Introduction
The articles in this issue of the *Yearbook* have been written in observance of semicentennial, centennial, or decennial "commemorations" of four significant events in Austrian history. Those in the first part, to which the greatest space is allotted, are dedicated, on this fifty-first anniversary, to the semicentennial celebration of the acquisition of the Burgenland by the First Austrian Republic. The contributions published in this section supplement the numerous articles written for various 1971 celebrations of this event in Austria and the Burgenland. The boards of editors and the editorial staff hope that the differing points of view expressed in the articles, comments, and replies in this section will serve to stimulate a fresh, critical reevaluation of the many problems raised.

For two significant events in the history of the Habsburg monarchy—the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the approval of the Pragmatic Sanction by the Hungarian and Transylvanian diets and the two hundredth anniversary of the first partition of Poland—there are special bibliographical articles. The acceptance by Hungary of what has been referred to as "the first codification of the Austrian imperial idea" and the document providing "the constitutional foundation for the Austrian monarchy" is commemorated by the publication in this issue of Karl A. Roider's analysis of recent trends in historical writing about "The Pragmatic Sanction." Through the inclusion of Stanislaus A. Blejwas' "Recent Polish Historiography on the Period of the Partitions" the readers' attention is called to "the rape of Poland" by Russia, Prussia, and Austria and the subsequent incorporation of Galicia into the Habsburg monarchy.

The sections commemorating the acquisition of Galicia and the Burgenland and the acceptance of the Pragmatic Sanction deal with more felicitous moments in the history of Austria, though not necessarily in that of Hungary. The events leading to the acquisition of Galicia, however, were among the most tragic in Polish history. Also tragic for the
Austrian people during the ensuing decade and a half was the destruction of parliamentary democracy in the First Austrian Republic. A special section is devoted to the discussion of the chief anti-democratic force within the First Austrian Republic: the Heimwehr.

The Austrians, as well as the numerous other peoples who once shared a common home in the Habsburg monarchy, have traveled down a long, and frequently difficult, road since the Pragmatic Sanction was accepted by the Magyars. The dynastic house decree on which Charles VI placed so much hope and the acquisition of the Habsburgs' most loyal non-German province in the long run could not avert the triumph of separatist tendencies in the monarchy. The addition of much of West Hungary to the newly-created Austrian Republic in partial recompense for the areas of the Cisleithanian half of the monarchy ceded to the Successor States after the end of World War I failed to provide enough economic assistance to the fledgling Austrian Republic to enable it to stem the rising fascist and authoritarian tide which destroyed the democratic regime. Yet, since World War II the Austrians have, for the first time in their history, established a strong democratic state and developed a healthy spirit of Austrian nationalism. The inhabitants of Hungary and of the Successor States of the old monarchy have also gone far towards developing viable and salutary national self-consciousnesses of their own.

R. J. R.