

UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK

In November, 1965, the Amerika-Institut of the University of Innsbruck published a Festschrift on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its founding under the title of *Americana-Austriaca—10 Jahre Amerika-Institut Universität Innsbruck*. The volume, which was edited by Klaus Lanzinger, includes an introductory section on the history of the Amerika-Institut, by Karl Pivec; and various articles dealing with American history, political science, and literature. Nearly all of these articles have been written by American scholars.

DAS ÖSTERREICHISCHE STÄDTEBUCH

In an initial attempt to elevate urban history from the realm of monographic investigations to a broader base, a group of scholars formulated a common program at the International Historical Congress at Warsaw in 1933. This group made arrangements to get together handbooks on urban history in the individual countries. The first volume, published in Germany in 1939, contained the results of research undertaken in accordance with a plan drawn up by Prof. Erich Keyser. Other volumes have been brought out since 1939, and the series is now approaching completion.

The preliminary discussions for such a project in Austria were interrupted by World War II. New impulses for this scholarly undertaking first led to visible results in 1961. On March 8 of that year a Commission for Urban History Research was established within the framework of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Its first objective was to publish an *Österreichisches Städte- und Märktebuch*. Under the direction of the chairman of the commission, Prof. Alphons Lhotsky, and on the basis of proposals drawn up by the chairman's deputy, Prof. Alfred Hoffmann, a committee was created which was to be composed of representatives of the individual provinces and members of the Commission.

The committee viewed its most important assignment to be the drafting of a suitable plan (modeled after that of the German *Städtebuch*) to make a detailed study of Austrian markets and cities. The members of the committee decided to present the information about the historical development of cities and markets in dictionary form, schematically arranged

and concisely written, and to include a bibliography of the most important literature. Furthermore, the committee agreed that, not only the most important dates of past eras, but also recent events in urban life and the consequences of communal political policies were to be noted. It was hoped that the *Österreichische Städtebuch* would serve as a stimulus and basis for further research and as a reference work for interested laymen and administrative employees of cities and towns. The financing of the project has been undertaken on a cooperative basis by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian League of Cities and Municipalities.

Upon the advice of various experts connected with the project, it was decided to revise the research program agreed upon in 1961 by dividing Austrian market and city communities into two groups and by postponing work on the market communities. In accordance with this decision, it was determined to arrange the material in the *Österreichische Städtebuch* according to provinces. The names of all places entitled to be called a city as of January 1, 1963, were to be listed alphabetically under the appropriate province.

After the members of the study committee drew up a definite plan for the *Österreichische Städtebuch*, the commission resolved, at a meeting on October 24, 1962, to have models selected for each province on which detailed work was to be done. Stadtarchivdirektor Karl Gutkas, of St. Pölten, submitted the model study which had been made of that city to a small committee established on May 10, 1963, to carry out this work. The committee resolved to send it to all city communities, together with a questionnaire for information that would hopefully produce adequate data leading to similar studies on the remaining 114 city communities. This action was taken by the committee in an effort to recruit the assistance of experts on the history of the individual cities, as well as the cooperation of city government employees, who could contribute more recent data on urban history. Of the 114 city communities contacted, only about 30 returned data to the Academy of Sciences that was useful for the writing of articles.

All of the studies that were sent in were turned over to the appropriate archive of each province for expert advice. The provincial archivists also nominated the persons best suited to do work on the cities which had not yet been studied.

In order to complete the first volume of the *Österreichische Städtebuch* as soon as possible, attention will especially be concentrated on the Provinces of Upper and Lower Austria, where, on account of the preliminary work that has already been done, the most and the best work has been accomplished. Furthermore, over half of the cities of Austria are in these two provinces.

In an effort to arouse interest in the program, Prof. Alfred Hoffmann, the director of the Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna, discussed the general problem of urban history research, and particularly the work being done on the *Österreichische Städtebuch*, in a private lecture to eighteen people. Several competent people were recruited from this group to help with the project.

A central office is to be established within the framework of the Commission for Urban History Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences to carry out the editorial work in cooperation with the Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna.

In addition to the work that is being done on the *Österreichische Städtebuch*, preliminary preparations are now being made for a similar investigation of Austrian market places and for the publication of a *Bibliographie zur österreichischen Stadtgeschichte*.

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ALOIS MOSSER

NEWS FROM HUNGARY

A committee which was appointed to study the history of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy decided at its yearly meeting in Prague in 1962 to prepare an international bibliography of work dealing with this subject. The Rumanian Academy of Sciences assumed the editorial and publishing responsibilities for the project. At a conference held in Budapest in May, 1964, the principles and methods for collecting and editing the materials were agreed upon. It was decided that the whole period from 1789-1918 was to be covered. All books, articles, and review essays published in the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Yugo-