

Editors' Notes

JUST AS THIS issue of the *Austrian History Yearbook* was going to press, we received the sad news that R. John Rath, the founding Editor of the *AHY*, died on Sunday, February 18, 2001, of complications from emphysema at a nursing home in Green Bay, Wisconsin. We extend our deepest sympathies to the many people who knew and loved John and to surviving family members, especially to his daughter, Isabel Stensland, and her husband, William Stensland, of Austin, Texas, and to his sister, Clara Lillich, of Beatrice, Nebraska.

Under these circumstances, the present issue of the *AHY* takes on special significance. We had already decided last spring to dedicate volume XXXII to John as a way of honoring him on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday (December 12, 2000). What was to be simply a celebration of his extraordinary contributions to the field of Austrian and Habsburg history has now become a celebration of his life. Fittingly, the volume contains two articles that recognize the dual dimensions of his distinguished academic career: as an institution builder and as a scholar. William E. Wright, former Editor of the *Austrian History Yearbook* and founding Director of the Center for Austrian Studies, opens with "R. John Rath: Motive Force in Austrian Studies," which celebrates John Rath's institutional legacy in shaping the field. Alexander Grab, Pieter M. Judson, and James Miller follow with "R. John Rath: Historian," which surveys John Rath's seminal contributions as a scholar in three distinct areas of Austrian and Habsburg history. In addition, we are pleased to publish the fifth installment of John Rath's study of Engelbert Dollfuss, his final research project, entitled "The Dollfuss Ministry: The Demise of the Nationalrat." These three contributions make clear how much we owe John for his varied roles in the lives of so many of us—as a friend, as a mentor, as a colleague, and as an immense source of inspiration. We will miss him greatly.

As current subscribers know from our recent letter, we are pleased to announce that the Center for Austrian Studies has entered into a partnership

with Berghahn Books (New York and Oxford) in publishing the *Austrian History Yearbook*. This step is a natural extension of the Center's ongoing cooperation with Berghahn in the series *Austrian History, Culture, and Society*. The Center initiated this project with Berghahn five years ago because of Berghahn's reputation as a leading publisher in German and Central European studies. The very success of the series (two volumes published with two more forthcoming) led the Center to deepen the relationship by contracting with Berghahn to publish the *Austrian History Yearbook*. The editorial offices remain at the Center for Austrian Studies, while the business functions (subscriptions, production, distribution, and marketing) are being handled by Berghahn Books, chiefly out of its New York office at 604 West 115th Street, New York NY 10025.

The goal in entering into this new arrangement is to raise significantly the international visibility of the *Yearbook* at this critical juncture in the history of Central and Eastern Europe. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the search for stability in the former Eastern bloc has brought an upsurge of interest in the region's Habsburg heritage. By joining forces with Berghahn, the *Yearbook* will become part of its growing list of small but high-quality journals, which includes *German Politics and Society*; the *Leo Baeck Year Book*; *French Politics, Culture, and Society*; *European Judaism*; and, most recently, the *Journal of Romance Studies*.

We are also announcing an increase in the subscription price to \$35 for individuals and \$60 for institutions, the first since the modest increase four years ago. It was necessary to take this step to enable the *Yearbook* to flourish in the increasingly costly world of publishing. We wish to thank subscribers for their loyal support over the years, which enables us to maintain the highest possible standards in editing and publishing the *Yearbook*.

The new partnership with Berghahn provides the occasion for us to pay tribute to Barbara Krauss-Christensen for her extraordinary work as the *AHY*'s longtime Business Manager. For over twenty years, Barbara has taken care of the *Yearbook*'s subscriptions, production, marketing, and distribution with exceptional care and expertise, and in the early years she even assisted William Wright and John Rath in editorial matters. Barbara deserves much of the credit for the *Yearbook*'s continued success. Turning the business side over to Berghahn Books permits Barbara to devote her talents and energies full-time to the important work of enhancing the excellence of the Center for Austrian Studies in her role as Executive Secretary.

The editors also wish to welcome on board Nicole Slupetzky as Assistant Editor. Nicole performed especially valuable service in coordinating book reviewing on the European side and in providing German-language expertise during editing and proofreading while she was Visiting Professor of History at the University of Minnesota this past fall semester. At the Center for Austrian Studies, Ken Marks continued his outstanding work as Assistant Editor, managing superbly the flow of manuscripts and book reviews from submission through editing and filling in admirably as a backup copyeditor when the need arose. We also thank Anne Running for her customary fine work as copyeditor and Leo Riegert for his German-language expertise. Finally, the

editors are deeply indebted to the Austrian Cultural Institute in New York for generously subsidizing volume XXXII.

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