environment, they interpreted the channel scheme in a different way each time such a change occurred. They managed to keep it important even when socialist modernization was the order of the day. Only in the 1950s, when Stalinist productivism was the norm, was it temporarily shelved. Nor was it realized in the 1960s. But far from being abandoned, it remained part of the long-term planning that was to be realized as soon as the economic advantages of the channel would be proven. This serves to demonstrate that state socialism did not represent a turning point in the thinking about utilizing water resources.

WINE GROWING AND WINE MAKING AS A RESERVE OF FREEDOM FOR VASSALS
The Social and Economic Dimension of the Terroir of Moravian-Made Wine
Martin Markel

This study deals with wine growing in Southern Moravia. It utilizes the so-called “Terroir” theory, which rests on the assumption that the qualities of a specific wine are determined not only by natural factors, but also by economic and social developments. This is demonstrated using sources from around Znaim (Znoimo) and Nikolsburg (Mikulov) from the middle of the 17th century to the early 19th. Among the decisive factors the author discerns is freedom, resulting from the fact that vineyards and publican licences were not connected to a specific estate of the realm. In contrast to Bohemia, wine making in Moravia in this period increasingly became a peasant trade. Thus, vassals growing wine on micro plots became the leading force in wine growing and wine trade. At the same time, new technical developments arose, taking the form of cellar alleys on community fringes. The terroir of Moravian wines, and Moravia’s vivid wine culture, were shaped by this mixture uniting long-term legal phenomena, developments restricted to a specific time, and strictly local peripeteia (the author singles out a particular rebellion).

NEWS ON KAFKA
An Overview of Recent Studies Aiming at Fitting His Work Into a General Biographical and Contextual Perspective
Steffen Höhne

Recently, analysis of Kafka and his writings has shown a marked shift towards dealing with the specific mental, cultural and linguistic environment that characterizes work and author. This new interest of cultural science in the context in which literature is produced, is the common trait of the recent studies examined in this overview – studies all of which possess merit and potential.