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The Rehberg Paper Mill and the Tradition of its Products in Lower Austria

The paper mill in Rehberg, nowadays a northern district of the city of Krems, has only been marginally researched so far. Emperor Leopold I granted Gotthard Heinrich Count of Salburg a privilege to establish a mill for manufacturing paper in June 1703. Through one and a half centuries, the paper mill changed hands multiple times, until it went out of business in the 19th century. Yet the Rehberg mill has not been the only spot for paper manufacture in the wider geographical area, particularly as there were about a dozen more paper factories in the Waldviertel region in Lower Austria, which Rehberg had to vie with. Today written evidence of the paper mill is only sparsely recorded; besides the usage of products from Rehberg is hardly detected. Based on documents in the Municipal Archives of Krems this paper hopes to show the use of paper from Rehberg in administration records in the 18th and 19th century. In addition, business relations between the cities of Krems and Stein and the Rehberg paper mill will be demonstrated, based on the vast written traditions of the municipalities. Records in the Regional Archives of Lower Austria and the Austrian State Archives that have not been evaluated to date will be used to document the state's impact on the paper mill.

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