FIRST EFFORTS TOWARD A FUTURE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN SAXONY-ANHALT 1945-49

Torsten Mehlhase

The primary focus of the author is on the Sudeten Germans. After critically appraising the research activities in the former GDR that come within his field, he presents the results of his own research concerning the success, or otherwise, of the attempts at integrating the Sudeten Germans in Saxony-Anhalt.

Late in 1945, almost one-million refugees and displaced persons (DPs), one-third of them Sudeten Germans, were living in this area. The Sudeten Germans in Saxony-Anhalt made up 40 percent of the overall number of Sudeten Germans living in the Soviet Zone of Occupation. The author describes their living and housing conditions and the changes thereof, their situation on the labour market, and their early achievements with their own economic activities and firms. Whereas a certain part of the Sudeten Germans can be considered to have been wholly integrated at the end of the 1940s, many of them, above all those belonging to the older generation, fell within a category of refugees and DPs comprising about half of all recipients of social welfare benefits in Saxony-Anhalt.

“NICHES” FOR CZECH HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE COMMUNIST ERA

There can be no doubt that among the things that the communist regime in Czechoslovakia tried to bring into line and to use to their own advantage for four decades was historiography. Here, however, the communists were not as successful as is often assumed. Frequently historians managed— in spite of all difficulties— to continue their research more or less independently and in keeping with their professional ethos, to occupy relatively stormproof “niches”. The editors of Bohemia approached Czech historians who describe what latitude there was for the spirit of independent research in historiography, and discuss the results of these efforts.

THE IMAGE OF JOHANN E. PURKINJE IN CZECHOSLOVAK RESEARCH DURING THE 1980s

Zdenka Frýdková

During the 1980s, in connection with the two-hundredth anniversary of his birth, material concerning Johann Evangelist Purkinje (1787-1869) began appearing in Czech academic literature and the popular press. The author of this article analyzes this literature on the basis of its diversity and new points of view vis-à-vis the previously existing literature, which concentrated especially on Purkinje as a physiologist. The 1980s featured attempts to popularize the findings of research on Purkinje. This resulted not only in traditional monographs, commemorative articles, and academic symposia, but also radio plays, television dramas, and exhibitions. The article
first summarizes the conclusions of the earlier research on Purkinje; then the literature from the 1980s is chronologically organized in Purkinje’s First and Second Prague Periods and the Breslau Period.

**GERMAN-CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD**

A Research Project of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in Munich

*Christoph Boyer*

Since September 1991, the Institut für Zeitgeschichte has been working on a large-scale research project on the economic relations between Germany and Czechoslovakia in the interwar period. Because this is an example of concrete research being carried out cooperatively between German and Czechoslovak scholars (with the desire for cooperation having often been uttered by many people), *Bohemia* is publishing a progress report on the project and on the first experiences of the participants.

**A STOCK EXCHANGE FOR MEMORIES: COPING WITH THE PAST THE ENGLISH WAY**

*Eva Schmidt-Hartmann*

The subject of this article is a project (named Age Exchange) carried out in Blackheath/London that concerns with the best way in which the memories of the elderly should be treated. Apart from its value as oral history source material, knowledge of the past here is used as a means of enhancing intergenerational communication, of encouraging social and creative activities, and of treating the social handicaps experienced by certain strata of the population, especially among older people. Because of the need to come to terms with the past, and of the wide and potentially dangerous gulf between the generations, this article offers some worthwhile suggestions.