

# **In Remembrance**

## Ludwig Jedlicka

Prof. Ludwig Jedlicka, professor of modern history and director of the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna, died unexpectedly in Salzburg at the end of April, 1977. A graduate of the university which remained the center of his activities as academic teacher and scholar throughout his life, Jedlicka commenced his brilliant career as an official of the Armed Forces Museum (Heeresmuseum) in Vienna. He began his teaching career at the University in 1958, where he was promoted to full professor in 1966. He performed collateral duties at the Austrian Military Academy at Wiener Neustadt, at the University of Innsbruck, and as leading member of the Austrian Commission for Research on the History of the First Republic. He was also a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy.

These dry data give little insight into the wealth of research done by Jedlicka. Of his major book-length studies only the following can be mentioned here: *Ein Heer im Schatten der Parteien* (1955) analyzes the status of the Austrian armed forces in the period from 1918 to 1938, when increasing political strife provided a civil-war atmosphere that gravely endangered the impartiality of the army. The volume *Der 20. Juli 1944 in Österreich*, published in 1965, deals with a previously little known aspect of the aborted uprising against the Nazi system and occupation. Jedlicka's final volume, *Vom alten zum neuen Österreich*, discusses the transition period from empire to republic (1900-1975) in broad perspective. The volume offers much highly significant material, in particular on the fall of the First Austrian Republic. Literally scores of articles, chiefly on the last decades of the empire and the history of the First and Second Republics, supplement Jedlicka's main publications. His books and articles are distinguished by several features. He demonstrated scrupulous impartiality in all of them; he opened up new primary sources in almost all of his publications; and, finally, he revealed an interest in military history which was his primary though by no means his only interest.

The old saying that one recognizes a tree by its fruits is illustrated in the case of Jedlicka by the large number of his faithful students, of whom quite a few have gained recognition as productive scholars of great repute. Jedlicka received many decorations for his outstanding accomplishments, but I believe nothing pleased him more than

the conviction that his lifework, which was so firmly entrenched in the Austrian tradition, will be carried on by able disciples.

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