

if it were placed on the left and written in Latin. The editor obviously had a Bulgarian reader in mind, not fashioning his edition for an international audience, which is a pity and a considerable drawback.

I know it is just very easy to inspect a fellow-philologist's work with a critical eye. The above comments are not at all meant to detract from Tsvetan Vasilev's editorial accomplishment – rather, they are intended to reflect on some common challenges faced by editors of Neo-Latin texts, with a view towards raising awareness about the need to preserve the linguistic information of which the respective texts are carriers. All too often, philologists tend to focus on the contents of a historical text while neglecting the importance of its linguistic form. Naturally, such an attitude then has an impact on the choice of editorial principles.

Through Tsvetan Vasilev's edition, Petăr Bogdan's historical work is now available to the scholarly public. The first and fundamental step has thus been taken. The edition, however, will serve its purpose only if it stimulates further explorations. Therefore, the text should now be interpreted in the broad context of seventeenth-century European politics where it undoubtedly belongs,<sup>17</sup> despite Bogdan's eschewing political topics.

*Svorad Zavarský, PhD.*  
(*Historický ústav SAV, v. v. i., Bratislava*)

MATIS, Herbert and Arnold SUPPAN. *SAPERE AUDE. DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN SEIT 1918. Berichte, Fakten, Analysen – ein Compendium*. Wien: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2022, 449 pp. ISBN 978-3-7001-8848-3.

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Sapere Aude (loosely “Don't be afraid to think”) was the unofficial motto of the Enlightenment. The book under this title, published on the 175th anniversary of the founding of its predecessor, the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Vienna, maps the history of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) since 1918. Its authors are prominent Austrian historians who, until recently, held important positions in the Austrian Academy (Generalsekretär, Vizepräsident). Both have the necessary erudition, in-depth knowledge of their subject of interest, and excellent access to the necessary sources. Their ambition was to describe the development of ÖAW in the context of the political, economic, ideological and social transformations of the Austrian Republic from its establishment in 1918 to the present day. The principal line of development that the authors focus on is the gradual transformation of the ÖAW from a learned society to a modern, prestigious scientific institution. The text also covers the development of the Academy's scientific units and their most important research results.

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17 Cf. ВАСИЛИЕВА, Елмира. Българско участие във францисканските мисии в югоизточна Европа през XVII в.: Павел от Петокладенци. In: *Societas Classica*, 2019, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 464–482. ISSN 978-619-208-128-7.

The book is divided into three main chronological units. The first covers the years 1918–1938, the second the period during which Austria was part of Nazi Germany (1938–1945). The third, by far the largest, deals with the era from the end of the Second World War to 2022. The focus of the book is thus on the post-war period, during which the ÖAW underwent several changes that shifted it from a representative to a research institution.

The main theme of the first, interwar section is the transformation of the Imperial Academy into a republican institution of a much smaller state. The authors describe this process on the background of the turbulent developments after the First World War. The Academy had to cope with fundamental changes. Several of its members became citizens of other states. The territories on which long-term research was carried out were affected similarly – Jáchymov deposit of radioactive substances became part of Czechoslovakia. The exclusion of Austrian scientists (along with German, Hungarian and Bulgarian ones) from international cooperation as part of the punishment for the defeated states was also a significant problem.

Nevertheless, the authors dedicate most attention to the key condition for the survival of ÖAW – the financial aspect. Given the enormous economic problems of interwar Austria, this interest is justified. Lack of funds and severe inflation were the main limiting factors to the functioning and development of the Austrian Academy. The reader will find a detailed analysis of this topic in this work. However, the authors have paid much less attention to other aspects of the ÖAW's development. For example, they do not mention the number of employees or members of the Academy. They pay little attention to the Academy's position in the context of the escalating political struggles between the political left and the right, which escalated into armed struggles in Vienna. Although the work mentions the growing popularity of Nazism and widespread anti-Semitism among scientists, it does not address the influence of other prominent ideologies, such as communism, in the scientific community.

The second part of the book concerns the position of the ÖAW in Nazi Germany. The central issue is the functioning of a scientific institution in a dictatorial regime. The text shows how the racially and politically motivated purges after the “Anschluss” resulted in enormous losses for Austrian science. The authors show that although many members of the ÖAW were openly sympathetic to Nazism, this did not mean they supported all of the regime's actions related to the academy. Several top officials only gradually realized that the Nazi regime was not interested in academic freedoms or the autonomy of scientific institutions. The “Führerprinzip” meant the end of the election of scientific officials in favor of appointments “from above”. The book shows that even openly pro-Nazi scientists had problems with some of the regime's regulations, including expulsing Jewish and politically unreliable colleagues. However, as the authors point out, the dissatisfaction of the academy's functionaries was manifested only by passivity in carrying out orders from the center. There were no acts of active resistance or dissent in the Austrian scientific community (with very few exceptions). Despite certain similarities, the comparison between the functioning of the Austrian academy during the Nazi period and the position of the socialist academies of science (p. 157) is not entirely correct. In the communist academies, unlike the Nazi ones, academicians were still, at least formally, elected and not appointed.

The authors point out that there was a continuity with the pre-1938 period in the research of the Austrian Academy. On the other hand, new scientific trends based on the racial conceptions of Nazi ideologues were encouraged, along with applied research supporting the German war effort. Austrian scientists turned to this type of research for pragmatic reasons as well – they expected it to be well-funded. It is a pity that the book does not deal with the fate of the ÖAW leadership from the Nazi period after the end of the war, nor with how these people were perceived abroad, either by their colleagues or by politicians.

The chapter on the development of the ÖAW after the Second World War shows that the denazification of the Austrian scientific community proceeded very benevolently. All forced expulsions of employees and academy members after 1938 had been reversed by June 1945. However, almost all professors and academics compromised during the Nazi era returned to the academy by the end of the 1950s. In many cases, even to leading positions (p. 130). According to the authors, coming to terms with the Nazi past in the Austrian scientific community only began in the late 1980s.

As already mentioned, the main theme of the post-war chapter is the gradual transformation of ÖAW from a learned society into a modern scientific institution. One of the conditions for this development was adequate support from the state. As in the interwar chapter, the finance issue is prominent and central here. From the perspective of the history of science politics and scientific institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, information on ÖAW's contacts with the academies of sciences and universities of the communist states is significant. The first agreement on cooperation was concluded with the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1966, whereas with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences only in 1978. Interesting is also the analysis of the position of the ÖAW as a neutral territory where representatives of West and East German research institutions could negotiate. Again, however, the comparison with the socialist academies is inaccurate. The Austrian Academy's position as a mix of learned society and scientific institution (p. 158) was not so specific. The socialist academies of sciences, in fact, also combined both of these functions to a large extent.

According to the book's authors, at the beginning of the 21st century, the Austrian Academy experienced its third founding period. With the support of the government, it was transformed into a modern scientific institution designed to conduct research in fields that were underrepresented in the universities. At the same time, the structure of the whole Academy and the way it was managed changed significantly. It is interesting to note that these changes took place through modifications to the internal organizational regulations initiated by the Academy's directorate. The ÖAW refused a new law on Academy because it wanted to avoid political pressures. Also, the book erodes the traditional image of Austria as a country generously supporting cutting-edge science. It describes how, during the economic crisis in 2008, the government almost dismantled the academy in an attempt to save money.

In conclusion, *Sapere Aude* presents a detailed and comprehensive overview of the development of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in the 20th and 21st centuries. The authors are well knowledgeable on the subject and have succeeded in placing it aptly in a broader domestic and international context. A specific feature of the work is the strong,

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often disproportionate, emphasis on the financial aspect of the Academy's development. However, it is fair to say that the authors point this out in the introduction.

The story of ÖAW is undeniably interesting for those in Slovakia interested in the history of science. It can be seen as depicting a possible alternative development of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. ÖAW operates in a relatively small country, had an experience of operating in a dictatorship, and had to cope with significant financial problems as well as periodic attempts at fundamental reform. However, contrary to Slovak Academy, in the last decade, the Austrian Academy has experienced a significant boom (as the number of ERC projects confirms). In addition, this book shows that the academies of sciences as state-supported institutions are not harmful inventions of communist regimes. On the contrary, non-university research institutions can play an important role in supporting cutting-edge science. In particular, the description of the last 20 years of ÖAW development can be recommended not only to historians but especially policymakers looking for an example of successful science policy in Central Europe.

*Adam Hudek, PhD.  
(Ústav pro soudobé dějiny AV ČR, v.v.i., Praha)*