

Qualitative Change and Quantitative Accumulation of Knowledge
- Evidence from 18th Century Prize Competitions in Kurfürstentum Sachsen -

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Abstract

This paper examines the purpose of prize competitions in 18th century Saxony and the kind of knowledge that the Leipziger Society and the Saxon Deputation tried to introduce by implementing these competitions, before examining the relationship between the industrialized society and dissemination of useful knowledge. The first focus is on the processes, materials, and commonly used expressions in the prize competitions. Particularly for the former period, the societies' intention to have products equivalent to foreign ones (silk fabric, camlet, lace) through the prize competitions is examined. This investigation has yielded five discussions for future consideration: 1. Knowledge diffusion and education, 2. How knowledge becomes "Useful Knowledge," 3. Comparison with other countries' prize competitions, 4. Intended results of the prize competitions, and 5. How the prize competition improved quality.

Key Words: Knowledge, Prize Competition, Textile Industry, Saxony

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