SUMMARIES

THE THEFT, BY GERMANS, OF INSIGNIA AND DOCUMENTS FROM PRAGUE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES IN 1945

Karel Hruza

In the April of 1945, authorities of the German administration ordered the historical insignia and many important archive documents of Charles university in Prague to be taken away. These items never reappeared, their whereabouts remaining unknown. Among the stolen items were five 16th-century sceptres and ceremonial chains worn by high functionaries of the university as well as more than six tons of archive materials ranging from the 14th to the 19th century. Even the two charters which decreed the setting-up of the university, one from 1347 and the other from 1348, disappeared in this context. This event is one of the unsolved mysteries of World War II, and the loss it entails constitutes an important part of the Czech collective memory of the German occupation. The present contribution portrays national policies that determined the respective positions of the different ethnic groups from the 19th century onwards and then proceeds to reconstructing the administrative process in 1944 and 1945 that culminated in the seizure of the memorabilia. Among the persons involved, apart from high representatives of the German administration and the curator and the rector of the German university in Prague, were two historians who occupied important functions on the staff of the university at that time: Heinz Zatschek, head of the university archives, and Joachim Beyer, Dean of the philosophical faculty. The article is complemented by reprints of documents including the correspondence between Zatschek and the president of the "Monumenta Germaniae historica" society, Theodor Meyer.

GERMAN AND CZECH ARCHIVISTS IN THE FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC. A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Stefan Lehr

On the staff of the archives of the Interior Ministry, the largest archives in interwar Czechoslovakia, were several German officials, among them Josef Bergl, Gustav Pirchan, and Anton Blaschka. Having offered comprehensive information about the
biographies of these three archivists, the author of the present contribution examines their respective relationships with Czech archive directors Ladislav Klicman and Josef Prokeš, and with their Czech co-workers. These relations, as is convincingly demonstrated, were characterized by cooperation, by contacts and exchanges. Both Czech supervisors always showed a benevolent attitude towards their German staff members. The author draws the conclusion that the relations between German and Czech citizens in the democratic First Czechoslovak republic had considerable potential for improvement. But he also uses the example of the three archivists to demonstrate how easily many Germans adopted Nazi positions towards Czechoslovakia in 1938. The final part of the article deals with the fact that the three archivists witnessed different memories of the inter-war period once they had been evicted from Czechoslovakia.

**GERMAN VICTIMS OF WAR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

*Natali Stegmann*

This contribution deals with German victims of war in the First Czechoslovak republic. It examines the influence injuries and losses inflicted by the war exerted on national interpretational patterns adopted by the German minority, in particular those connected to the lost war. The analysis draws attention to injuries, social and national losses all contributing to bring about a depressive overall mood determining, among other things, the attitude of the German war victims' organisation, "Association of victims of wartime injuries, widows and orphans in the Czechoslovak republic": In the first few years, the "Association" did clamour for welfare payments from state coffers, albeit not without demonstrating widely divergent attitudes towards the new order. The national administration reacted by making tempting offers and stressing, at the same time, its intention to be the governing force. Beginning with the mid-1930s, with the Sudeten German Party becoming stronger and stronger, the respective positions of the "Association" and "Prague" grew somewhat closer. From that point onwards, pacifism and safeguarding democratic government became common goals of the German war victims, who suddenly found their interests threatened, and Czechoslovak politicians. Not before 1938 did the "Association" yield to the pressure and adopt the Sudeten German position, a position of which the Sudeten German party claimed to be the sole representative. It was possible, in this process of bringing everyone into line, to make good use of customary patterns of reasoning, some of them of considerable vintage, by adapting them to a view placing national descent above everything else.