F. Palacky and F. G. Heymann characterized the mid-15th century as an age of anarchy. The author sees this as a gap in historical research and uses the example of the involved history of the mercenaries as a stimulus to its further investigation. An approximately 10,000-man-strong contingent from Bohemia was drawn into the so-called Luxemburg inheritance struggle and Soest feud (1444—1447) in Westphalia on the side of the House of Wettin (Saxony, Meissen, Thuringia), in coalition with the Archbishop of Cologne. Peter von Sternberg and Heinrich von Kolowrat appeared as its leaders. Their motives for this westward campaign revealed them to be something less than mercenaries, for their interest was based rather on the political will to preserve, as representatives of the Estates, Luxemburg for the "crown of Bohemia" — this also being in accord with the interests of the Luxemburg Estates. In conclusion, the broad echo of the Bohemian expedition is analyzed, and attention thereby directed to such themes as "resistance of the Estates" and "public opinion".

GERMAN ASTRONOMY IN BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA IN THE LAST 100 YEARS

Karl A. F. Fischer and Peter Hibst

After the University of Prague split in 1882, the Imperial and Royal Observatory in the Prague Klementinum served as an institute of the German university for practical course work. Prof. Ladislav Weinek devoted himself to magnetic observations and selenography. After the collapse of the Empire in 1918, Prof. F. Nußl and Dr. O. Seydl commandeered the Klementinum as a state observatory. Prof. A. Prey created a new institute with a branch in Telnitz, where Dr. J. Mrázek worked until 1945. The institute in Prague was run by Dr. G. Alter, who eventually became a professor in Jerusalem.

Amateur German astronomy in Bohemia and Moravia was centered on the "Vereinigung zur Verbreitung astronomischer Kenntnisse" (founded 1920). At the beginning of the 1930s this association linked itself with the reichsdeutsch "Ingedelia" society. In addition there was a "Vereinigung der Freunde der Sternwarte der Deutschen Universität", established in the mid-1920s and dissolved in 1940 by the Reichsprotektor. Arthur Beer, who later became a professor at Cambridge, organized its (supranational) meteoritic section. A number of smaller private observatories were created in the Sudetenland, and in Rumburg the first public observatory in Bohemia was founded in 1923.