DISCUSSIONS ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE EGERLAND AND ITS SETTLEMENT

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Until 1322 the Egerland, today the westernmost part of the land of Bohemia, was an integral part of the old German Empire. Already after the dissolution of the foundations of Hohenstaufen power in the 13th century, the tight organization of this border area within the Empire became looser, until it was pledged by Louis the Bavarian to King John of Bohemia. A formal incorporation into the Kingdom of Bohemia under constitutional law never took place, and the pledge status would thus actually continue to exist.

The present article intends to show how this Egerland, which in the Age of the Hohenstaufens as an imperial territory, still included also a large area of present-day Upper Franconia and of the Fichtelgebirge, emerged into the historical epoch, and which conceptions of the early historical settlement and its ethnic classification can be taken into consideration on the basis of the presently available research. The study thus deals only with the time up to the first documentary reference to Eger in the year 1061. Since points of departure for historical knowledge of the early period of this area have to be gained in spite of the fact that it cannot be grasped by means of documents, the auxiliary historical disciplines must be allowed to speak in these discussions. It is thus not irrelevant to review the theories of Germanic origins and of colonization for Bohemia and their consequences for the Egerland, and the problems of the Germanic or Slavic origin of the original population, furthermore the findings of German and Czech archaeology, as well as Settlement Geography. Conclusive evidence appears to be contributed here also by philology, especially as expressed in the numerous works of Ernst Schwarz. From the first mention of the Eger River in 805, there is an increase in the number of documentary reports on the area of the former Bavarian Nordgau, on the Sorb land, on the ecclesiastical affiliation of this region, on the sphere of influence of the Babenbergs and the first appearance here of Imperial bondmen clearing the land. If in conclusion the sum total is drawn from all the theories and historical findings, it must be observed that neither the continuity and colonization theory, nor prehistory and protohistory can produce conclusive evidence for the ethnic classification of the earliest population. Settlement Geography also brings no fundamental decision, since according to the field patterns, both peoples could have lived here. Philology and topo-
nymy can prove that at least since the 12th century, Germans settled here on a larger scale. In the historical epoch, in the real sense of the word, especially under Margrave Diepold III at the beginning of the 12th century, it becomes clear that the Egerland, the provincia Egerensis, was an Imperial land belonging directly to the Hohenstaufens.

BOHEMIA AND THE COUNTS OF BOGEN

Max Piendl

Around the middle of the 11th century there appeared in the eastern Danube gau in place of the Babenberger a family whose representatives exercised the rights of counts. Two lines of this family have to be distinguished: the main line, whose representatives called themselves „Counts of Bogen“ since the 12th century, and a secondary line which until its extinction in 1148 held the office of the Regensburg cathedral V o g t.

Still in the waning 11th century Count Aschwin of Bogen distinguished himself as victor over the invading Bohemians. Only a short time later, however, the relation between the Bohemian ruling house and the Counts of Bogen changed basically. The border location of the County of the House of Bogen became decisive for the initiation of kindred relations of this family and the Přemyslids, at the same time, however, relations which did not remain without influence and results on the Bohemian as well as the Bavarian side. In 1094 Duke Břetislaw II of Bohemia married Luitgard, the sister of Count Albert of Bogen. In 1124 Duke Wladislaw I gave the cathedral V o g t Friedrich IV the hand of his daughter Swatawa in marriage. The most important family connection between the Přemyslids and the House of Bogen is considered the marriage of Count Albert III of Bogen with Ludmilla, the daughter of Duke Friedrich.

Many favors were bestowed upon the Bogen house-monastery Windberg as a result of the close connections between the Counts of Bogen and the Bohemian neighbour. Bishops of Olmütz carried out the consecration of churches in Windberg; the rich landholdings of Windberg in Bohemia came from a donation of Wladislaw II, consisting of Albrechtsried, Miltschitz, Janowitz and Wojtitz.

In close connection with the marriage of Count Albert III with the Bohemian Ludmilla (around 1184) is Albert III’s enfeoffment with the wooded border area from the upper Wottawa and the Angel to the area of the source of the Wolinka, an area whose chief place was Schüttenhofen. From the House of Bogen an extensive settlement and clearing activity was conducted in the Bohemian area of feudal tenure. In the southeast Winter-