Under Nazi rule, the schools for backward children were retained for the single reason that the Bürgerschule (citizen school) was elevated to the status of a six-form elementary school performing a selective function, and the schools for backward children, on the other hand, in this situation served as a kind of dump for children with hereditary defects. What is noteworthy is the cooperation between German and Czech teachers at special schools not only in matters of professional politics. The build-up of the German network of special schools for backward pupils in the Bohemian lands was until 1938 closely related to the personality of the chairman of the Association of German schools for backward children in the Czecho-Slovak Republic, Rolf Marschas.

TOMÁŠ STANEK ON THE GERMANS IN THE BOHEMIAN LANDS AFTER 1948

Otfrid Pustejovsky

In 1993 Tomáš Staněk, the author of a fundamental examination of the Germans' living conditions in Czechoslovakia and their expulsion from the country after the end of World War II (see BohZ 34/1993, 399), published an extensive study of those Germans remaining in Czechoslovakia. In his exhaustive report on this study Otfrid Pustejovsky offers an informative overview of the history of these Germans under communist dictatorship and in the present-day Czech Republic.

DISCUSSION

The book about Prague by Christoph Bartmann, published in 1994 under the German title Insider-Lexikon, has caused heated debate. This is why the editorial board of Bohemia asked two "insiders" to acquaint our readership with their opinion. In her appraisal entitled "If only the author ..." Růžena Fořtllová explains why she thinks Bartmann's book is superficial, and Václav Maindl presents his thoughts on "Our images of the others".

In the second contribution to "Discussion", Jaroslav Kučera looks critically at the newest study of Fritz Peter Habel on the numbers of victims among the Germans in postwar Czechoslovakia.