

FROM THE EDITORS

Central European History appears in response to a widespread demand for an American journal devoted to the history of German-speaking Central Europe. The need for such a periodical has been especially great since S. Harrison Thomson's *Journal of Central European Affairs*, which published studies dealing with this along with other areas, ceased publication in 1964. The Conference Group for Central European History, after two years of study, voted in December 1966 to sponsor a new journal, *Central European History*, to meet this need. Together with such periodicals as the *Austrian History Yearbook* (also published in collaboration with the Conference Group) and the *East European Quarterly*, which have also been founded in recent years to meet similar needs, *Central European History* should help fill a serious gap in the ranks of American scholarly periodicals.

The scope of *Central European History* will be broadly rather than narrowly defined. Comparative studies with a major focus in this area and studies of German influence in or relations with neighboring regions will be welcome. As far as possible, the editors will seek to maintain a balance between works of broad synthesis and of specialized research, among studies of all periods from the Middle Ages to the present, and among studies using traditional approaches to history and those employing recent or experimental methodological approaches.

In its first issue, *Central European History* cannot reflect fully the range of its interests. Similarly, this first issue does not yet reflect the journal's approach to keeping its readers abreast of new literature in the field. It will not attempt to publish reviews of all or even most of the flood of new books appearing each year. Instead it will, on the one hand, publish reflective, critical reviews or review articles dealing with works of central importance. On the other hand, it will publish bibliographical articles dealing with limited periods or themes, to serve as guides through the remaining literature.

The editors of *Central European History* will welcome suggestions and comments from its readers, and hope that it will provide a useful forum for scholars interested in this important field of European history.