is confined mainly to the relatively small number of specialized Bohemists, principally those from the Collegium Carolinum or close to it. Analysis of book reviews in the HZ also shows that the growing interest discernible since the middle of the 1960s is obviously due to a new generation of historians, who have devoted a greater share of their work to non-German history in general. However, the principal beneficiaries were Britain and France; the Bohemian lands, on the other hand, are among those countries usually accounting for less than ten percent of the total number of book reviews. With the Zeitschrift für Ostforschung, interest in the Bohemian lands ranked comparably low. This makes Bohemia the only journal which, now as before, devotes extensive coverage to Czech historiography, with all epochs being taken into account, contemporary history enjoying a slight predominance.

CHRONICLING THE “VELVET REVOLUTION” IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Rüdiger Kipke

Setting out with a brief history of the gestation of oppositional movements in communist Czechoslovakia, the contribution then proceeds to the most important developments in the political turnaround during the course of 1989. Among these are the mass demonstrations in the streets of Prague reaching their climax on November 17, the founding of the big popular movements in both Czech and Slovak parts of the nation, Civic Forum and Public against Violence respectively, as well as the reactions of the communist leadership to the domestic crisis becoming more and more acute. Finally, the process of the democratic Opposition factually assuming power is described, starting when it was granted a circumscribed share of government. This was followed by Václav Havel being elected to the office of President and finally by the former opposition receiving parliamentary majority when 1989 drew to a close.