MINING AND INDUSTRY IN BOHEMIA IN THE AGE OF NEOABSOLUTISM AND LIBERALISM, 1848—1875

Gustav Otruba and Karl M. Brousek

An analysis of reports of the chambers of commerce and industry was the essential foundation for this detailed microeconomic survey of the development of Bohemian mining and industry from 1848 to 1875. Its extraordinary dynamism made this an interesting period of economic history; it followed the Revolution of 1848 and saw both the feverish Gründerzeit years and the great crisis of 1873.

A total of 19 charts furnish information on the life span and location of the industrial enterprises. Data on sites, production volume, and size of the work force, as well as on the use of machinery and on firm ownership — all of this material not pressed into any rigid framework — complete this richly detailed „diagnosis“ of Bohemian industry.

WENCESLAS LEGENDS

Ferdinand Seibt

This contribution contrasts the two oldest texts from the 10th century, which have long been the object of research discussion: the Latin Vita Crescente fide and the Old Slavic text which begins with the words „Ecce nunc ...“, in order to probe the impulses from which they originated. It confirms older conjectures that the Slavic variant, although proving better informed, cannot have preceded the Latin one but evidently followed it. Furthermore, differing ideological ties are revealed. In contrast to the social thought of the Slavic text, which has just recently been brought into connection with a Croatian synod, the Latin one — which, according to a new study, originated in the Bavarian missionary center of St. Emmeran — was an interesting mediator of the Cluniac view of the world and dominion.

THE FORMER JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF WESERITZ IN THE SETTLEMENT HISTORY OF WESTERN BOHEMIA

Ralf Heimrath

This study shows that the intensive cultivation of the district of Weseritz and its development as an area of settlement was essentially the deed of Czech settlers, but that they would not have been possible without the technical and cultural progress that the German side contributed to the work of colonization. The German element
was a relative latecomer to this area, but at the latest from the mid-17th century and until the mid-20th century, this judicial district was populated predominantly by Germans. The situation suddenly changed drastically, however, after the Second World War with the expulsion of the German inhabitants. The thin network of settlements today shows that the resulting population losses have yet to be compensated for.

**THE ACKERMANN AUS BÖHMEN AND TKADLEČEK: NEW VIEWS ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP**

_Walter Schamschula_

The most recent research investigations seem to have established that Tkadleček is more closely linked to the original version of Ackermann than are any of the other extant Ackermann texts, and also that Tkadleček points to what was originally a far more detailed Ackermann. As against Rosenfeld’s attempt to date the original Ackermann version to the time around 1370, the author supports the thesis that in the Ackermann creator’s letter to Peter Rothirsch in Prague (1404), reference was indeed made to the original Ackermann written by Johannes von Saaz, which was probably composed only a short time before. But the extant Ackermann versions — the earliest toward the middle of the 15th century — appear to go back to the adaptation of an unknown author. Tkadleček, on the other hand, reflects the much more detailed and rhetorically argumentative original version of Ackermann.

**T.G. MASARYK AND PEOPLE’S DEMOCRACY**

_Eva Schmidt-Hartmann_

This essay does not claim to be an analysis of Masaryk’s political thought as such. It only aims at demonstrating that there were certain ideas in Masaryk’s political theory which contradicted fundamental liberal and democratic principles. This is why the intellectual heritage of Masaryk — the most significant modern Czech political philosopher — contributed to some political and spiritual failures in Czechoslovakia after 1945. Masaryk himself certainly opposed any signs of so-called „people’s democratic“ distortions of parliamentary, liberal and democratic practices; yet, his dogmatic and unrealistic theoretical concept of democracy proved to be closer to ideals of a social utopia than to the flexibility of the open democratic societies as developed in Western Europe.