

# Czech Name Patterns: Locatives and Occupational Bynames

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This article deals only with two of the most common Czech name patterns in the 15th and 16th centuries: locatives and occupational bynames. Further research is required for earlier patterns, particularly as earlier datasets tend to primarily include single-element names.

## Locatives

Locative names in Czech primarily take one of two forms: adjectival and phrasal. Both types appear to be roughly equally common, though only phrasal bynames are found as part of double bynames.

**Locative phrases:** Locative byname phrases are formed with the preposition *z/ze* (“from/of”), followed by the place name in the genitive case. Use *z* in all cases except when the place name begins with *z/ž* or *s/š*, in which case *ze* is correct. There is unfortunately not an easy rule for forming the genitive of place names; consulting a Czech grammar text or Google is likely your best bet.

In the 15th century and later, phrasal locatives may also be found as the second byname following a byname of any other type.

**Adjectival locatives:** Adjectival locative bynames are formed by adding a suffix to the place name, following these general guidelines:

Place names ending in vowels drop their final vowels, then proceed from the final consonant. If the final consonant is *c* or *s*, add *-ký* for masculine names or *-ká* for feminine names. If the final consonant is *k*, replace it with *-cký* (masc.) or *-cká* (fem.). For most other final consonants, add *-ský* (masc.) or *-ská* (fem.); the main exception to this is final *-h*, which changes to final *-ž* before adding *-ský* or *-ská*. (*Praha* becomes *Pražský*, e.g.)

## Occupational names

Occupational names in Czech are formed from unmodified occupation terms such as “potter” or “smith”. In Štefková’s data from the 15th century, they are found either preceding or following the given name — “mlynář Škrob” (Miller Škrob) vs “Můčka mlynář” (Můčka the miller), e.g. — while in her data from the 16th century, they are exclusively found following the given name. There appears to be a fairly broad set of occupations that were used as bynames — the expected common professions like “miller”, “smith”, “reeve”, “knight”, etc, but also things like “musician”, “shopkeeper”, “missionary”, etc.

This source also includes two examples of the diminutive or feminine ending *-ka* applied to these occupational terms: “rychtářka” in 1483 (reeve or magistrate), and “Zuzka sklářka” in 1581

(glassblower, with a feminine given name). For SCA use, three examples are generally required to demonstrate a pattern, but I provide them here regardless.

In the 15th century and later, occupational terms may be found as the second byname following a byname of any other type; when they appear in that placement, they are not capitalized. When found as the sole byname, they may or may not be capitalized.

## Data

### **Locative phrases**

Štefková:

- Mikeš z Světnova, from *Světnov*, 1483
- Šimko s synem jeho z Počitek, from *Počítky*, 1483
- Jiřík Karas z Příbora, from *Příbor*, 1581
- Moc Šitavanc z Klokočova, from *Klokočov*, 1581
- Pavlík z Drnholce, from *Drnholec*, 1581

*Inventář: Zemské desky cúdy olomoucké:*

- Jana z Kravař, from *Kravaře*, 1348
- Jana z Kunštátu, from *Kunštát*, 1389
- Viléma z Pernštejna, from *Pernštejn*, 1417
- Jana z Cornštejna, from *Cornštejn*, 1437
- Václava Boskovského z Boskovic, from *Boskovice*, 1480
- Jana z Žerotína, from *Žerotín*, 1538
- Zacharyáše z Hradce, from *Hradec*, 1558

Vepřeková:

- Jacub z Michlowicz, from *Michalovice*, 1472
- Bricci z Sternberka, from *Šternberk*, 1497
- Martin Lisska z Wymperka, from *Vimperk*, 1507
- Martin Blanz z Litomyšle, from *Litomyšl*, 1509
- Hynek Bořek z Poličan, from *Poličany*, 1562
- Jindřich Kobilka z Kobylího, from *Kobylí*, 1562
- Vilem Berka z Dubé a z Lipého na Šternberku, from *Dubá* and *Lipá*, 1562
- Bernart Zoubek ze Zdětína a na Chudobíně, from *Zdětín*, 1563
- Hynek ze Zvole a na Dubčanech, from *Zvole*, undated but the source covers 1359-1577

## Adjectival locatives

Štefková:

- Jan Pučovský, from *Pučov*, 1483
- Havel Frýdecký, from *Frýdek*, 1581
- Jakub Smolický, from *Smolice*, 1581
- Jan Drnholecký, from *Drnholec*, 1581
- Jan Ostravský, from *Ostrava*, 1581
- Jan Rybský, from *Rybí*, 1581
- Kristýn Skalický, from *Skalice*, 1581
- Martin Zábřežský mlynář dolní, from *Zábřeh*, 1581
- Matěj Bludovský, from *Bludov*, 1581
- Petr Krmelínský, from *Krmelín*, 1581
- Vavřinec Benešovský, from *Benešov*, 1581

## Occupational terms

Štefková:

- Jan Bednář (1483) - cooper
- Janek Vítkův mlynář (1483) - miller
- Jiřík pastýř (1483) - shepherd
- Míča topič (1483) - stoker
- Mikuláš rychtář (1483) - reeve, magistrate
- Vala/Vála Hudec (1483) - musician
- Vaněk kolář (1483) - cartwright
- Bartoš kovář (1581) - blacksmith
- Bartošek hrnčír (1581) - potter
- Daniel Kramář (1581) - shopkeeper
- Jakub Kuchař (1581) - cook
- Jan Misař (1581) - missionary
- Jura sklář (1581) - glassblower
- Lukeš švec (1581) - shoemaker
- Mikuláš Kocúr kovář (1581) - blacksmith
- Mikuláš Stehlík písař (1581) - scribe
- Vítek Košář (1581) - basket maker

Sources:

- Marta Štefková, *Antroponyma v urbářích z 15.–17. století*, <https://is.muni.cz/th/u1ye5/>
- Eva Vepřeková, *Edice Nejstarší městské knihy litovelské*, <https://is.muni.cz/th/z03m5/>
- *Inventar: Zemské desky cúdy olomoucké* (an index of digitized town records from period; the given names are all in the genitive case and spelling has been normalized), <http://www.mza.cz/a8web/a8apps1/A3/A3-Inventar.pdf>