tion about Catholic as well as Protestant church construction before the Thirty Years’ War is that Churches of the competing confessions in general shape as well as in the solutions used for concrete architectural tasks drew ever closer together. Nonetheless, these similar shapes have to be understood as expressing radically dis-similar confessional and political views. In a second part, the author describes how the altar-piece “The Annunciation” by Hans von Aachen was transferred from a Catholic to the Lutheran Trinity Church. Immediate reaction to the transfer did not come from the Prague Catholics, but from the Calvinists, who removed all paintings and statues from St. Vitus Cathedral a few days after the altar-piece had been consecrated in Lutheran rites.

JEWS IN BOHEMIAN LITERATURE,
16TH TO 18TH CENTURY

Lenka Veselá

On the basis of printed literature from the period, the author examines whether and to what extent Bohemian society from the 16th to the mid-18th century was interested in Jews. The focus is mainly on the period before the Battle of the White Mountain, a period during which the ancient image of the Jews, under the influence of humanism and reformation, underwent a perceivable change. Though developments in the Bohemian Lands did resemble those mainly in Germany, there are some aspects specifically Bohemian, above all a relative lateness in dealing with the “Jewish Question”. Another characteristic is the great involvement of the Catholic Church and above all the Jesuit Order in anti-Jewish campaigns. The reformation, on the other hand, had a positive influence on the treatment of the Jewish topic. After the Battle of the White Mountain, what positive developments there had been were reversed, and printed literature from the Bohemian Lands shows a marked increase in anti-Jewish propaganda. Only in the 18th century, in the context of the emancipation of Jews in Bohemia, did a more liberal approach reappear.

WOMEN AND “SECOND SERFDOM” IN BOHEMIA

Sheilagh Ogilvie/Jeremy Edwards

This article examines, as an indicator of women’s position in the economy, the possibilities for women in early modern Bohemia to be the leading person in an independent household. In Bohemia, in the period under scrutiny, the percentage of women leading households was extremely low compared to the rest of Europe. Moreover, between 1591 and 1722 this percentage decreased significantly, with socio-economic factors progressively losing their influence. Research has identified several factors which, all over pre-industrial Europe, determined women’s economic
dependence. The current study proves that these factors did not have considerable influence in Bohemia. On the contrary, it seems that the situation of women leading a household was characterised by the “second serfdom”, accompanied by a strengthening of feudal and communal institutions. Great landowners used their growing power to deter women from leading households, as they viewed them as a financial risk. Communities and even single subjects also managed to use the power of the landowners for their own purposes.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1945-1968. RESULTS OF A RESEARCH PROJECT

Peter Heumos

This report summarises results of a research project which is carried out at the Collegium Carolinum and was financially supported by the Volkswagen Endowment in 1998-2001. The principal question looked at is to what extent the industrial labour force could be mobilised for the central aims of the state socialist system and politically shaped in its interest. The level predominantly analysed is the industrial plant. Among the most important topics are the development and long-term democratisation of trade-union branches at plant level, the unions’ cultural policies in the plants, workers’ resistance against politically motivated differentiation according to performance by means of the socialist work initiatives (Stakhanov work, shock work, socialist emulation etc.), the protest and strike movement, of remarkable intensity despite massive police and state terror under Stalinist rule (1948-1953) precisely in this period, and finally the consolidation of a social-political, cultural, and organisational “structural conservatism” which, among other things, led to demands for the reestablishment of the unions’ organisational basis of the First Republic being made during the Prague spring.

THE “CZECH LIBRARY” (PART 2)

Steffen Höhne

This is the second instalment of an ongoing evaluation of the publishing project, “Czech library”, which aims at making the most important works of Czech literature available to German readers. This tour-de-force of Czech literary and philosophical writing also represents a history of Bohemian thought. In selecting authors from the 9th to the 20th century, central trends and developments are outlined. Whereas religious questions were predominant for a long time, during the 19th century the nation and the coexistence of Czech and German nationals took their place. Finally, in the 20th century, after the experience of dictatorship and survival under these conditions, coexistence was replaced, in literary as well as philosophical terms, with confrontation.