SUMMARIES

THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF MORAVIA IN LIGHT OF THE FRANKISH SOURCES

Charles R. Bowlus

This study is a reexamination of East Frankish sources in light of Imre Boba’s thesis which posits that the Slavic principality of Moravia was located in the ninth century in modern Yugoslavia near Sremska-Mitrovica, not in Czechoslovakia as most scholars assume. Since the history of Frankish-Moravian relations in the ninth century was marked by numerous and brutal conflicts, Bowlus investigates the problem of Moravia’s geographical location from the viewpoint of the military organization of the southeastern marches. He finds that the royal charters reveal a logistical organization that was orientated toward the southeast – one that would have supported military operations against an enemy located somewhere near the confluence of the Sava with the Danube. Although this southeastward orientation of the marches does not prove that ninth-century Moravia was centered around ancient Sirmium, as Boba contends, this military organization shows at the very least that Frankish-Moravian struggles during the ninth century must have been for control of southeastern Pannonia.

JOHANN VON NEUMARKT AND COLA DI RIENZO

John Clifton-Everest

Ever since Burdach’s time the allegedly close relationship between Cola di Rienzo and the Imperial Chancellor, Johann von Neumarkt, has been regarded as a starting-point for the “Renaissance” or “Pre-humanism” in 14th century Bohemia. The written correspondence of the two men provides practically all the evidence there is for this friendship, and yet even Burdach’s successors recognised that one of Johann’s supposed three letters to Cola probably had a quite different addressee. Analysis of another of these letters now shows it to be a self-justification, probably addressed to the Emperor, and certainly not to Cola. Johann wrote only once to Cola, politely but sternly refusing to intervene on his behalf. This letter does not serve to express any genuine admiration, and the circumstances (Cola was under examination for heresy!) also made friendship between the two highly improbable. Any profound influence of the former tribune on the Chancellor seems most questionable.