

Rosie Bodien, SG

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Josef Schmidt Czechoslovak Perfume Bottles about 1939

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Josef Schmidt was a contemporary of the well-known Heinrich Hoffmann and Henry Schlevogt. Schmidt had a glass-finishing workshop in Dolní Polubný, which is in the Jizera Mountains (circa 1924), close to Heinrich Hoffmann and Henry Schlevogt's in Jablonec. These men were promoting the Lalique-style pressed glass at this time. Hoffmann's work was promoted more than Schmidt, but Schmidt produced a wide variety of quality perfumes, too.

Abb. 2011-4/239

Perfume Bottles, Sammlung Bodien

Hersteller bis 1939 Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun, ČR

Hersteller unbekannt, ČSSR, 1948-1980-er Jahre

vgl. MB Schmidt 1939, PK 2005-3-06



The Schmidt workshop actually started in 1868. This was much earlier when Bohemia was a part of the Austrian Empire. Schmidt had glass-cutting workshops in Kořenov, Harrachov, and Přichovice. At that time he produced novelty crystal ware, small domestic glass, and chandelier parts. He employed 150 people in 1914. His products were exported and sold in Berlin, Paris, London, Vienna, Hamburg and Warsaw. Later the shop was moved to Dolní Polubný.

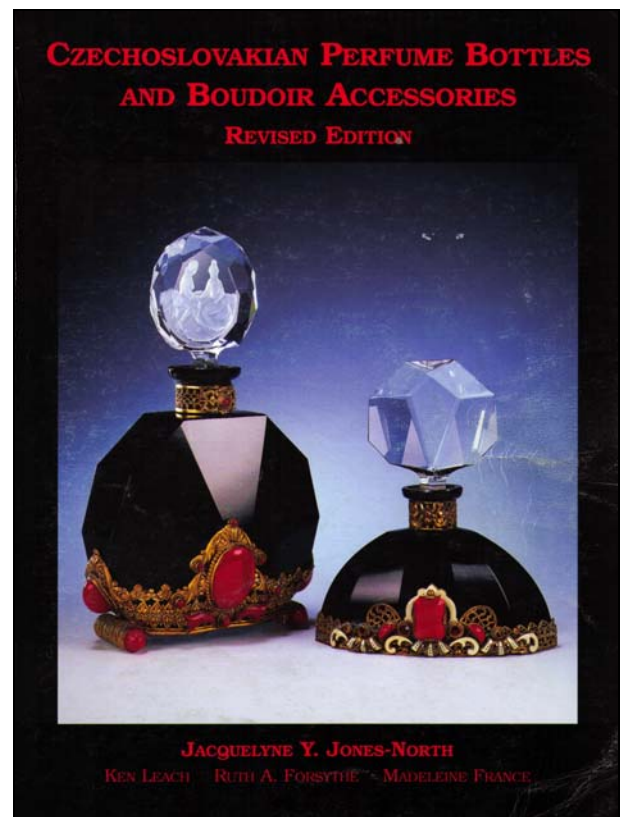
A March 24, 1924, advertisement of a crystal perfume bottle with a spectacular stopper is the earliest evidence of Schmidt toiletry glass. In the 1930s even more stylized toiletry glass was finished by the Schmidt workshop. Both pressed and blown glass "blanks" were produced for Schmidt by the Josef Riedel Company, also in Dolní Polubný.



Abb. 2011-4/240
 Perfume Bottles, Sammlung Bodien
 Hersteller bis 1939 Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun, ČR
 Hersteller unbekannt, ČSSR, 1948-1980-er Jahre
 vgl. MB Schmidt 1939, PK 2005-3-06



The Ornela Glass Company in Desná has a copy of a Josef Schmidt catalogue. The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague has an incomplete copy of this Schmidt catalogue, too. Siegmur Geiselberger, editor of Pressglas-Korrespondenz, has published an article with this catalogue in his March 6, 2005 issue. (Go to www.pressglas-korrespondenz.de for more information.)



Eduard Stopfer wrote the article using information from Borek Tichy, Marketing Specialist at Ornela. This article is also available at the Rakow Library, which is a part of the Corning Glass Museum in Corning, New York.

Eduard Stopfer states that, "The Schmidt perfume molds were probably stored at the Josef Riedel Company in Desná." After World War II, the molds were used by Jablonec Glass and Glass Export for bottles exported to the United States in the late 1940s to the 1980s. He says the Schmidt bottles made by the Jablonec Glass and Glass Export Companies after 1945 were inferior. He feels the Schmidt bottles made by Ornela (Desná) are back to the high standards of the original perfumes.



On the cover of the revised 1990 Jones-North book we see two perfume bottles attributed to Hoffmann. Actually the bottle on the left is of Schmidt design. Shown are two pictures from the Schmidt catalogue showing the bottle and stopper separately. (1A and 1B) The bottle on the right could very well be Schmidt also. As I said, some pages are missing from the catalogue.

But what about the jeweled ornate metal work? Petr Nový is Historian and Chief Curator of the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec. I asked him about the decoration on these perfume bottles. He replied via mail that the exporter bought the bottles from the glass workshop. Then the exporter made arrangements with other businesses to decorate these bottles. After that process they were exported out of Czechoslovakia. *Ahh*, a new concept here. That could apply to other Czechoslovakian items that we collect as well. Interesting!

There is no way to show all the Schmidt designs, but the following pictures are a taste of his uniqueness. There are many more pages in the catalogue, it is a goldmine! I have noticed that many of my Schmidt Czechoslovakia bottles are signed "Czechoslovakia" on one line. I will be researching that!

We only knew of Schlevogt and Hoffmann as being the greats of perfume bottle design in Jablonec. With great excitement, I introduce Josef Schmidt who deserves to be among these great giants of Czechoslovakian bottle design!

References:

Stopfer, Edward, Pressglas-Korrespondenz 2005-3-06, Musterbuch Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun [Dolní Polubný], 1939-1940

Nový, Petr, Glass, time ,people, issue 1/2002
www.glassrevue.com/news.asp@nid=468.html

Nový, Petr, www.prazskagalerie.cz/en/news/from-editorial/luxury-for-everyone-chapters-from-history-and-present-of-art-crystalware-3

SG: Rosie Bodien is a second generation American who started the Czech / Slovak Genealogy Interest Group in Washington State more than eleven years ago. Rosie, a retired school teacher, became aware of the Czech perfume bottles as she was doing her Czech research.

Abb. 2005-3/xxx
Flakon mit Stöpsel, Blumen-Dekor
opak-jade-grünes Pressglas, H 19,8 cm
Sammlung Stopfer
Hersteller unbekannt, ČSSR, 1948-1980-er Jahre
vgl. MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 153, Nr. 4834/962/1



Abb. 2011-4/241
 Flakon mit Stöpsel, Blumen-Dekor, opak-jade-grünes Pressglas, H 19,8 cm
 Sammlung Bodien
 Hersteller unbekannt, ČSSR, 1948-1980-er Jahre, vgl. MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 153, Nr. 4834/962/1



Abb. 2005-3-06/146
 MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 153, Flakons mit Stopfen
 Sammlung Ornela, Desná

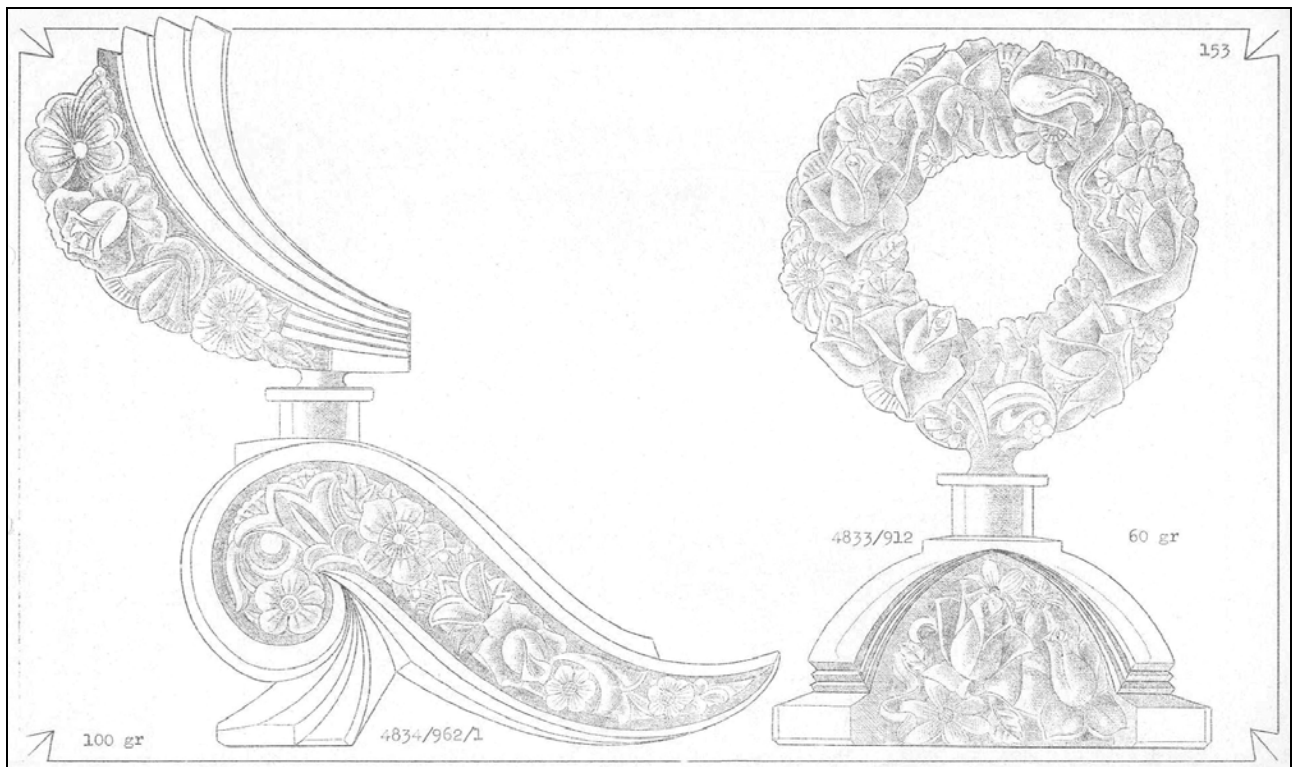


Abb. 2011-4/242

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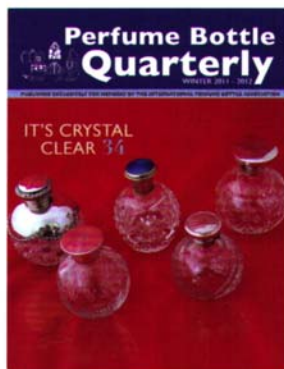
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On the Cover: Featured on the cover are large cologne bottles, all English Orbs, from Jan Burke's private collection. The bottles were photographed by Terry Burke.

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Abb. 2005-3-06/039, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 46, Flakons mit Stopfen
 Abb. 2005-3-06/040, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 47, Flakons mit Stopfen
 Sammlung Ornela, Desná

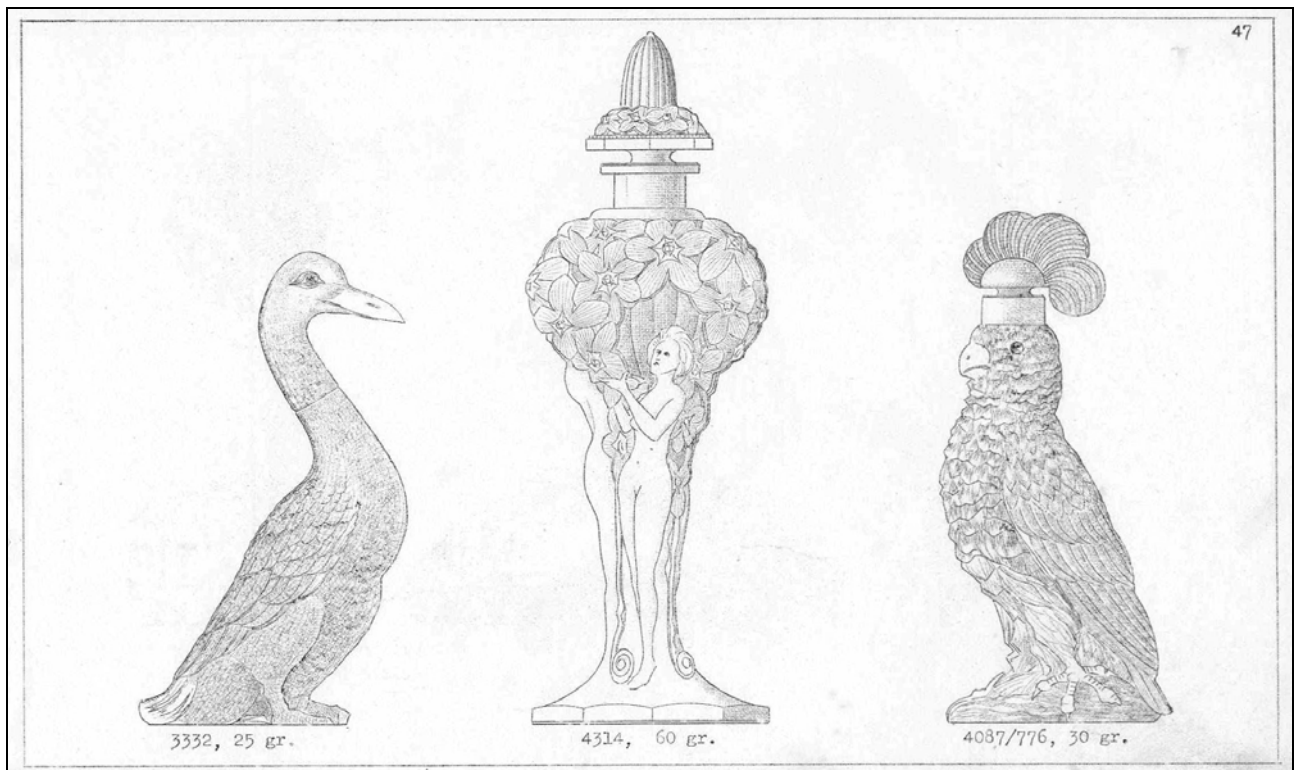
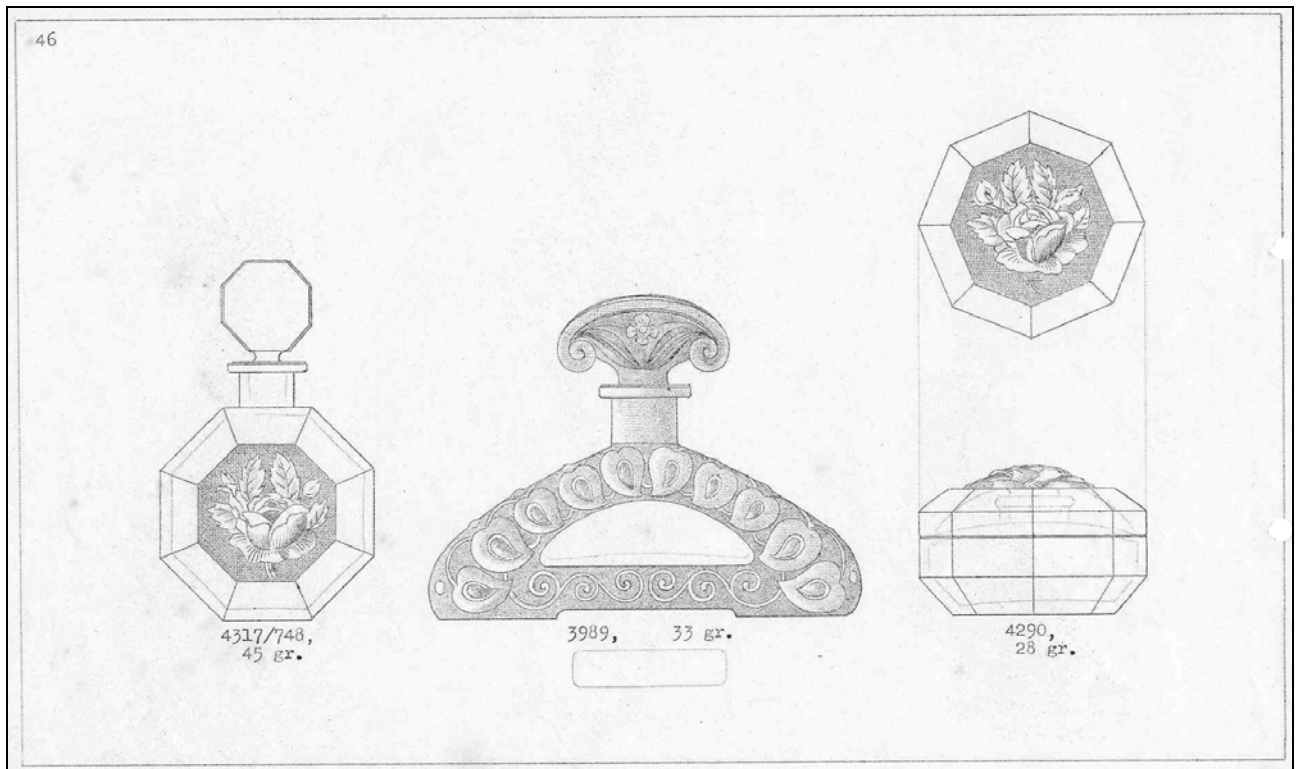


Abb. 2005-3-06/054, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 61, Flakons mit Stopfen
 Abb. 2005-3-06/068, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 75, Flakons mit Stopfen
 Sammlung Ornella, Desná

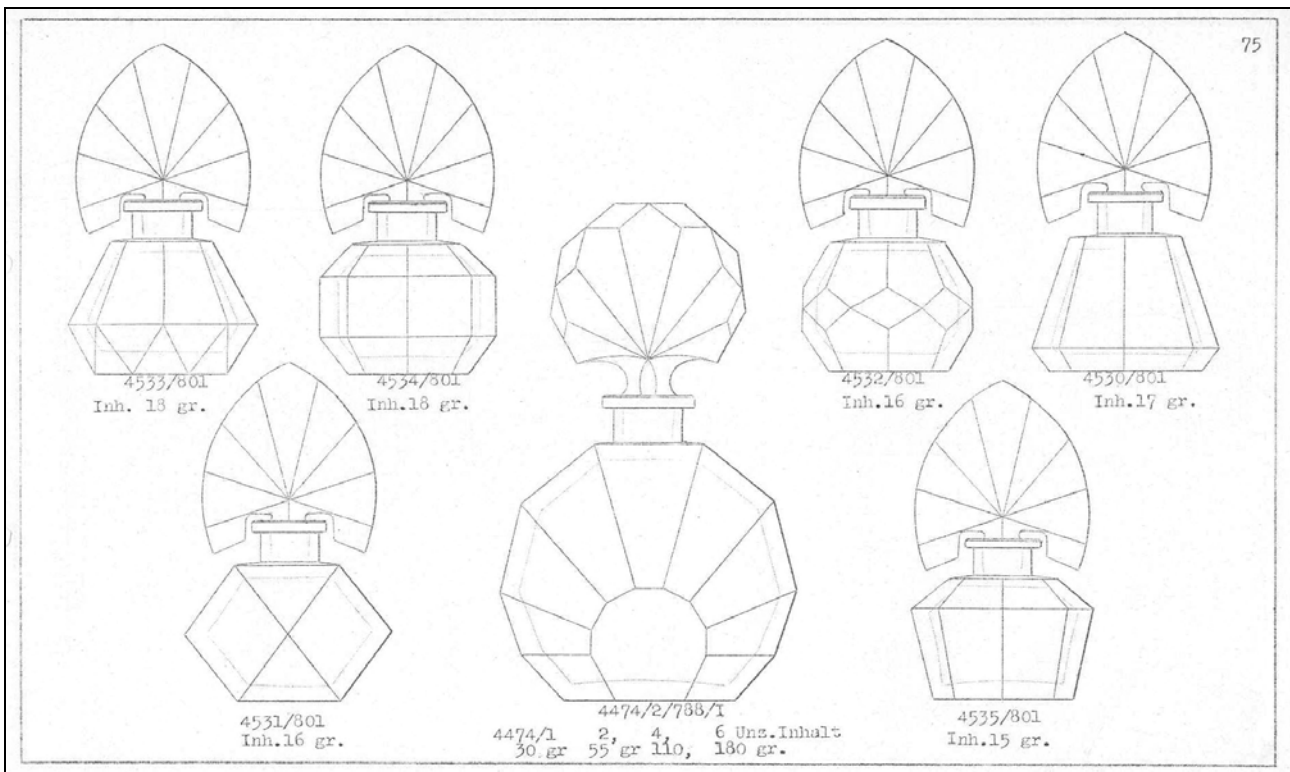
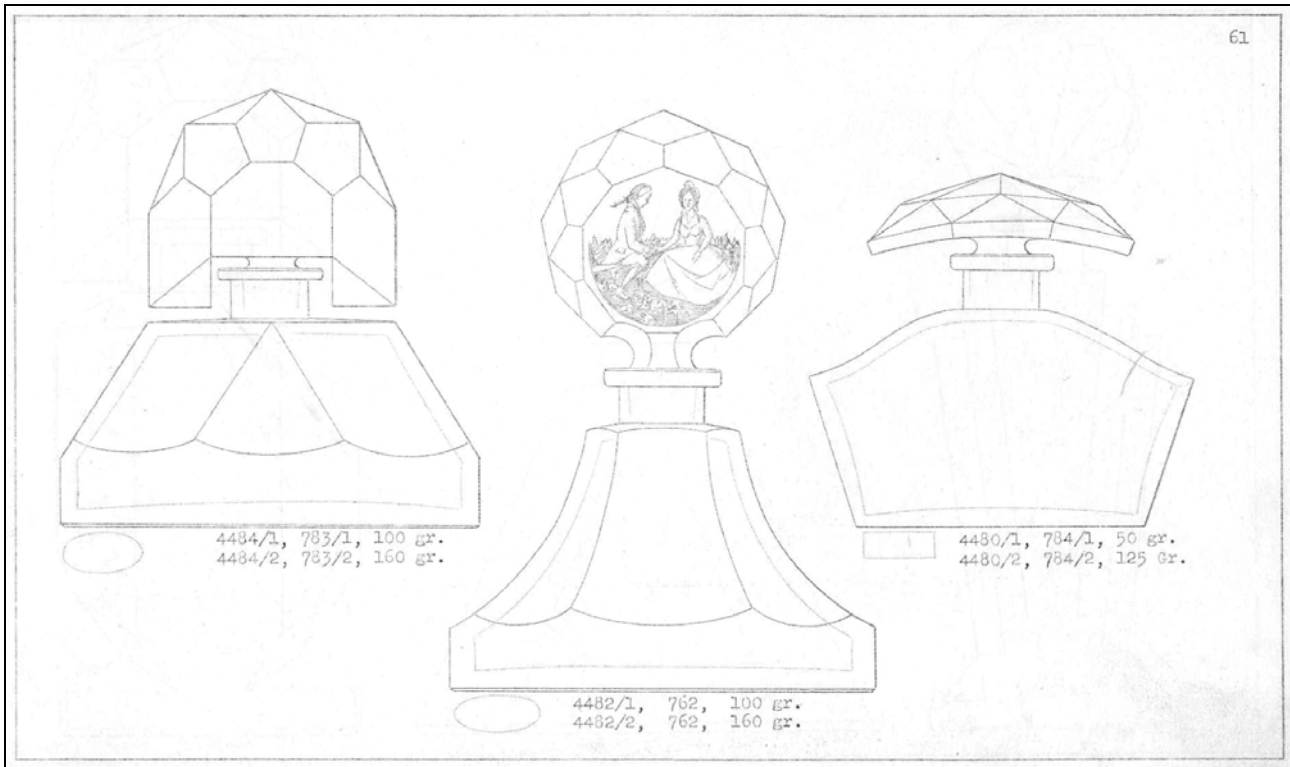


Abb. 2005-3-06/086, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 93, Flakons mit Stopfen
Abb. 2005-3-06/142, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 149, Flakons mit Stopfen
Sammlung Ornela, Desná

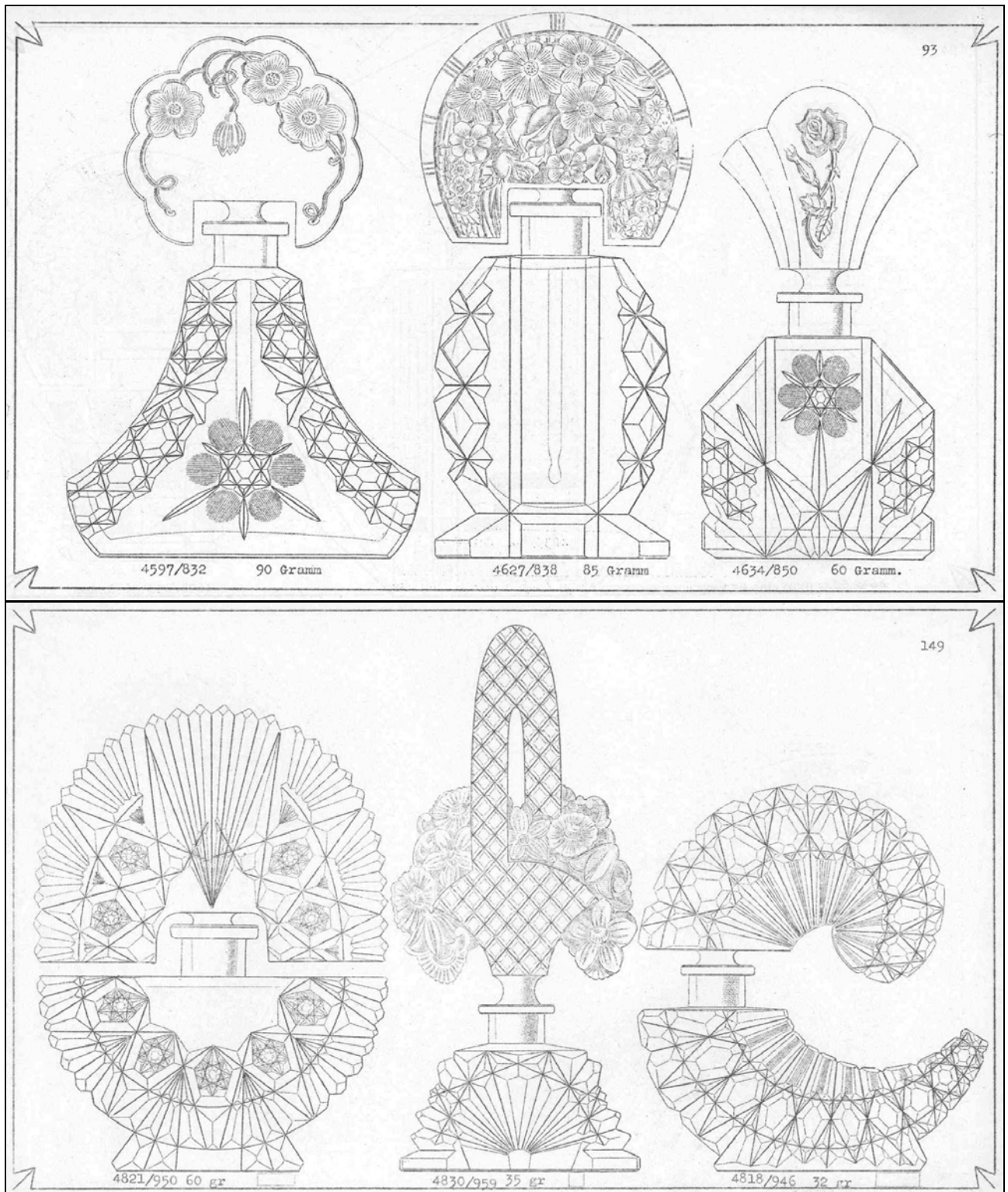
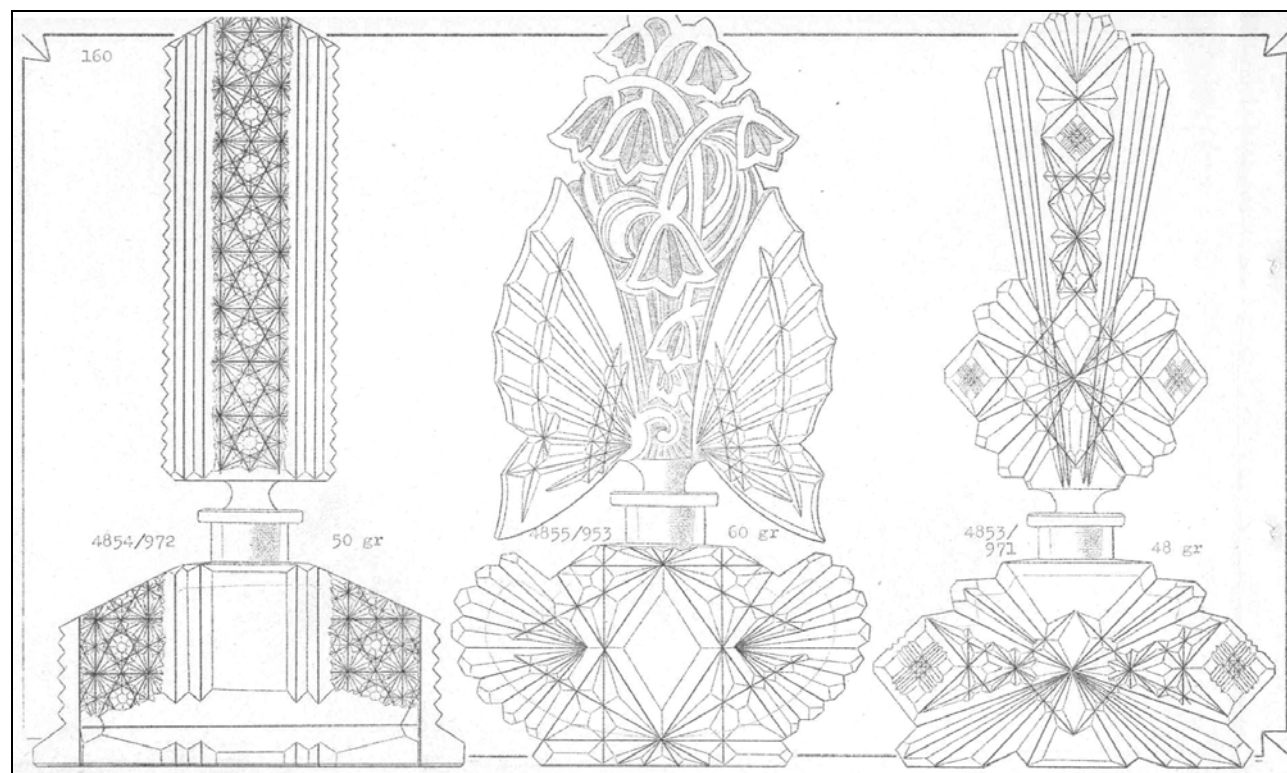


Abb. 2005-3-06/153, MB Schmidt 1939, Tafel 160, Flakons mit Stopfen
Sammlung Ornela, Desná



Siehe unter anderem auch:

- PK 2000-6** Lněničková, Welt der Duftbehälter.
Ausstellungs-Katalog Muzea skla a bižuterie, Jablonec nad Nisou 1999
- PK 2000-6** Lněničková, Glashütten in Böhmen, die u.a. Flakons herstellten, darunter auch aus Pressglas
- PK 2001-5** Nový, Lisované sklo s umeleckými ambicemi - Heinrich Hoffmann a Curt Schlevogt [Pressglas mit künstlerischen Ambitionen]
- PK 2001-5** Nový, Ornela, Der Flug der Glasmöwe [Let skleneného racka]
- PK 2001-5** Nový, Ornela, Künstler, die für Hoffmann und Schlevogt arbeiteten
- PK 2002-4** Sims, Tschechoslowakische Parfüm-Flaschen - Die überwältigenden Opaques
- PK 2003-2** Nový, Lisované sklo a krystalerie v Jizerských Horách [Gepresstes Glas und Kristall aus dem Isergebirge]
- PK 2003-2** Anhang 10, SG, Schorcht, Musterbuch Glassexport Jablonec glass, um 1952 (Auszug)
- PK 2003-4** Anhang 06, SG, Jones-North, Musterbuch Glassexport „Ingrid“, um 1960 (Auszug)
- PK 2004-1** Anhang 21, Nový, Pressglas und Kristallerie im Isergebirge bis zum Jahr 1948 (Auszug), Jablonec 2002
- PK 2004-2** o.V., Akciová společnost ORNELA, Desná v Jizerských horách
- PK 2005-2** Ricke, Aufbruch - Tschechisches Glas 1945 - 1980
- PK 2005-2** Schlevogt, SG, Zum Schicksal der Firma Curt Schlevogt, Gablonz / Jablonec n. N., von 1945 bis 1948
- PK 2005-3** Stopfer, Ein Musterbuch mit Flakons aus der ČSR von 1946
Musterbuch Glaswaren-Fabrik Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun, 1940 / 1946
- PK 2005-3** Stopfer, Bemerkungen zum Buch „Czech Glass 1945 - 1980“, hrsg. von Helmut Ricke
Flakons der Glaswaren-Fabrik Josef Schmidt, Polaun - nicht von Schlevogt
- PK 2005-3** Lorenz, SG, Flakon aus Malachitglas, Etiketten „Ingrid“ und „Made in Czechoslovakia“
wahrscheinlich eine staatliche Fälschung nach 1945
- PK 2005-3** Anhang 06, SG, Tichý, Ornela AG / Desná, Musterbuch Josef Schmidt, Unter-Polaun [Dolní Polubný], 1939-1940 (Auszug)