Editors’ Notes

WE ARE ESPECIALLY enthusiastic about this twenty-ninth volume of the Austrian History Yearbook, which offers a window on a number of sources and varied approaches to questions new and old. Starting with the sources, we are pleased to add a separate second part to this year’s publication, “A Guide to East-Central European Archives.” These surveys of a number of central and south-eastern European archives provide the reader with information on archival materials, some of which are now available for the first time. Charles Ingrao, editor, conceived the project and, with the assistance of Barbara Lawatsch-Boomgaard, associate editor, labored long in organizing and carrying it out. (See Charles Ingrao’s introduction to part 2.)

Several of the articles in this volume give fresh views and approaches concerning traditional questions. Paul W. Schroeder’s Kann Lecture offers intriguing ideas on the role of small states as mediators in international politics, broaching a question of both historic and current import. In the same vein, Gary B. Cohen examines the revisionist views that see the late-nineteenth-century Habsburg monarchy not as a drowning entity, but as a modernizing state—one that left a legacy followed by the successor states. Other articles contemplate nationalism in a new and nuanced light. Karl F. Bahm examines the role of the nonelite classes in reacting to and shaping nationalism, while T. Mills Kelly discusses the Czech National Socialists in considerable depth. There has been a recent emphasis on using monuments, public events, or the construction of heroes to understand the nature of nationalism and the construction of national states. Nancy Meriwether Wingfield uses film, and Alice Freifeld expositions, as means to examine the workings of national identity and national movements.

George Barany takes up the relatively recent concept of political culture and, on the basis of his vast experience, conducts the reader on a rich and far-ranging journey through the region’s history. Susan Gal comments with great insight on the Barany article and adds her own perceptive analysis. Volume XXIX also offers a view of the interwar period. R. John Rath presents
another installment in his long-term research project on Dollfuß, and Anita Ziegerhofer examines diplomatic history in that period. As contemporary historians offer up not only innovative approaches, but also new questions entirely, James O. Brown and Markus Cerman have written a historiographic article, “The Social History of the Family in the Territories of the Austrian Monarchy.”

We thank the members of our Advisory Board for their counsel, along with the members of our Editorial Board and all those others who evaluated manuscripts. We are especially indebted to Carol Duling, the assistant editor at the Center for Austrian Studies. Carol has served as the lynch-pin of the far-flung editorial staff and contributors. She gathered the manuscripts, proofread with a keen eye, maintained communication with all concerned, and went far in putting it all together. Carol is leaving the Center staff this year; we wish her well and will miss her deeply. We are also indebted to other members of the Center staff who played a vital role in producing this volume: Barbara Krauss-Christensen, the business manager of the Yearbook and executive secretary of the Center; Daniel Pinkerton, editor of the Austrian Studies Newsletter and map and graphics advisor for this volume; Ken Marks, who aided in the final stages of production and will replace Carol as assistant editor; Anita Eichinger, our research assistant from the Austrian Ministry of Science and Transportation, for her linguistic expertise; Craig Anderson, research assistant, for his help with the guide to archives; and secretarial assistants Ann Guggisberg, Melissa Guggisberg, and Trina VandenLangenberg. We would also like to acknowledge our special debt to associate editor Barbara Lawatsch-Boomgaarden, who not only helped find authors for the archives reports, but also was responsible for the acquisition of book reviews from abroad. We offer our deep gratitude to the Austrian Cultural Institute in New York for their continued support in many matters, including a generous financial contribution to volume XXIX.

Richard L. Rudolph  
Executive Editor