SUMMARIES

THE CITIES IN ESTATES REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AT THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES

Krzystof Baczkowski

Using a comparative framework, the author examines the role of the cities in the Estates representation in Poland, Lithuania, the Ordensstaat Prussia, Bohemia, and Hungary in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. German settlements and German municipal law were a common feature of these areas, which thus showed analogous development. As a result, only independent royal cities acquired political significance. The cities, however, displayed no solidarity with one another, particularly because of economic rivalries, but in addition, they were not internally unified due to the intermixture of the patriciate with the nobility. They did not think in terms of Estates. In Poland, the cities completely lost their right to speak at the end of the epoch, while in Bohemia and Hungary, these rights remained, at least formally.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF BIEDERMEIER BOHEMIA BASED ON THE TRAVELOGUES OF CHARLES SEALSFIELD AND PETER EVAN TURNBULL

Gustav Otruba

The Habsburg Monarchy of the 1820s and 1830s is the subject of the travelogues of Charles Sealsfield and Peter Evan Turnbull. Gustav Otruba has demonstrated the authors’ differing social and political points of view by quoting extensively from their work. While Sealsfield, a Bohemian clergyman who had sought political asylum in the United States, depicted the oppression and the secret police system, the English aristocrat Turnbull, relying on statistics among other sources, presented the Monarchy as a stable factor vis-à-vis Russian expansionism. The judgment of historians on the relative quality of the two works as source documents remains divided. Since the Second World War, both authors have been virtually ignored in Austria, while in Anglo-Saxon countries, they are still considered to be the principal witnesses of their era.