strong national accent, Wagner-Smetana) and a neo-classic (predominance of form, Brahms-Dvořák). This could be considered an unwanted analogy to the cultural difference between the Austrian and the German orientation.

PO NASZEMU – OUR WAY

Living Together and Colloquial Relations in Eastern Silesia until 1945
in the Retrospective View of its German Inhabitants

Norbert Englisch

In contrast to the closed German settlement of Silesia, the former Duchy of Teschen (Ostschlesien, Beskidenland) shows particular tensions. The melting together with the Slavic peoples (Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, “Schlonsaken”) since the fifteenth century, the fact that the region was able to resist the Counter-Reformation because of its location on the edge of the Monarchy, and its special economic position due to a blossoming cloth production led to wide-reaching cultural and linguistic intermingling. In the area of language, the result was a linguistic mixture of German, Czech/Slovak, and Polish, which has been characterized by a former German inhabitant of Eastern Silesia as “Beskidisch”, “Ostrawitz gibberish”, and “Olsa-Esperanto”. In retrospect, there appears a curiously divided relation to the then practiced colloquial language. On the one hand, as a result, the affected appraisal clearly portrays the great degree to which the people in a particular area need the spoken language for their self-identification. On the other hand, it is appalling that as a result of political influence and national origin, actual existing linguistic and cultural commonalities are once more negated.

“NICHES” FOR CZECH HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE COMMUNIST ERA

There can be no doubt that among the things which 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, occupying relatively stormproof “niches”. The editors approached four Czech historians who describe what latitude there was for the spirit of independent research in historiography, and talk about the results of these efforts.