

*The Austrian Study Center of the Austrian National Library*

A "Pro Austria" Society was founded in December, 1969, to promote research on the special nature of Austria in the past and the present, particularly studies which concern the development and nature of the Austrian state idea and of the Austrian national consciousness. The president of the society is Arthur Breycha-Vauthier.

Under the auspices of the society, an Austrian Study Center (Austriaca-Studierzentrum) has been established in the Austrian National Library for the special use of both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students. In the center there are over 80 study places. A reference library of approximately fifty to sixty thousand volumes, composed in part of handbooks, reference works, inventories of libraries and archives, important journals, special catalogs, and a register of Austrians abroad, is being installed. In order to make it possible for students to obtain information about Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, the Tyrol, Vorarlberg, and Vienna, the library will also contain publications of the nine federal states (Bundesländer) of Austria. "Austria—unity in diversity" is the motto which reflects the contents of the library.

The center, in a large hall approximately 115 feet long and 50 feet wide, is located in the Austrian section of the Austrian National Library, in the Neue Hofburg at Josefsplatz 1, in Vienna. Its director is George L. Wagner, who is also director of the Institute for Austrian Political and National Studies (Institut für Österreichische Staats- und Nationalkunde), which works within the framework of the Austrian Study Center and is an integral part of "Pro Austria" Society. The Institute was established on January 22, 1970. Its deputy director is Albert Massiczek.

In addition to promoting research associated with the origin and nature of the Austrian state idea and with Austria in general, which, it is hoped, will lead to a strengthening of an Austrian national consciousness, the society regards assisting young scholars in their study of Austrian history as one of its main duties. It also hopes to aid appreciably in promoting and intensifying the study of Austrian history through making use of the personal contacts of the society with all the libraries and archives in Vienna as well as with those in the federal states. In line with the aims of the Pro-Austria

Society to promote "the Austrian federal state idea," as expressed in the first paragraph of the statutes of the society, the *Austriaca-Studierzentrum* is also referred to as the *Bundesländer-Zentrum*, since much of the material in it deals with the individual federal states and their past and present contributions to the common Austrian state.

*Pro Austria Society*

EDITORIAL STAFF

*The Institute for Contemporary History  
of the University of Vienna*

From the time of its establishment in June, 1966, the Institute for Contemporary History (*Institut für Zeitgeschichte*) of the University of Vienna has functioned as both a teaching and a research institute.

Originally the personnel of the institute consisted of only one professor, a single assistant, and one librarian. However, by 1968 there were 450 students attending the lecture course given in the institute and 45 students in the seminar. In addition, 40 students were working on dissertations. To aid in handling the increased work load, another assistant was allotted to the institute in that same year.

Of the 39 completed dissertations approved by the institute between 1966 and 1970, 12 had either already been published in collective works or journals by the summer of 1970 or else were in the process of publication. Prizes have been awarded to the authors of 14 of these 39 dissertations.

The research materials of the institute have increased considerably during the past few years. The library, which originally contained 4,900 volumes put at its disposal by the Austrian Society for Contemporary History (*Österreichische Gesellschaft für Zeitgeschichte*) in 1966, now has approximately 12,000 volumes. With the cooperation of the Austrian Society for Contemporary History, the institute has been able to make substantial additions to its collections of documents, memoirs, pictures, and recordings. Especially worthy of mention has been the institute's work in preserving the records of criminal court trials that are of historical importance. One thousand, five hundred of these records are now in microfilm form in the institute's archive.

The institute has cooperated in the production of programs