world view based on religion is the decisive criterion of a revolutionary movement. If this criterion were correct, the monastic reform orders would also have to be considered revolutionary movements. Seibt concludes that revolution cannot be defined solely in terms of intellectual history, but rather only in those of a comprehensive view of society.

THE WETTENGEL OF NEUENBERG: THE LEADING MERCHANTS OF PRAGUE BEFORE THE BATTLE OF WHITE MOUNTAIN

Richard Klier

At the end of the 16th century the Wettengel from Neuenberg were the richest burghers of the Old Town of Prague. They came from the domain of Neuberg near Asch in Bohemia. According to the Prague customs book of 1597, Christoph Betengel (Wettengel) paid the highest duties (92 Schock 14 Gr. of Bohemia). He owned a number of houses in the Brückel quarter and fields where the National Museum is now located. In addition, he acquired in 1583 in eastern Bohemia the estate of Barohrádek for 12,600 Schock of Bohemian Groschen, and in 1587 the estate of Reichenau on the Kněšna for 33,750 Schock of Bohemian Gr. Since his only son Johannes died in Lyons during a horseback journey in 1587, and his only daughter Katharina died around 1600, his brother Eustachius became his main inheritor in 1602. The latter had only obtained the civic rights of the Old Town of Prague on 10 March 1592. When his brother Christoph died in 1602, he became a merchant of the council of the Bohemian capital, as his brother had been before him. But this honor proved a heavy burden for him, because of his poor knowledge of the Czech language, and he finally got the sovereign to free him from this office on 13 November 1603.

After the sudden death of Eustachius in January 1620, an inventory of his estate was prepared, which gives a detailed picture of his financial situation. Eustachius’ two sons inherited a total of 250,000 Schock of Meissen Groschen. But this handsome inheritance did not bring happiness to the two young Wettengel, whose fate was influenced by the defeat of the Protestants at White Mountain. Both became officers in the Imperial service. The younger Christoph Wettengel died in the camp at Nizko (Neisse) on 15 February 1623. His brother Hans had to fight hard for the recognition of his claims; he died in 1630.

THE SWEDISH COUNTS OF THURN

Emil Schieche

The family of Count Heinrich Matthias von Thurn knew only three generations in Sweden. Heinrich Matthias himself died as a prominent Swedish nobleman in 1640; his son Franz Bernhard fell in 1628, serving the Swedish Crown
in West Prussia during the war against Poland; and his grandson Heinrich was killed in 1656, also in the service of the Swedish Crown, in the war with the Russians. All three generations had close ties with the court and the court nobility, and King Gustavus II. Adolphus expressly created for them the county of Pernau in Estonia. In his capacity as general and governor, Heinrich, the last of the family in Sweden, became a member of the Swedish imperial council. In addition to this family, Count Hans Jacob von Thurn served Sweden as a colonel; he was a nephew of Heinrich Matthias and cousin of Franz Bernhard, and gave his life for the Swedish Crown in 1643 in his native Bohemia, near Hirschberg.

SCRIBE VERSES — A STEPCHILD OF RESEARCH IN CULTURAL HISTORY AND FOLKLORE

Bruno Schier

Aside from the general survey by Wilhelm Wattenbach, the verses by scribes in municipal books and chronicles have hardly ever been dealt with comprehensively. This is due to the bulk and variety of widely dispersed material which has been handed down. Using examples from old municipal registers from Friedland and Reichenberg, the author attempts a small contribution to this neglected branch of cultural history and folklore.

In form and content, the scribe verses are a mirror image of their particular age. In the 16th century they were usually written in Latin and were permeated by ideas taken from Humanistic literature. The 17th century displayed a predilection for newspapers in rhyme: even the dullest reports on grain prices or the composition of the council were presented in doggerel verse. The baroque spirit of the 18th century delighted in the playful use of rhyme effects, chronograms and acrostics.

Scholarly book knowledge and popular maxims may be considered the main sources of the scribe verses in the Friedland and Reichenberg municipal books. But only the scribe of the town of Friedland, Johann Friedrich Posselt (1680—1746) was able to achieve a lively new unity out of these sources. Only when more scribe verses are available, will it be possible to determine whether one can speak of a genuine scribe art and whether it is justified to regard scribe verses as part of the larger field of popular poetry.

RESULTS OF A COMMERCIAL JOURNEY THROUGH BOHEMIA AND SLOVAKIA IN THE YEARS 1755—56

Gustav Otruba

The author publishes the report of a commercial journey through various European countries in 1755—56 conducted in accordance with high-level orders;