atre, starting from its baroque origins. A tradition which, in the context of “national rebirth”, was perceived as having an important political and cultural mission. On the other hand, she stresses the importance of individual teacher/puppeteers and amateurs experimenting with educational and artistic approaches. Both lines of tradition are also present in the context of German-, Polish- and Hebrew-language puppet theatre in the Bohemian lands and in Czechoslovakia. The performances of Josef Skupa, however, derive their unmatched individuality from a combination of traditional elements and the innovative, experimental approach of the amateur movement and especially some elements borrowed from cabaret and burlesque. Since the early 20th century, there has been a multitude of institutions which provide an organizational framework for every aspect of puppet theatre culture and thus make it possible to discuss puppet theatre as a contemporary aspect of cultural life.

NOT A MAGNIFICENT RIDE

Karel Hruza

The present article is a critical review of the monograph “The Magnificent Ride. The First Reformation in Hussite Bohemia” (1998) by Thomas A. Fudge. This exhaustive synthesis of Bohemian reformation and Hussite revolution is an ambitious undertaking, its chapters ranging from “Bohemia on the Eve of the Hussite Movement” to the changes that this movement brought about. How Fudge deals with sources and with literature, however, does not always represent current scientific standards. As a result, the whole book is marred by (too many) deficiencies relating to the presentation of facts, to quotations and to the scientific apparatus. The chapters pertaining to structural and intellectual history, albeit raising some intriguing questions and offering new approaches, among them communication science and literacy research, are not entirely convincing either. Moreover, the language is not as clear and to the point as it could be. Summing up, this book is neither a convincing synthesis of contemporary research nor a compelling presentation of individual aspects of the Hussite revolution.

THE CZECH-GERMAN QUESTION WITH HINDSIGHT

Josef Políšenský

Examining his own biography and those of several members of his family, Josef Políšenský makes it plain that national utraquism and bilingualism were no exception in the Bohemian lands and in Moravia even as late as the interwar period. And when individuals did profess affiliation to one of the two national groups, this was often accidental, resulting from biographic coincidence, and not always was it bound to last a lifetime. The dictatorships under which the Czech society lived from 1938/39 onwards installed national socialism as an instrument of power, the result being a forced separation of Czechs and Germans. In private and in small groups,