satisfactory accounting for by our Bergmeister who therewith manages them and this shall stand at the present and in the future time according to Our pleasure.

If, in the above-mentioned manner, trouble would occur at the mine or in another way, no matter of what ever kind, then the Bergmeister, the court, or the bailiffs of the towns of Schlackenwalden, Schönfeldt etc. would be in need of aid for the apprehension of wrongdoers, they shall, at the summons of the Bergmeister, face-to-face and unhesitatingly, through the town mayor and judge, face-to-face and unhesitatingly, make haste so that the same ones can be brought to prison..

If, however, also the council and justice court before satisfying themselves of the existence of the circulation of such crime that happened, before it comes to the mayor, then the courts, for the preservation of peace and law (regardless that it belongs to the mine and in the jurisdiction of the Bergmeister) shall seize the evil-doer or transgressor and bring him to prison. But, nevertheless, the same cases shall always, with paid bail, punishment by fines, or vindication in court, be arbitrated by Our appointed Bergmeister.

What is also further deposed in our Bergmeister's office with arrest, complaint, command and prohibited, from which follows preliminary judgment and, of necessity, are there within all those who keep themselves away from here, be they the town mayor, councilmen, those of the nobility, the sovereign's factor, administrators of the mills and mines, if and when they are preliminary judged by the Bergmeister with a tally-stick will appear obediently and make statements themselves.

Here again, the Bergmeister shall conduct himself properly regarding his person, lodging and everything else which in municipal and judicial matters are subject to the support of the mayor and the council outside of his official matters. And since the Bergmeister in cases that are occurring, for the advancement and profit of the mine's executive councilmen, who for the cases would be summoned officially several to appear before him; they shall, for that, at the demand of the Bergmeister obediently appear and let themselves be employed. The Bergmeister shall herein, in so far as it can be avoided without disadvantage to the mine, excuse the same councilmen from summons to the court and council sessions. Since, however, always so much is of importance, so shall the court's and the town council's business be deferred and postponed to another day to be dealt with, and thus they are to behave obediently without refusal towards the mine for Our benefit at the demand of the Bergmeister.

And since, here again, it may happen that the town mayor and council of the mine managers and jurymen in their offices or duties have need of things when disputes occur and would demand of him (the Bergmeister) that he shall go willingly to help and advise one another, so that the advantage be furthered of the sovereign's authority, the mines and the public.

The 31st Article

In which manner the mayor, town council, and court are to punish, fine, and help to procure justice.

That which does not originate in a mine and is exclusive of mine matters, such as the town school, house, property, chattels, arable land, meadows, gardens, irrigation systems in the town and for the houses (but uninterruptedly to the mines), likewise invective, disputes, as in the town and on town paths (that take place outside the mines) and with reference to all other matters pertaining to the town court, as about the boundaries, since they do not occur within the Bergmeister's jurisdiction. All such shall pertain and belong to the town council and its jurisdiction to bring to and try in court, to punish, or to pardon. That which, however, concerns burdensome cases, when a person may forfeit body, property and honour, and the cases are criminal; these we reserve to Ourselves from the sovereign authority, which belongs to Us.

If it would occur that one or more persons on the mine in the mine manager's office, regarding matters with words, would encounter people with hostility and then undertake nothing with action, but subsequently, in the town, in houses, lanes, or in paths between two houses where it is subject to the town

court, further attack one another with slanderous words or blows, this one or the same ones to whom the ground or soil belongs, shall stand in the punishment of the town council and court without a protest from the mine manager.

As more than once has happened, that damage is caused to the citizens on their hereditary properties, such as cultivated fields and meadows, by the carters who bring wood to the mine and tin ore for the mills; they or the same ones to whom the ground and soil belong, he or they may have the right, due authority, and power to seize property for the damage caused.

If the one whose property is seized by the one whose ground and soil it is makes suitable compensation, then everything is satisfactory; if, however, it can not be settled amicably, then it shall be resolved legally by the town major, judge and council what the complainant shall be given for the damage; if, however, he would not be able to find the one who caused him the damage, in order to take in the pledge for the damage, and could, nevertheless, demonstrably prove by whom such happened, he may sue for damages; if the judge could amicably resolve the two parties, well and good, if, however, not, then shall two members of the council be offered for the inspection of the damage and whatever is thus decided, so shall the matter rest. And the mine manager, although the wood and tin ore were brought for the necessity of the mine, shall have nothing to say about the matter.

And also, because of the debts coming from the mine when the miners and other workers are in debt to the town's people, abundant quarreling takes place, We direct and command that, if from this it would happen that any mine, mill worker or those who work in smelters are in debt to innkeepers or others whom may ask to be paid, not otherwise than from their weekly wages. And if one requests to be paid by the mine manager because of the encumbrance of debts, then shall the mine manager, for paying the same persons, be granted permission to take out a mortgage and give them suitable aid. If, however, the complainant after informing the mine manager's office is unable to request payment by the same mine workers, then he may have the same ones be incarcerated by the judge until they make security for the complainant.

Since also it has happened with those at the mine who have houses next to different mills, smelters and mines, that the same ones have contracted debts or forfeited with argument, invective, blows or other malicious acts, concerning these, the mine manager, be it for lodging, horses, cattle or other supplies and stock included therein, shall confiscate these in advance, help in advance and is to punish, or, if the mine manager would call for a vote for a verdict from the judge and the court and for help to take possession of the same ones and to hold them fast under pain of severe punishment, he will be obliged and duty bound to carry these out.

That, however, the horses and the equipage with which tin ore is carted and other necessities of mines which are seized and found in the town of Schlackenwald, concerning the same the judge, at the request of the accusers, will grant and provide help.

And as We, out of mercy, and no injustice for the mine, have handed over all fines and punishments to the mine manager, the same likewise, to the council and courts, all fines and monetary punishments which belong to the town and everything from the robberies that towns have suffered, examined as realized (with the exception of criminal cases) so shall he no longer enjoy such like and use them. We grant these to the town at Our pleasure.

The 32nd Article

On the arbitration of disputed lawsuits which may occur between the Bergmeister and the Town Mayor concerning the mortgaging of properties.

If somebody, concerning mine mills or other properties with appurtenances belonging to the mine is indebted and because of such debts, wants to mortgage his house or other things which are subject to the magistrate's court at Schlackenwalden or Schönfeldt; the Bergmeister shall have such municipal properties entered into the mine account register because of the named debts, as mentioned above; with the condition that the mortgagor, beforehand brings a statement and acknowledgment from the town clerk, under his seal or signature, that such municipal properties in the municipal register are unencumbered and unmortgaged.

Likewise, when a fellow citizen (a co-surety) wants to mortgage his municipal properties in the municipal register, it shall also not be permitted to him unless he brings a statement under the mine clerk's seal or signature that his properties in the mine register are not mortgaged to anyone. And the Bergmeister shall keep a special register of mortgages for such municipal properties. Likewise, the town council also shall keep a special register for mortgages and encumbrances in which such mortgages are entered, and in case of necessity, all can the more easily be found.

If someone would mortgage his properties in a deceitful manner in the mine register and also in the town register hall and such mortgaging takes place at one town and would conceal that in another, then this person would behave fraudulently. Also, if the town or mine clerk would make use of fraud in these cases and promotes or assists others in such fraudulent behavior, then the same ones who are guilty and the cause of the fraud shall be punished by our governor or manager physically and with loss of property.

If, however, somebody would want to mortgage his abode at his town of Schlackenwalden or Schönfeldt etc. for debts and money that he pays off with interest (although he uses such borrowed money for the mine), then he shall, nevertheless, mortgage his municipal properties on their account only in the municipal register, as long as the debts with the municipal properties are certified. If, however, there is a reason that he, for such money, would want to convey over by document or to mortgage mine mills and tin or other mine properties, then the same mine properties shall be entered into the mine register. And that which is thus entered in the town register, shall, by the municipal court, mayor, and council, be legally well confirmed and procured; however, that which is entered in mine registries, shall be legally well confirmed and procured by the mine court, the Bergmeister, and jurymen.

If it would happen that bankruptcy would occur for someone's municipal properties, be it for the mine or other debts, then the same bankruptcies shall be sought for houses, tillage, meadows, and other municipal properties only from the municipal court and not from the Bergmeister, and shall be described by the sworn municipal clerk in an orderly fashion, one after another, as to which has gone bankrupt, the first, second, or third. And in which order each has been encumbered, thus shall assistance be offered. But, if someone has been encumbered for mine indebtedness by the magistrate courts, as mentioned above, the same one shall also be subsequently assisted concerning his mine indebtedness by the Bergmeister in such order as he has arrived with his bankruptcy.

Since also, anyone's properties are entered and mortgaged in the town or mine register in advance, before bankruptcy occurs, so shall the same entries and mortgaging take precedence and the assistance to the first one shall be offered according to the time when the entry was made. Afterwards, those who have gone bankrupt, as the bankrupt ones, one after the other have petitioned, also be assisted, as far as the means extend.

That which is due to town and mine clerks in advance for searching or inscribing shall remain the same afterwards. But for writing the inventory and acknowledgment, as stated above, the clerk shall be given a white groschen. Also a white groschen shall be due and given in advance to the town clerk



Fig. 3. Colophon of the Schlackenwald Law.

for writing for a bankrupt person; to the judge five groschen and to the city servant a small groschen.

The Tithe Collector's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen at your Majesty's court, the same Captains or Governors, that each time your Majesty orders a faithful levy that I shall properly consent to my tenth tithe charge and truly pay to your royal warrant and, your August Majesty, that I will work lawfully. Such of the good works to increase and to allow actual expenditures, to truly assemble honest and satisfactory accounts and to pay debts thereon. By all means, August Majesty, remembering to maintain the best order in the mines.

Where I am warned about intersections of veins and about mining into unpayable ground and believe to all of my highest ability that there is no advantage or promise to be gained, then I will truly admit to your August Majesty that there is no advantage in spite of my intentions. That I will give friendship and goodwill to yourself. So help me God.

The Mine Manager's and Mine Judge's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen at your Majesty's court, the same Captains or Governors, I will be always loyal and truly consent to your Majesty's orders. To promote your Majesty's profit and benefit and to change any harm. Also, the Bergmeister's office (or the Mine Judge's office) truly exercising the mine law and enabling the gaining of wealth, preparing each man and justly helping. And what is therein assigned to me to carry out, as much as I understand and is feasible for me. Therein, I will give no favours or be moved by friendship or relationship. Also to make use of no engine than that which is permitted to me by Your August Majesty and all other assistance which appertains to a loyal official and servant. So help me God.

The Mine Juryman's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen at your Majesty's court, the same Captains or Governors, that I will be always loyal and truly consent to your Majesty's orders. To further Your August Majesty's and the mining company's best welfare, to prevent damage and to ward it off loyally and diligently; steadfastly ready for Your Highly Esteemed Majesty's command. Also, where the gallery warns and indicates to me that there is no promise or profit in it, then I will not allow the same to be mined. I will hold all to my highest ability because I will be true to your August Majesty's law. Also, I will give no favours or be moved by friendship or relationship thereon. So help me God.

The Master Miners, Mill Foremen, Shift Foremen, and Factor's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen at your Majesty's court, the same Captains or Governors, that I will be always loyal and truly consent to your Majesty's orders. Your August Majesty, to my best loyalty that I will promote my mine workings and will warn about and prevent harm, as I am charged in my office. And especially that my work will truly be productive so that I correctly increase their profits and will want to generate the highest wealth; my conduct will be such that I declare that my assigned mine workings may not suffer damage. I will hold everywhere to and not break

your highest August Majesty regulations where the gallery warns and indicates to me that there is no profit. In all truth. I will not let friendship or relationship to move me to give favours. I will hold specially all such to my highest ability, truly and at all peril. So help me God.

The Smelting Superintendent's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc., my gracious gentlemen at your Majesty's court, the same Captains or Governors, that I will always be loyal to your Majesty and truly consent to your August Majesty's orders. That I will better improve your mine works. And especially my duties with the tin smelters to truly increase satisfactorily your August Majesty's tenth and the

profitable works with my labor and to achieve the highest profit. Without anyone else working therein or allowing anybody else to have knowledge of it. According to all your Highest August Majesty's orders therein, I will seal and firmly state that I will admit to any personal advantage or profit that I hold and that all is in correct condition. Also, I will give no favours or be moved by friendship or relationship thereon. I will hold specially all such to my highest ability, truly and at all peril. So help me God.

The Dressing Superintendent's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen etc. I will be loyal, true and best provide my service to your August Majesty's mines and works with sufficient flow of water so the tin grains are separated from all others because of my Dressing Superintendent's office belonging to my oath to be truly honest, to increase the tenth for his August Majesty, my most gracious gentleman, and the useful work with my labor and to advance in anyway the highest profit, therein, without anyone else working on it or allowing anybody else having knowledge of it.. August Majesty, my most gracious gentlemen; in all your orders, therein, I will seal and firmly state that I will admit to any advantage or profit that I hold and that all is in correct order. Also, I will give no favours or be moved by friendship or relationship thereon. I will hold specially all such to my highest ability, truly and at all peril. So help me God.

The Reservoir Foreman's Oath

I swear on my dear life to my August Majesty of the Romans, of Hungary, and Bohemia etc. August Majesty, my gracious gentlemen etc. I will be faithful and true in my work, that I will do my best to avoid promoting harm to my office by diverting the water from any mine properties, to divide my work to the best ability between the contract parties so they are correct and placed unaltered into the mine-book and with all sufficient information; to ensure that no single mine is harmed for some reason contrary to the desired fairness and so that there is no unfair advantage or profit. Then also, I will report to the Bergmeister and jurymen that my work is orderly and true, because, herein, I will always exclude error and will retain correct behavior. So help me God.

CONCLUSION

This, Our law, in all articles stands until Our alteration. All of us still remembers the previous mining of unpayable ground by many (although it was avoided in the earlier time). Also this Our law shall be truly held by Our highest administrating Bergmeister and Our various officeholders with all money held by them, and then where there is reported to be a discrepancy with serious punishment. And also if Our same officeholders are found to be dilatory or negligent then Our displeasure and also punishment is proper. And what, in this Our law, is not comprehended or able to be practiced, then shall the common mine laws and old praiseworthy mining customs remain in practice at the mines. And hereby have decreed Our earnest wishes and Our intentions. Given in our Royal Palace, Prague; the first of January in the year one thousand five hundred and forty-eighth. Our Empire of the Romans in the eighteenth and the other in the twenty-second year.

NOTES BY THE TRANSLATORS

The Schlackenwald law of 1548 by King Ferdinand was intended to replace an outdated 1509 mining law for Schlackenwald (Majer, 1980, p. 155, 164). The 1548 law was accompanied in the same year by a mining law for a group of Bohemian tin mines at Hengst, Perninger, Lichtenstadt, Platten, Gottesgab, Kaff und Mückenberg. Each law is provided with a woodcut of Ferdinand's coat-of-arms (Fig. 1) and two woodcuts of mining scenes (Figs. 2 and 3).

The titles of some articles in the Schlackenwald law do not correspond to the contents of those articles. Also, there are some variations in capitalization and the spelling of the Middle High German words in different articles. It is possible that the law was written, and later amended, by a committee of mining councilors and that little or no attempt at final editing was made.

There is an apparent discrepancy in the use of the term "Bergmeister" in different articles in the original German text. The term is apparently used for the most senior mining administrator in the district in some articles (this is equivalent to the pre-16th century usage of "Bergmeister" see the Hoovers' 1912 translation of "De Re Metallica" p. 94-95, where they translate the term as "Mining Prefect"). In other articles the term appears to be used for a manager of a mine. Where it is possible to differentiate between the two German positions in the Schlackenwald law, we have used "Bergmeister" for the senior position and "mine manager" for the managers of individual mines.

Except for the generalized summary of portions of Saxon mining laws in the Hoovers' translation of Book IV in "De Re Metallica" by Agricola, 1556 there appears to be no previous attempts to publish an English translation of a German mining law of this period. The Schlackenwald law provides some insight to present day readers about the management and daily activity in the tin mines and in their associated communities. Further attempts in translation of other early German mining laws should add to the knowledge of English readers about early mining and mining town governance in Central Europe.

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"*Geordente, vnd gebesserte, Zinbergkwercks Ordnung, der Bergstedt Schlackenwalden, Schönfelden, Lautterpach, sampt derselben zugehörenden Gepirgen...*" Verlag Prometheus, Prague, 1930.

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