SUMMARIES

EX GERMANIAE LUX?
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NORTH EAST GERMAN RESEARCH SOCIETY AND THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY OF PRAGUE, 1935-1938

Ota Konrád

This article deals with the cooperation between the "Nordostdeutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (North East German Research Society, NOFG) and the German University in Prague during the 1930s. This cooperation was aimed primarily at preparing an English-language publication about the German University of Prague and at creating employment opportunities at universities in Germany proper for the junior generation of the scholars. The author shows what strategies were used by German institutions in order to enhance the standing of the intellectual elites among Germans living abroad and to shape their understanding of science in the national-socialist sense. These activities were favourably received at the German University in the second half of the 1930s. Some German professors had rejected the Czechoslovak state from the very beginning and taken an extremely nationalist and anti-Semitic stance. For others, the support they received from the Reich was the more acceptable, the less the Czechoslovak state was in a position to properly finance education and science. The career-mindedness typical for the universalist community was another important factor contributing to a sizeable part of the German scholars eagerly breaking with the Czechoslovak state and looking towards Nazi Germany for support.

FROM ARMS INDUSTRY TO MODEL TOWN –
INTERDEPENDENCIES OF URBAN AND MILITARY ASPECTS IN THE PLANNING OF THE EXPELLEE TOWN OF WALDKRAIBURG AND IN CONTEMPORARY THEORIES ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Barbara Würnsl

This contribution deals with one of five expellee towns in Bavaria which were created after World War II by making former arms factories available for resettlement. These towns have so far been regarded primarily as examples of pragmatic reallocation of premises and creating opportunities for industrial employment. In this
article, Waldkraiburg is examined from the perspective of urban development. Waldkraiburg represents the unusual, as far as the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned, case of a town newly established where no settlement had been beforehand. A look at urbanistic theories then valid shows that a model town was being aimed at, representing the ideal of the 1950s to a degree that would not have been possible when redeveloping existing urban areas. Waldkraiburg clearly benefited from the former factory of explosives, its structure in some aspects not permitting any other solution, especially when one bears in mind that the theory of urban development had not seen considerable change after 1945. The author also looks at the decision-making process that led to the town being founded, and at the image as an expellee town Waldkraiburg sought to project.

"... SO YOU NEED NOT EVEN GO TO THE BALKANS TO FIND IT." OR: HOW MUCH OF A SLAV DRACULA CAN HAVE?

Lewin, Glatz and the De-Slavicization of a Bohemian Vampire: an Example of Modern-Time Reassessment of Myths and the Motifs behind it

Christian Kättlitz

The present contribution deals with the oscillation of the vampire myth between popular fiction and ethnological science. Since the Middle Ages, the vampire had been considered pagan or plebeian. Towards the end of the 19th century, it became customary to look upon it as a veritable example of Slav cultural and national inferiority. Non-pejorative interpretations did not develop until the early 20th century, coincidental with the growing popularity of vampire stories in belles-lettres literature, theatre and the newly-invented movies. Thus, the vampire theme gradually lost its "Slavic" character.

The author examines the case of the Lewin "witch", a vampire saga originating in the Bohemian-Silesian region and first appearing in book form probably in the 14th century. By a thorough analysis of its resonance in German scientific and mythological literature, the development described above is traced and allocated its proper place in the context of the national discourse of the time.