

THE INTELLECTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BOHEMIA
AND SAXONY AT THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION.
PART I: CLERGYMEN AND TEACHERS IN THE 16TH
CENTURY

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Up until the recent past, there were always lively intellectual ties between Saxony and Bohemia. The trade between the two lands, the extension of settlement into northwestern and northern Bohemia in the Middle Ages, and the founding of Bohemian mining towns led to close contacts between

Saxony and Bohemia, which never even broke off completely at the time of the Hussite Wars. But at no time were the intellectual contacts between the two lands as close and lively as during the Reformation. The attraction which the universities of Wittenberg, Leipzig and Jena exerted on the German Bohemian students, and the opportunities for advancement which clerical and teaching positions in Bohemia offered Saxon pastors and schoolmasters intensified the personal and intellectual ties in this period. If one considers the significant cultural and educational position of the parsons and teachers of the time, one can appreciate the tremendous impact of this exchange of pastors and teachers, which frequently even reached down to smaller communities. That this exchange was, however, limited mainly to Bohemian areas with a German population, can be seen from the fact that the persons who came from Saxony or had been trained there preached in German.

This study attempts, on the basis of short biographical data, to elucidate the intensity and focal points of the intellectual exchange between the two lands, without pretending to a completeness which would go beyond the scope of a yearbook contribution. Part I is, moreover, limited to the bearers of cultural life who were active in the 16th century. The close mutual intellectual relations between Saxony and Bohemia were decisively constricted by the expulsion of the Lutheran clergy from 1620 onwards, which will be dealt with in Part II.