

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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WITH this number the *American Archivist* resumes the publishing of abstracts of foreign professional periodicals that was instituted in its first issue but has lapsed now for more than 18 years. Many members of the Society will recall the active program initiated in 1938 with Andrew C. Albrecht's abstracts of the *Archivalische Zeitschrift*, complemented by Olga P. Palmer's (Mrs. Dallas Irvine's) abstracts of numerous periodicals from Eastern Europe, and further extended during 1939-41 by the present department editor's abstracts of periodicals in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Dutch. It would be dangerous to attempt to assess the probable, or possible, impact of the foreign professional material thus made widely available in capsule form during the formative years of the now widespread and self-sustaining American archival profession, but it is unlikely that it was without effect.

Montaigne has remarked in his *Essays* that every summary of a good book is a stupid summary. This judgment seems harsh to anyone who would attempt to assist his colleagues in gaining access to professional literature which might, for one or more reasons, otherwise be cut off from them. It is much more comforting to agree with Voltaire that the multitude of books is making us ignorant, and to conclude from this dictum that our hope of claiming competent control over essentials in professional literature lies in some form of bibliographical aid, in this case the abstract.

According to Webster's *New International Dictionary*, abstract (n.) is "that which comprises or concentrates in itself the essential qualities of a larger thing or of several things." Only those who have essayed the task of abstracting can be completely aware of the difficulty in achieving this goal. Nevertheless, the *American Archivist* has been fortunate enough to secure the generous cooperation of several members who will undertake this labor. Roscoe R. Hill (now retired from the National Archives) will report on materials from Spanish- and Portuguese-language areas; Hope K. Holdcamper (National Archives) will cover French-language periodicals; Herman G. Goldbeck (National Archives) will handle German-language materials; Bogomir Chokel (Library of Congress) will provide information on the Slavic bloc; George Reeves (Tariff Commission) will abstract the several Italian journals; H. Donn Hooker (National Archives) will watch over anything that may appear in Danish or Norwegian; and Morris Rieger (National Archives) will cover English-language publications within the British Commonwealth. A major gap, and one that demands immediate attention, is Dutch. Will someone volunteer?

For this first installment we have materials from two contributors who bring us literature originally written in English, Czech, Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, and Slovenian. The next installment, *deo volente et rebus officialibus non prohibentibus*, will contain résumés of Western European journals from the Continent.

L. K. B.

UNITED KINGDOM

TAYLOR, A. J. P. [Oxford University], *Keeping It Dark: Half-Century Secrets. Encounter*, Aug. 1959, vol. 13, no. 2, p. 40-45.

The great increase in historical source materials has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in restrictions on use. Although for administrative purposes a two-year restriction is a reasonable maximum, diplomatic archives of western nations are generally made accessible only when more than 50 years old. (The United States and Germany are the principal exceptions.) Actually, few countries adhere strictly to the "fifty-year rule"; it is more often extended, to the disadvantage of the student. Various rationalizations, the real purpose of the rule is to maintain "the prestige of diplomacy and of the archives themselves." But loopholes in the application of the rule have developed. Favored individuals, including archivists, have been given earlier access. Official histories of the two World Wars have revealed otherwise restricted information. In the wake of the two wars multivolume collections of documents, including recent ones, have been published. Public papers removed from official custody by retiring officials have often been opened to researchers before the passage of 50 years. In Britain increasing enforcement of the Official Secrets Act by the Cabinet secretariat against former senior officials and ministers and their heirs has tended to close this last loophole. Of late, libraries and private individuals have been persuaded by the secretariat to apply the 50-year rule to personal papers of former officials in their possession. Originally intended to emancipate older records, the rule has increasingly become a "measure of restriction" keeping everything secret until a half-century old. This undemocratic secrecy obstructs historical scholarship and ill serves both the public and governments; American candor rather than Russian secretiveness should prevail. Meanwhile the student of contemporary history should publicize the provisional character of his work.

MORRIS RIEGER

YUGOSLAVIA

The periodical *Arhivist* (The Archivist), organ of the *Savez drustava arhivskih radnika Jugoslavije* (League of the Associations of Yugoslav Archivists), has been published in Belgrade as a quarterly since 1952. It is the first Yugoslav magazine strictly dedicated to archives and their problems. It has the distinction of being kept almost completely in the sphere of administrative, theoretical, and practical problems, thus leaving the publication of new documentary material to various historical magazines. The articles, although not so expertly developed as in other European archives publications with more experience and tradition, are nevertheless on a good professional level and reflect very well the trends and problems of the Yugoslav archives.

Arhivist, VOL. 7 (1958), NO. 1/2.

JANKOVIC, DRAGOSLAV, *Naucna obrada nacionalne istorije XX veka i nase arhivske ustanove* (Scientific research in twentieth-century national history and our archives institutions). P. 9-14, abstr. in Fr.

A short review of the primary sources in the Yugoslav archives related to the twentieth-century history of Yugoslavia. These sources were until now quite neg-

lected. During 1945-55 only 11 important works appeared on the history of Yugoslavia for the era 1918-41, compared with 570 works dealing with medieval history.

LISAC, ANDRIJA LJUBOMIR, *O problemu cuvanja arhivske gradje u privrednim preduzećima* (The problem of record preservation in business enterprises). P. 15-21, abstr. in Fr.

Only a few records of the enterprises confiscated or nationalized after 1945 are preserved in archival establishments. The rest are still awaiting their fate. The Law of 1946 (art. 12) required a ten-year retention period; other regulations also restricted the disposal of records; but the Law of 1951 entrusted disposal to the administrations of the enterprises. Since the enterprises tend to get rid of their enormous quantities of records as fast as possible, great damage already has been done. The author therefore proposes to establish what he calls an Autonomous Service for Economic Documentation. Such an agency would take care of (1) conserving business archives on the basis of the laws on obligatory consignment, which should be executed after two years for bookkeeping records, after three to five years for correspondence, and after ten years for technical documentation; (2) arranging the materials according to the most suitable system (chronological, subject, or numerical); (3) counseling in respect to organization of records and modern record management practices; (4) discarding materials according to existing laws and in collaboration with the archives authorities; and (5) servicing government agencies that are dealing with the liquidation of the enterprises. The proposed agency would be financially independent, drawing its funds from membership fees, service charges, and sale of discarded records. The agency would be bound to the utmost secrecy in respect to the records handled and would provide for a microfilming service of the bookkeeping records.

VOJNOVIC, EMIL, *Kriteriji za odredjivanje arhivskog fonda* (Criteria for the establishment of an archival funds). P. 22-25, abstr. in Fr.

In arranging the scattered records of the postwar era, the Yugoslav archivists tended either to consider the records of a prewar agency that was continued or taken over by a new agency of the Communist regime as a simple *fonds*, or to consider the prewar and the postwar records as two different *fonds*. In view of the thesis that there is no political and constitutional continuity between the old and the Communist regimes, the records of prewar Yugoslavia should be treated as separate *fonds* as is done in Soviet Russia. To this purpose the author reviews the Soviet rules as published in *Arkhivnoe delo*, no. 51, p. 140-145.

NIKOLIC, MILENA, *O sakupljanju i evidenciji istoriske i savremene dokumentacije o razvoju pozorista* (On collecting, preserving, and controlling historical and contemporary documentation on the development of the theater). P. 26-29.

The archival materials related to the history and activities of the Yugoslav theater are still scattered and unorganized. A thorough survey and a microfilming project are necessary to bring these materials into an organic unity available for scientific research.

VILFAN, SERGIJE, *Kancelarijsko poslovanje i arhivska služba* (Office procedures and archives service). P. 29-41, abstr. in Fr.

One of the main interests of the archives is to follow the evolution of administrative paperwork practices. The ever increasing administrative work creates more and more records, which are quickly changing the character of the archives. The records should be intelligently arranged by the creating body and kept so until consignment to the archives. On this arrangement depends in great measure the extent to which the archives can preserve the principle of the original order. It is also most important for discarding procedures whether disposal must be accomplished by checking piece by piece or can be done by discarding entire series. A good knowledge of modern paperwork practices is therefore more useful to the archivist than knowledge of the auxiliary historical sciences.

Various administrative orders already have been issued in order to bring about a unified system of paperwork management within the record-creating agencies. A complete bibliography on the subject as well as a thorough study of these rules should be prepared as soon as possible in order to help archivists deal with the records of the prewar and the immediate postwar era. The most detailed legislation in respect to the subject of the article can be observed in the Republic of Slovenia; this legislation is already serving as an example to other republics and greatly influenced the Federal regulations issued in 1957. The decimal system of classification, commonly adopted in Yugoslavia and again most elaborated in Slovenia, could, in the opinion of the author, be even more elaborated by designating the character of the records in respect to the archival treatment due them. Thus, for example, class 342 of the Slovenian system, designating artisan matters, could be modified as 342.0 for records of permanent value, 342.1 for those preserved for 50 years, 342.2 for those preserved for only a 2-year period, and 342.3 for records to be discarded by the end of the calendar year. These and other regulations are only another step toward new, more progressive and practical, procedures. If the present system of independent decimal classification could be developed into a unified and single system, it would undoubtedly contribute to the most modern system of disposal. A list of series or classes to be discarded would thus serve both as a general disposal and as a preservation schedule, representing the ideal solution sought by archivists.

KRUSKA, NIKOLA, *Administracija i organizacija danasnjih sudova sa osvrtom na administraciju u predratnoj Jugoslaviji* (The administration and organization of today's courts in relation to the administration in prewar Yugoslavia). P. 42-56, abstr. in Fr.

The author reviews the administrative procedures and registry systems of the prewar and postwar Yugoslav courts and the legislative measures that affected the development and shaping of such procedures. Until 1933 most of the Yugoslav courts based their administrative systems on the old Austrian pattern. Before the enactment of the Court Manual of 1933 all records were entered in a single register (*delovodni protokol*). This system created, especially in the case of larger courts with more complex functions, various difficulties in respect to handling and searching the needed records. After 1933 subject registers (*predmetni upisnici*) were introduced for various court branches and greatly improved the evidence and the functioning of record management. This change also affected the arrangement of records in the court archives. In cases of "single registers" the records were shelved in bundles of 1 to 100 cases according to the order in which they were closed. A special annotation in the register indicated in which bundle the respective records were to be found. This was more simplified in cases of "subject registers," when the records were shelved in bundles, also from 1 to 100 cases, according to their current number and subject. Special care was taken of records of historical value, as also of cadastral books and maps, which had to be preserved in fire- and humidity-proof storage.

Except for some minor alterations, the court practices did not change much after 1945. Subject registers were retained, as were auxiliary record books. The records of closed cases, marked A/A (*ad acta* — case closed), are preserved in the court archives, divided into two sections: reference archives (*priručna arhiva*) and general archives (*opšta arhiva*). The reference archives contain only those records of cases closed during the current or previous year and are preserved in the sections or branches where they were handled. The general archives are the archives in the proper sense of the word and are one for the whole court. The records are shelved in groups according to their current number, subject, and class. Each group must be marked with the year and the numbers of the contained records. Those of special and historical value may be preserved in especially provided places. In such cases a dummy must be placed at the proper place in the general archives indicating clearly where the records can be found. The records are discarded according to a well-prepared disposal schedule. The discarding occurs, depending on the character of the records, within a

period of 5 to 30 years. Discarded records may be either destroyed or consigned to papermills.

KOLAKOVIC, VASILJA, *Što je pokazao pregled i popis arhivske gradje u registraturama NR Srbije* (The results of the survey of archival materials in registries of the People's Republic of Serbia). P. 57-65, abstr. in Fr.

In order to get better control over the archival resources of Serbia, the Council for Culture of the People's Republic of Serbia ordered all State Archives of the republic to survey their registries and archival materials. The project was carried on from July to December, 1957. The results proved very useful in developing future policies concerning the management of archives and the accumulation, discarding, and arrangement of records. The most pressing problem is still the mass of records. This situation has led to some irreparable and irresponsible destruction of records. (One enterprise sold to the papermill about half a ton of records "older than ten years" — which, in fact, is only the consignment period.) On the other hand, it also proved to be beneficial inasmuch as these sad experiences led to the establishment of record centers, which brought great relief to the archives and facilitated the handling of the records. The percentage of the arranged records generally varies between 30 and 70. Plans were made for annual or biennial inspections by the Central State Archives of Serbia and for unified surveying aids of the registries and their *fonds*.

JANCA, IVANKA, *Seminar o administrativno kancelariskom poslovanju za arhiviste NR Srbije* (Seminar in administrative and office management for the archivists of Serbia). P. 66-75.

Held on February 11-13, 1958, in Belgrade, the seminar was intended to acquaint archivists with the newest legislation on office management and paperwork — the Decree on Office Administration, enacted in January 1958.

Reports and News

On p. 76-77 is given the program for the third annual convention of the Associations of Yugoslav Archivists (*Program treće godišnje skupštine Saveza društava arhivskih radnika Jugoslavije*), scheduled to take place in the city of Ohrid in Macedonia, May 15-17, 1958. Although called annual, it is understood that the meetings are held irregularly, inasmuch as the first was held in Belgrade in 1953 and the second in 1955, also in Belgrade. ¶ On p. 77-78, E. H. reports on the session of the Main Archives Council (*Sa sednice Glavnog arhivskog saveta Jugoslavije*), established by law in 1950. This was the second session of the Council and was primarily devoted to the problem of selection of records, the situation of various archives, and international relations. In view of deficiencies in the instructions on collecting, preserving, and discarding temporary records, issued in 1952, the Council proposed a committee of ten members to study and prepare a draft of new and more effective instructions. The Council also established that many archival depositories are not aware of their legal right to supervise the registries. It was the opinion of the Council that the various State Councils should pay attention to this fact so as to enforce measures for the protection of historically valuable records. International relations in the past have been excellent and were crowned with the third conference of the Round Table on Archives held in May 1957 in Zagreb. The Council emphasized that more attention should be paid to research travels aimed toward the study and microfilming of records related to Yugoslavia in foreign archives. ¶ Ranka Muratovska reports (p. 78-80) on the annual meeting of the Society of the Archivists of Macedonia (*Od godišnjoto sobranie na društvo na arhivskite rabotnici na NR Makedonija*), held in Skopje during December 1957. The archives of Macedonia are the youngest in the whole Yugoslav territory. They are still practically in a stage of organization and suffer from an acute lack of trained personnel. ¶ R. Jemović reports (p. 81) on the session of the Executive Council of the Archivists of Serbia (*Sednica Izvršnog odbora društva arhivskih*

radnika Srbije), held in February 1958 in Belgrade. Among other agenda were plans for the yearbook *Arhivski almanah* (Archives Almanac), which would replace the discontinued *Arhivski pregled* (Archives Review). ¶ In connection with the plans for erecting a monument to the hostages killed during World War II in Jajinci near Belgrade, Miodrag Milić reports (p. 82-84) on collecting documentary materials on the imprisonment, deportation, and shooting of patriots in Belgrade during World War II (*Prikupljanje dokumentarne gradje o hapstenju, deportovanju i streljanju rodoljuba u Beogradu za vreme drugog svetskog rata*); and Milan Vujacić reports some of his observations relative to the civil service tests (*Neka zapažanja o polaganju državnog stručnog ispita*), p. 85-86. The tests are oral and written and consist of two parts, general and professional. The first covers knowledge of government, its functioning and institutions; the second covers archival science (national history, diplomatics, chronology, paleography, and a foreign language). A written thesis prepared from primary sources is also one of the requirements. The author's opinion is that although the examinations were on a good professional level, more time should be given to the preparation of the thesis. ¶ F. Biljan and S. Wilfan report on the sixth congress of French Archivists (*Šesti kongres francuskih arhivista, 7-10 novembra 1957 god.*), p. 88-92.

Fonds of the Yugoslav Archives

B. Kovacevic is assembling data on the location and nature of various papers of the late Stefan Vuk Karadžić, "father of modern Serbian literature." After Vuk's death in Vienna in 1864 the papers were brought back to Serbia and, together with his library, were consigned to various institutions. The article (*O prenosu Vukove zaostavštine iz Beča u Beograd*), p. 165-192, is also intended as a contribution to preparations for the commemoration of the centenary of Karadžić's death in 1864. ¶ Bogdan Križman is publishing some Metternich letters from the Ottenfels family archives, deposited since World War II in the State Archives in Zagreb (*Metternichova pisma iz "Zbirke Ottenfels" u državnom arhivu u Zagrebu*), p. 193-216. ¶ Andrija Ljubomir Lisac continues his Contributions to the Yugoslav Archival Bibliography (*Prilozi jugoslavenskoj arhivistickoj bibliografiji*), p. 217-240.

BOGOMIR CHOKEĹ

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Archivní časopis (Archives Magazine) is a quarterly periodical published in Prague since 1951 by the Archives Administration of the Ministry of Interior (*Archivní správa ministerstva vnitra*). The contents vary greatly and cover all phases of archival work and problems. Because of the long tradition and experience in the Czechoslovak archives, these articles are probably the best in archival literature behind the Iron Curtain. They do not, however, have the customary abstracts in foreign languages; they are written in Czech or Slovak only.

Archivní časopis, VOL. 8 (1958), NO. 1

Editorial

During the extraordinary session of the Archives Council, January 23, 1958, in Prague, the Minister of Interior and member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Rudolf Barak, proposed an all-state exhibition of archival documents in order to illustrate "the revolutionary role of the people" from the earliest to modern times (p. 1-8). The exhibition was planned for June 1958 in the Castle of Prague, the use of which was especially granted by President Antonin Novotný. Minister Barak's speech is reported in full.

NUHLICEK, JOSEF, *K osemdesátinám Zdenka Nejedlého* (For the eightieth birthday of Zdenko Nejedlý). P. 5-8.

A tribute to the scientific and political achievements of the historian and archivist Zdenko Nejedlý, the first president of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

KOCIS, GEJZA, *Dejiny a fondy Státného archívu v Kosiciach* (The history and the holdings of the state archives of Kosice). P. 8-14.

The State Archives of Kosice are now composed of the archives of Kosice and the two branches in nearby Levoca. The holdings, excluding those of Branch 2 in Levoca, comprise 72 *fonds*, covering the period from 1314 to date. Branch 2 in Levoca, established only in 1956, contains various *fonds* not enumerated in the list of holdings and apparently composed mostly of records of private enterprises nationalized or confiscated after World War II. The author divides the history of the Archives into three main periods: from its beginning to 1918, from 1918 to 1945, and after 1945. During the first period the archives were generally kept in good condition, administered by notaries, who are mentioned as early as 1599. The position of archivist was established in 1798. The second period was — according to the author — a rather quiescent era, characterized by the lack of archivists. The third period, following "the liberation by the Red Army," signifies the adoption of Soviet archival principles. The State archives of Kosice, together with both branches in Levoca, can be generally classified as local archives, although they are very rich in documentation, covering many and various aspects of daily life since the fourteenth century.

NAVRÁTIL, FRANTISEK, *Skartacní teorie a praxe v bývalých schwarzenberských archívech* (Theories and practices of disposal in the former Schwarzenberg Archives). P. 15-27.

In the introductory section the author reviews the main principles of disposal as laid down by K. G. Mišáev, A. Brenneke, E. Casanova, and such Czech archivists as Hruby, Prokes, and Wolf. By the end of the eighteenth century the Schwarzenberg archives were already famous, and they are still one of the best organized private archives in Czechoslovakia. Their excellence is due chiefly to the keen interest shown by Joseph v. Schwarzenberg, who in 1793 issued regulations for arrangement, containing also some instructions for disposal. The problem of disposal as such was first fully discussed during the conference in Bavaria of the Schwarzenberg domain, held in July of 1855. Then it was decided that every record should be checked in order to ascertain if "it serves the archival purpose or should be discarded." The problem was discussed again in 1878, when it was proposed that discarding should be accomplished periodically according to the needs of the archives. The older, already closed records dated before 1785 should all be preserved; the others should be screened and either discarded or preserved according to a well-planned schedule. During the discarding, attention should be paid to preservation of records dealing with land titles and of administrative records related to churches, schools and their endowments, poorhouses, agriculture, fishing, mining, factories, fiscal affairs, cultural history, employees, priests, teachers, nurses, and guardsmen. A disposal schedule was approved in 1888. In the concluding section the author states some of his own experiences in discarding and calls attention to the delicacy of the problem and the need for more detailed studies.

Zprávy (Reports)

A State conference of leading archival workers in Bratislava (*Celostátní porada vedoucích pracovníků archivní organizace v Bratislavě*), Oct. 15-18, 1957, is reported, p. 28-32. Included is Z. Samberger's report on the archival methods in the USSR. ¶ The propagandist activities of the Central Slovak State Archives in Bratislava (*Z propagacej cinnosti Státného slovenského ústredného archívu v Bratislave*) are described, p. 32-33, in connection with the exhibition of records on Slovak-Soviet

friendship on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution. ¶ The session of the Joint Commission of Czechoslovak and East German historians was held December 2-4, 1957, in Leipzig (*Zpráva o VI. zasedání komise historiků CSR-NDR*), p. 33-34. Discussions centered on the coordination of research on such topics as the Revolution of 1848, the Munich Conference, and the relation between Prague and Leipzig. This last study is a contribution to the celebrations of the 550th anniversary of the University of Leipzig. Plans were made for closer cooperation between the *Archivní Casopis* and the *Archivmitteilungen* and between the Czech and German historians; and a convention, aimed toward this purpose and concluded between Czechoslovakia and East Germany, was reported to be due for ratification in a short time. ¶ A conference of business archivists organized by the Ministry of Interior was held in December 1957, mainly to discuss the results achieved by the Institute on Management, Organization, and Mechanization of Administrative Work (*Ústav pro řízení organizací a mechanizaci administrativních prací*) toward the simplification and the quantitative reduction of the records; during the same period a course in principles of disposal for business archivists was held in Gottwald (*Instruktažní školení pro pracovníky archivních oddělení v Gottwaldově*), p. 35-36. ¶ In January 1958 Czechoslovak writers held a meeting with archivists in order to get better acquainted with the primary sources for their creations (*Beseda archivářů se spisovateli*), p. 36-38. The Minister of the Interior, R. Barak, held a press conference in February announcing to domestic and foreign correspondents and reporters plans for the forthcoming