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.