

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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## GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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*Zum V. Parteitag der Sozialistischen Einheitspartei Deutschlands* (The fifth convention of the Social Unity Party of Germany). P. 37.

Since the merging in April 1946 of the Communist Party with the Social Democratic Party into the Social Unity Party of Germany (SED) significant revolutionary changes have occurred in the lives of the people of the German Democratic Republic. The antifascist democratic order has changed to rule by the proletariat, and party days and party conferences of the working class have been significant milestones in demonstrating the superiority of communism over capitalism. The workers, the farmers, and the intelligentsia are aware that the Fifth Party Day of the SED, to be held July 10-16, 1958, will affect all of their lives. Archivists, too, are aware of this, for the rapid development of the state archival system would not have been possible without the positive action taken by the SED. Archivists of East Germany know that from the Fifth Party Day decisions will be forthcoming for strengthening the Worker and Farmer State, for securing victory for communism in Germany, and for union of the two Germanies. The archivists of the German Democratic Republic greet the delegates of the Fifth Party Day and wish them success.

NEUSS, ERICH, *Das betriebsökonomische Schriftgut und seine archivalische Bedeutung. Ein Diskussionsbeitrag* (The records of industrial management and their archival significance. A contribution to discussion). P. 38-43.

The author defines *Betriebsökonomik* as the science of industrial management, particularly in the producing industries rather than in services. Communist-controlled industrial managements have proved themselves best for study, since they have produced the most varied records. The teaching of industrial management belongs in the archival science school because an understanding of the records and a knowledge of what is contained in them are prime requisites. The records of industrial management are (1) organization documents, which include basic documents such as charters, statutes, work regulations, organization and function charts, also space plans, surveys for organizational improvement, and management rules and regulations; (2) records pertaining to planning and performance in production; (3) records pertaining to the acquisition, use, and disposition of materials; (4) records pertaining to standards for work and for use of materials and machines; (5) bookkeeping records; and (6) cost-accounting records. A bibliography of ten German publications (1953-1956) is appended.

HAMANN, MANFRED, *Ordnungsarbeiten an Beständen des mecklenburgischen Innenministeriums* (Arrangement work on the records of the Mecklenburg Ministry of the Interior). P. 43-46.

Although the principle of provenance provides an accepted key to records arrangement, it is not the final answer to exceptional cases. The records of the Mecklenburg-Schwerin Ministry of the Interior, established in 1849, are one such exception. Until 1945 many of the records were maintained separately in several record offices under the control of administrative personnel. Individual documents were not given registry numbers but were given key words and filed under a subject arrangement. The

records received from 1890 to 1956 were in the main unarranged, and the finding aids accompanying them were useless with one exception. The Ministry's records for the 1930's had been decimated by the destruction of World War II. In accordance with the 1952 administrative reforms in the German Democratic Republic, an "ideal" arrangement in fifteen groups was created. The arrangement, cataloging, and shelving of the records in accordance with this plan was undertaken by two archivists assisted by several clerical employees. Nine preliminary inventories, prepared during 1956-57, describe the 25,000 folders in the repository.

RÖSLER, INGO, *40 Jahre Zentralisierung des sowjetischen Archivwesens* (40 years of centralization in the Soviet archival system). P. 47-50.

A facsimile of the "Decree Pertaining to the Reorganization and Centralization of the Archival System in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic," signed by Lenin at Moscow on June 1, 1918, followed by a German translation of the 12 clauses of this decree. The most important are: all archives in government offices are henceforth the archival *fonds* of the national state; the direction of this *fonds* is assigned to the Main Administration for the Archival System; separate portions of the national archival *fonds* will be unified in accordance with the principle of centralization of records; and the Main Administration is subordinate to the People's Commissariat for Educating the Public. The author says that the cornerstone of this decree (the establishment of a unified state archives under central control) remains the cardinal point of Soviet archival administration. He also mentions other decrees by Lenin, including one that made the personal papers of deceased Russian authors, composers, artists, and scholars the property of the state, and another that created a commission to collect and study the materials pertaining to the history of both the October Revolution of 1917 and of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Russia. During the following 40 years other Soviet decrees solved all basic problems of archival organization and made the National Soviet Archives an effective institution.

SCHRECKENBACH, HANS-JOACHIM, *Das Archiv der sächsischen Gesandtschaft in Berlin* (The archives of the Saxon legation in Berlin). P. 50-58.

This article is divided into two parts: The first gives the history of the Saxon legation at Berlin; the second, in two sections, describes the records from the end of the seventeenth century to 1831 and those from 1831 to 1936.

During the second half of the sixteenth century the modern legation system was established by the Electorate of Saxony, and Berlin, in Brandenburg, was one of the vital posts. In the decades that followed the defeat of Napoleon, the Saxon legation assumed, in addition to political and diplomatic activity, new and important economic responsibilities. In 1866, when Prussia in a four-month war defeated Saxony, the latter lost much of its political independence, and its legation concerned itself mainly with internal German affairs. During the years of the North German Federation, the German Reich, and the Weimar Republic, the Saxon envoy was not only the minister at Berlin but also the plenipotentiary of Saxony in the Bundesrat (later Reichsrat). In 1932, as an economy measure, Saxony abolished its legation in Berlin.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Saxon envoys to Berlin were instructed to deposit their records with their superior, the Privy Councillor. Many envoys, however, kept their papers themselves. By the early part of the eighteenth century a record office became part of the legation and eventually the records were deposited in the Secret Cabinet Archives in Dresden. Approximately 430 Berlin legation documents, dated from the end of the seventeenth century to 1831, were accessioned, arranged by subject, and widely scattered and interfiled with nonlegation documents. The author withdrew these documents, carded them, and arranged his cards in groups so as to reestablish the provenance. He discovered eight distinct groups whose interrelationship or lack of relationship is explained. The archives dated after 1831 are well arranged and provided with a detailed guide. Up to 1866 the records are arranged in proper series sequence as despatches, reports, and business correspondence. Incoming and outgoing registers, administrative histories, and an alphabetical catalog to the contents of individual documents complete the picture.

After 1867, however, a subject arrangement was installed, although some of the records, such as the political reports, were continued as series.

BRACHMANN, BOTHO, *Der Stand der Ausbildung an der Fachschule für Archivwesen* (The state of training in the Institute for Archival Science). P. 58-59.

The Fachschule für Archivwesen at Potsdam, founded by the state in 1955, has a two-year course for the training of intermediate level archivists. The first class graduated in 1957. All 16 candidates who took the state examination passed in 4 technical fields and in 3 languages (Latin, French, and Russian). All were given positions in the state archives of the German Democratic Republic. The second class, now in session, has 25 students enrolled, 19 of whom are women. The courses include on-the-job training at both the German Central Archives at Potsdam and the Main Archives of Land Brandenburg.

FALK, GEBHARD, 2. *Arbeitstagung der wissenschaftlichen Archivare der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik* (Second annual meeting of the professional archivists of the German Democratic Republic). P. 59-60.

The meeting, held on May 6 and 7, 1958, at Meissen, Saxony, opened with an exhortation to apply the principles of Karl Marx to archival science and closed with a unanimous vote to oppose actively the danger of atomic war. In between, "Archival theory and archival publications in France" and "Arrangement principles in the Main Archives of Land Saxony" were discussed. Forty-five archivists attended.

SCHETELICH, EBERHARD, *Forschungen zur Geschichte der örtlichen Arbeiterbewegung* (Research pertaining to the history of the workers' movement at the local level). P. 60-61.

During 1953 the State Archival Administration of East Germany directed that all records in the large state archives pertaining to the history of the German workers' movement be identified. In 1955 the same work was begun in the archives at the local level. On April 10-11, 1958, a conference attended by representatives of the district committees responsible for this work was held in Berlin. Two subjects were discussed: the significance of the 40th anniversary of the November Revolution of 1918 and the founding of the German Communist Party—a survey of the work of SED-appointed district committees, whose members (with the assistance of archivists at Land, county, and city archives) devoted themselves to research advantageous to the party.

BÖRNERT, GOTTFRIED, *Archivalienausstellung in Leipzig* (Archival exhibit in Leipzig). P. 61-62.

"Yesterday and Today" was the theme of the archival exhibit held in Leipzig, November 9-December 1, 1957. This included significant documents, press clippings, photographs, and industrial records portraying the economic and social development of the city. Examples were the development of the Leipzig Consumer's Cooperative and the opening of its first stores in 1864; the evolution of the Leipzig Fair from 1778 to 1957; a Pinkerton Detective Agency report, made during the Weimar Republic and sent to a Leipzig firm, offering to name the communists employed; and the basic regulations promulgated by the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED) on July 5, 1955, pertaining to improving research and the teaching of history in the German Democratic Republic.

*Literaturbesprechungen* (Reviews). P. 62-68.

*Tagungen der Historikerkommissionen* (Meetings of historical commissions). P. 68.

The fourth meeting of the German-Polish Historical Commission was held May 9-11 in Cracow, Poland. Members discussed, in a critical vein, research pertaining to the East (*Ostforschung*) being conducted by the West Germans, and also "The Planned Publications of Documents pertaining to the History of Silesia." ¶ The third meeting of the German-Soviet Historical Commission was held May 16-22 in Moscow. Members discussed the status of historical research in East Germany and in the U.S.S.R.,

and research pertaining to the history of World War II. ¶ The seventh meeting of the German-Czechoslovak Historical Commission was held in Hiddensee and in Berlin May 31-June 3. A paper about the role played by the Philistine democrats in the Revolution of 1848-49 was read, and plans for the future were discussed. ¶ The fourth international conference of the Archives Round Table was held May 20-22, at Wiesbaden, West Germany. The three themes discussed were: "Archives and the History of Literature," "Archives and Geographical Studies," and "The Significance of Archives for the Peoples' Economy."

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NISSEN, WALTER, *Die archivalische Quellenlage zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Novemberrevolution 1918* (Archival sources for research on the history of the November Revolution of 1918). P. 69-76.

Thorough research on the November Revolution should be undertaken not only because of historical interest, but also to determine political responsibility for the developments in Germany during the last 40 years. For published sources the author suggests magazines and newspapers of 1918-19. A large clipping collection in the Press Archives of the Press Division of the German Foreign Office is now housed in the Zentralarchiv (Central Archives), Potsdam.

Essential for any study of the November Revolution is research on the system of workers, soldiers, and farmers councils (*Rätewesen*), which operated in Germany during the period November 1918-July 1919. The record groups in the Zentralarchiv which contain information about these councils include the Reichskanzlei (Reich Chancellery), the Reichsministerium des Innern (Reich Ministry of the Interior), Rat der Volksbeauftragten (Council of the Peoples' Plenipotentiaries), Arbeitsministerium (Ministry of Labor), Finanzministerium (Ministry of Finance), Reichs Justizbehörden (Reich Justice Authorities), and the Informationstelle der Reichsregierung (Information Office of the Reich Government). Significant items in the Zentralarchiv Division at Merseburg are among the records of the Prussian Staatsministerium (Ministry of State) and Ministerium des Innern (Ministry of the Interior). The Landeshauptarchiv (Main Archives) of Land Saxony at Dresden contains valuable documents pertaining to the system of councils, because of the concentrated industry and large proletariat in Saxony. The records of the Saxon State Chancellery and the Ministry of the Interior should also be consulted. The municipal records must also be reviewed, since as late as February 1919 there were 90 cities and villages where Workers and Soldiers Councils still existed. The study of the struggle for political power between these new councils and the old municipal councils is most important.

SCHLECHTE, HORST, *Quellen zur Frühgeschichte der deutschen Arbeiterbewegung in französischen Archiven* (Sources in French archives pertaining to the origins of the German workers' movement). P. 76-81.

Little is known about the first autonomous German labor movement, which originated with the founding of the League of the Just (Bund der Gerechten) in Paris in 1836 and ended with the dissolution of the League of Communists (Bund der Kommunisten) in 1852. Bourgeois historians have ignored this movement, while Marxist historians themselves have not thoroughly evaluated the pertinent documentation. Historians in Germany have done little work of substance because the German sources are only tertiary.

Because of autocracies existing in the German states, social-minded German tradesmen left their native land from the 1820's through the 1840's and migrated to France and Switzerland to form workers' groups. The most effective group and the one that gave to the workers' movement its philosophy, organization, and direction was in Paris under the leadership of Marx, Engels, Weitling, Schapper, Bauer, and Everbeck. The members of the movement were under continual surveillance by the French police, and one by one the leaders were exiled from France. The network of the League of Communists had already spread, however, to southern France, Switzerland, England, Belgium, and Germany.

There is little information about activities of the German worker-emigrants before 1860 among the records of the French national departments because of the wholesale destruction of these records during the latter half of the nineteenth century. More fertile grounds for searching are the French provincial archives and the records of private persons, of which some are in the French National Archives in Paris and some in the archives of the French provinces. As an example of the kinds of records that may be uncovered through intensive search, a police agent's report, prepared during the summer of 1845 and dealing with the origins of the League of German Communists in France and its propagandistic effectiveness since the mid-1830's, is discussed in detail.

SCHMIDT, GERHARD, *Die Ordnungsmethoden innerhalb der Archivorganisationstypen* (Methods of arrangement within the different types of archival organizations). P. 81-84.

The author, who has studied the arrangement of records used in several archives during the past several centuries, finds no clear-cut answer to the question, "Does an archives have its records arranged in accordance with the principle of provenance or according to subject?" Most archives having centuries-old records as part of their holdings have a mixture of both arrangements. Custodians of records during the eighteenth century, though unaware of a provenance "principle," often left the records in the same order in which they had received them. This was true in France and especially in Italy. In Germany, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, custodians of records usually arranged the records only when the initial arrangement had been destroyed or was so bad as to preclude the possibility of use of the records. The rise of central or national archives after the French Revolution helped to strengthen the acceptance of arrangement of records according to provenance. It was found more convenient to use the finding aids of the record-creating agency than to rearrange the records. The founding of central archives occurred along with modern reorganization of governments, and out of this reorganization came better records administration. Consequently, at the time the principle of provenance became known and accepted, it was strengthened by the good systems of arrangement created and used by the government agencies.

GRINGMUTH-DALLMER, HANNS, *Neue Bereiche der Auswertung der Archive. Bericht über die 4. Internationale Konferenz der "Table Ronde des Archives"* (New areas of utilization of archives. A report on the fourth international conference of the Archives Round Table). P. 84-86.

The fourth international conference of the Archives Round Table met at Weisbaden, West Germany, May 20-22, 1958, with 38 participants representing 20 countries. The language of the conference was French. The main theme was discussed under three subheadings, each on one of the three days of the conference. The first, "Archives and the History of Literature," brought spirited discussion on who should have custody of literary records, the librarian or the archivist. The second, "Archives and Geographical Studies," covered the use of geographical files in fields other than geography, the arrangement and cataloging of maps, and whether maps should be in the custody of an archives or a library. The third, "The Significance of Archives to a Political Economy," emphasized that the use of records in economic and political planning and administration is much more extensive in Communist countries than in countries with other forms of government.

KOCH, HELLMUT, *Konservierung und Restaurierung von Wachssiegeln* (Conservation and restoration of wax seals). P. 86-89.

The unusually high value placed on existing wax seals requires repeated checking on their condition and special care in their maintenance. Wax seals deteriorate rapidly because of improper mixture of the ingredients, because of attack by microorganisms, and because of excessive heat or moisture. They are easily broken. Dust should be removed with a soft brush; if the seal is very dirty, then soapy water can be applied with a light brush. Wax seals should not be covered with wadding, paper, or leather because these will draw moisture to the seal. Microorganisms in a seal can be de-

stroyed by using a quartz-lamp. Broken seals can be patched with a paste made from beeswax and other ingredients. In order to preserve rare seals it is best to make a negative copy from which positives can be made for research or exhibition use.

KLEINDT, MANFRED, *Die Siegelfotografie in der Archivpraxis* (The photographing of seals as an archival practice). P. 89-93.

Experiences, practices, and procedures of the Photographic Section of the Thüringisches Landeshauptarchiv (Main Archives of Land Thuringia) at Weimar in photographing seal impressions affixed to documents are discussed. Because seal impression stands out in relief on the document, only expert arrangement of light and shadow can provide an accurate and clear reproduction. This is especially difficult when the seal impression is to be photographed along with the document on which it is impressed. Rudolf Matthes of the Thüringisches Landeshauptarchiv, a pioneer in this kind of photography, first produced a plaster cast from the seal impression, then modified the contours by judicious use of beeswax and paint, then photographed the plaster cast, placed the photograph of the cast on top of a photograph of the document to which the seal impression was attached, and then took the final picture. Today, plaster casts are made only in exceptional cases. Special photographic equipment now makes it possible to photograph the seal impression directly by using talcum powder and water colors on the impression and by lighting to eliminate shadows. The author describes his method and techniques. Four illustrations of photographs obtained by several of the techniques described appear in the article.

SCHETELICH, EBERHARD, *25 Jahre Landesarchiv Bautzen* (The 25th anniversary of the Land Archives at Bautzen). P. 93-95.

On June 10, 1958, a meeting was held at Bautzen, Saxony, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Landesarchiv, which in 1933 was established as the Staatliches Zweigarchiv (State Branch Archives) for Oberlausitz. The records in the repository reflect the history of Oberlausitz, containing most of the administrative, court, and land records, all well organized and totaling 2,500 linear meters. These are described in the *Übersicht des Sächsischen Landeshauptarchivs Dresden* (Guide to the Saxon Main Archives at Dresden).

LÖTZKE, HELMUT, *Drei Jahre Historikerkommission der DDR und ČSR* (Three years of the German Democratic and Czechoslovakian Republics' Commission of Historians). P. 95-96.

The constantly growing cooperation between communistic countries in the fields of politics, economy, and culture has led to a closer relationship in the fields of historiography and archival science. The prototype of the joint commissions of historians was the German Democratic and Czechoslovakian one, established in the spring of 1955. Later the German-Polish and the German-U.S.S.R. commissions of historians followed. The commission is composed of historians and archivists who meet semi-annually to exchange views, plans, books, records, bibliographies, finding aids, articles, reports, lectures, and translations. Trips and exchange visits by professionals and students are included in the program. Special emphasis is placed on cooperation in the preparation of university textbooks pertaining to German, Czech, and Slovakian history so that students are made aware of historical problems shared in common. The main goal of these efforts is to publish joint scientific studies showing the common traditions that both countries have shared in the past. The first result of such publication is a 600-page volume, *Aus 500 Jahren deutschtschechoslowakischer Geschichte* (500 years of German-Czechoslovakian history), which comprises essays written by 14 historians and archivists.

WÄCHTER, JOACHIM, *74. Jahresversammlung des Hansischen Geschichtsvereins* (The 74th annual meeting of the Hanseatic Historical Society). P. 96-97.

*Literaturbesprechungen* (Reviews). P. 97-100.

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