

SUMMARIES

EX GERMANIAE LUX?

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NORTH EAST GERMAN RESEARCH SOCIETY AND THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY OF PRAGUE, 1935-1938

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This article deals with the cooperation between the “Nordostdeutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft” (North East German Research Society, NOFG) and the German University in Prague during the 1930s. This cooperation was aimed primarily at preparing an English-language publication about the German University of Prague and at creating employment opportunities at universities in Germany proper for the junior generation of the scholars. The author shows what strategies were used by German institutions in order to enhance the standing of the intellectual élites among Germans living abroad and to shape their understanding of science in the national-socialist sense. These activities were favourably received at the German University in the second half of the 1930s. Some German professors had rejected the Czechoslovak state from the very beginning and taken an extremely nationalist and anti-Semitic stance. For others, the support they received from the Reich was the more acceptable, the less the Czechoslovak state was in a position to properly finance education and science. The career-mindedness typical for the universitarian community was another important factor contributing to a sizeable part of the German scholars eagerly breaking with the Czechoslovak state and looking towards Nazi Germany for support.