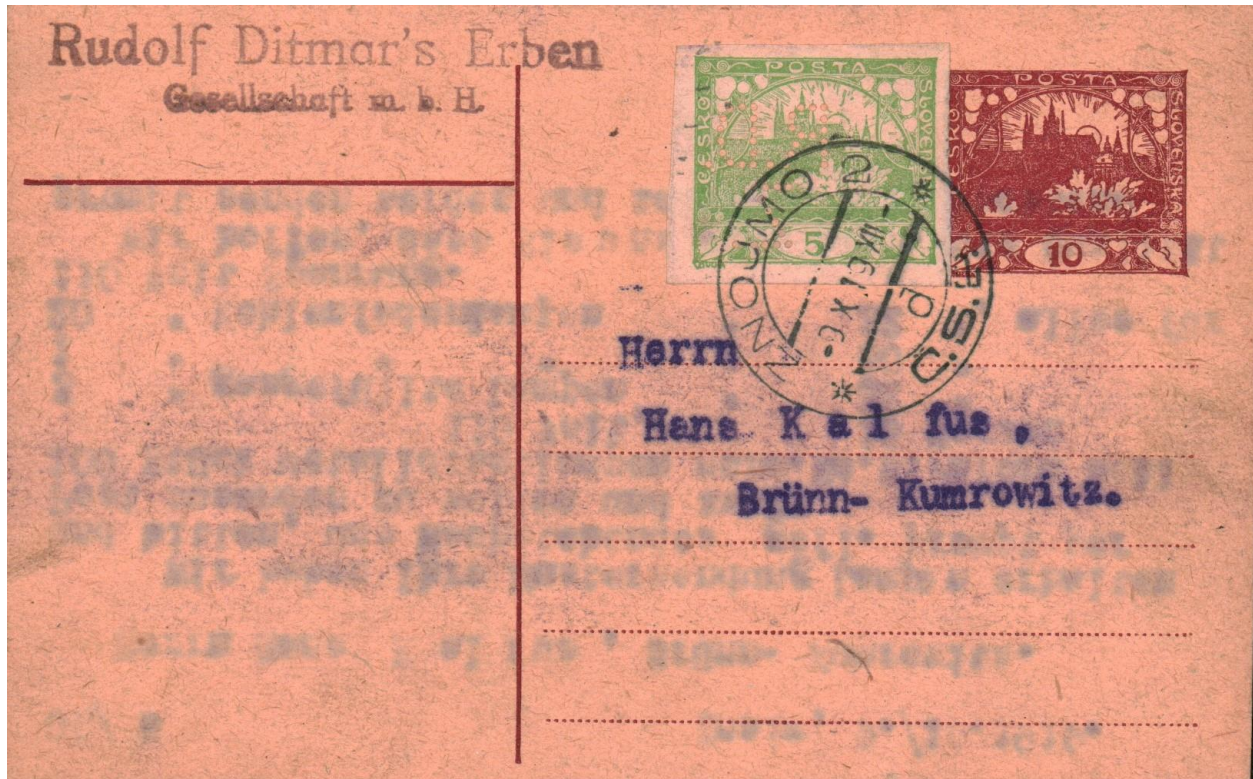


History of Czechoslovak Perfins
Czechoslovak Perfin Pattern R19
Rudolf Ditmar's Erben
By Joe Coulbourne



This item of postal stationery has an added 5h perfined value of the Hradčany series (Pofis # 3) and has the user identified as Rudolf Ditmar's Erben, Gesellschaft m.b.H., with a postmark canceling the stamp and 10h indicia of 9 October 1919 in the town of Znojmo.

(R.D.Z.) Rudolf Ditmar / Rudolf Ditmar Erben
Vienna, and Znaim in Moravia, Austro-Hungarian Empire.
Now called Znojmo, Czech Republic.
Kunstthonwaaren-Fabrik / Manufacture of art pottery wares

Karl Rudolf Ditmar was born 3 May 1818, in Prenzlau in the state of Brandenburg, and died 22 March, 1895, Znaim, Moravia. Rudolf and

his brother Friedrich relocated to Vienna in 1839, where they traded in oil lamps. On the 5th of August 1841, as the Ditmar Brothers, they opened their own metalwork facility manufacturing oil lamps. In the 1850's Rudolf developed the "Viennese Modérateur Lampe", with an adjustable oil supply mechanism, which came to dominate world markets. Due to changes in fashion, lamp bodies changed to ceramic from metal due to the infinite number of design possibilities available.

In 1879, Rudolf opened an art pottery factory in Znaim, originally manufacturing lamp bodies in earthenware, however some porcelain bodies have also been seen. Around 1890, they also started producing a range of steins. Rudolf died in 1895. In 1910, the company now called Rudolf Ditmar's Erben (heirs) was purchased by the K. u. K. privilegierte Wilhelmsburger Steingut- und Porzellanfabrik and merged with the Brothers Urbach of Teplitz-Turn, (now Teplice-Trnovany, Czech Republic). In 1913, the companies were purchased by Triptis A.G, (the same company that purchased Wicke-Werke in the 1920's).

However, the Ditmar factory again became independent, when **the factory was confiscated by the newly founded state of Czechoslovakia in 1919 and operated as Ditmar-Urbach**, under its previous owner, Richard Lichtenstern. In turn it was again confiscated by the Austrian Government, as part of the Anschluss in 1938, to become Ostmark-Ceramics A.G. and subsequently nationalized in 1945. In 1947 Richard's son Kurt, who had emigrated to the U.S. and changed his name to Conrad H. Lester, took back the company and changed its name to ÖSPAG (Österreichische Sanitär-, Keramik- und Porzellan-Industrie AG). This was eventually taken over in 1967 by the Keramik Holding Laufen, which is now part of the ROCA group.

The card shown is a card noting the sale of several lamps to an individual in Brünn (German form of Brno). Images of several lamps and steins made by this firm and their trademark in 1919, follow:



OL/ B

Znaim, 9./10.1919.

Herrn Hans Kalfus, Brünn-Kumrowitz.

Wir haben Ihre Mustersendung Lampen erhalten und bitten, uns Nachstehendes gefl. prompt per Post zusenden zu wollen und zwar:

100 Stück Metalldrahtlampen norm. Ed. Birnform hell
110 Volt, 16 Kerzen

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------|
| 3 | gasgefüllte Lampen | 32 | |
| 1 | | 50 | |
| 20 | Kohlenfadenslampen | 32 | , alles für |

110 Volt Spannung.

Wir hoffen, dass Sie uns eine sehr gute Qualität prompt senden werden und zeichnen hochachtend

Rudolf Ditmar's Erben

Gesellschaft m. b. H.

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Rudolf Ditmar

The perfin pattern is R19 in the new Monografie 24. Details immediately below:

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|------------|-----------------------|-----|
| | R19 R.D./Z. | MxR: R25 | Sa: RDZ-44 | (1901) 1904-1921 (32) | Hr |
| | + Rudolf Ditmar, později Rudolfa Ditmara dědicové, Znojmo Zal.: 1880 (Rudolf Ditmar's Erben) | | | | R 9 |
| | + Továrna na keramické zboží a sanitární keramika Znaim / Znojmo | | | | Č 7 |
| | Pobočky: Praha, Vídeň. | | | | |

As it turns out this perfin is a new one for my Hradčany collection. My "cover of the month".