

## BOHEMIA AND THE COUNTS OF BOGEN

Max Piendl

Around the middle of the 11th century there appeared in the eastern Danube gau in place of the Babenbergers a family whose representatives exercised the rights of counts. Two lines of this family have to be distinguished: the main line, whose representatives called themselves „Counts of Bogen“ since the 12th century, and a secondary line which until its extinction in 1148 held the office of the Regensburg cathedral V o g t.

Still in the waning 11th century Count Aschwin of Bogen distinguished himself as victor over the invading Bohemians. Only a short time later, however, the relation between the Bohemian ruling house and the Counts of Bogen changed basically. The border location of the County of the House of Bogen became decisive for the initiation of kindred relations of this family and the Přemyslids, at the same time, however, relations which did not remain without influence and results on the Bohemian as well as the Bavarian side. In 1094 Duke Břetislav II of Bohemia married Luitgard, the sister of Count Albert of Bogen. In 1124 Duke Wladislaw I gave the cathedral V o g t Friedrich IV the hand of his daughter Swatawa in marriage. The most important family connection between the Přemyslids and the House of Bogen is considered the marriage of Count Albert III of Bogen with Ludmilla, the daughter of Duke Friedrich.

Many favors were bestowed upon the Bogen house-monastery Windberg as a result of the close connections between the Counts of Bogen and the Bohemian neighbour. Bishops of Olmütz carried out the consecration of churches in Windberg; the rich landholdings of Windberg in Bohemia came from a donation of Wladislaw II, consisting of Albrechtsried, Miltschitz, Janowitz and Wojtitz.

In close connection with the marriage of Count Albert III with the Bohemian Ludmilla (around 1184) is Albert III's enfeoffment with the wooded border area from the upper Wottawa and the Angel to the area of the source of the Wolinka, an area whose chief place was Schüttenhofen. From the House of Bogen an extensive settlement and clearing activity was conducted in the Bohemian area of feudal tenure. In the southeast Winter-

berg was a further center of settlement, corresponding to Schüttenhofen. It is obvious that the Bogeners brought peasants from their Bavarian territory into the Bohemian wooded area. The origins of the German population in the Schüttenhofen and Winterberg areas can without doubt be traced back to the work of colonization of the Counts of Bogen.

With the death of Count Albert IV the family of the Counts of Bogen died out. After protracted disputes the Bavarian duke had to give up the former Bohemian feudal territory of Schüttenhofen in 1271. Through the good will of their sovereign the lower Bohemian nobility could now settle there and assume rule. The extinction of the Counts of Bogen brought to an end the good-neighbourly relations between the Bohemian ruling house and the adjacent Bavarian territory.