

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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THE objective of this department is to provide useful abstracts, not to talk about them. Nevertheless, the end of the first year furnishes an appropriate occasion for thanking publicly those members of the Society who have given generously of their time and thought so as to bring to other members the gist of some 75 articles originally written in one of ten languages. At this same time I should like to welcome to the staff of contributors George Ulibarri (National Archives), who will continue the work in Spanish and Portuguese language areas formerly the responsibility of the late Roscoe Hill, and also Icko Iben (University of Illinois Library), who has volunteered to abstract the material in Dutch. We hope to have something from the *Nederlandsch Archievenblad* at an early date. Readers may also be interested to know that, because the material is less generally accessible than other types and is written in a language less commonly read than those of most western countries, we plan to publish in each issue abstracts from a periodical originating in a country of the Soviet bloc.

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## BULGARIA

*Izvestiia na durzhavnite arkhivi* (Reports on the State Archives) is published by the Ministry of Interior (Ministerstvo na vutreshnite raboti), which is responsible for the administration of most archival resources. The first Bulgarian publication of its kind, it appeared first in 1957. Presumably it is issued annually.

### *Izvestiia na durzhavnite arkhivi*, 1957.

ALEKSIEV, M., *Arkhivnoto delo v Bulgariia* (Archival work in Bulgaria). P. 7-19.

Monasteries were the oldest archival depositories in Bulgaria. After the liberation from the Turkish yoke in 1878 some attempts were made toward an archival organization. Gradually some depositories emerged as the Orientalia Section of the National Library in Sofia, to which was added in 1924 the Archives Department as a central depository of government records. Other institutions such as the Ethnographic Museum, the National Library in Plovdiv, and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences also served as depositories. Great damage has been caused because of unclear or vague disposal instructions, and a commission was established in 1934 to work out more specific instructions for archival management. All records were nationalized in 1951 and united into the single state *fonds*, divided into two groups according to historical periods: prior to September 9, 1944, date of the communist establishment, and afterwards. They are differentiated also as national or local records. The records of the first period are deposited in the Central State Historical Archives (Tsentrallen durzhaven istoricheskii arkhiv), the others in the Central State Archives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (Tsentrallen durzhaven arkhiv na Narodna Republika Bulgariia). Records originating in institutions, organizations, and enterprises of circuit, district, and local character are deposited in the District State Archives (Okruzhen durzhaven arkhiv). Adherence

to the Soviet system and pattern is evident; the author pays the customary respect to the Soviet archivists and their experience. The theory and practice of archival management, also strictly Soviet, are based exclusively on the works of Chernov, Kniazev, and Mitiaiev. Some institutions are criticized for preparing their own rules of arrangement, and the author stresses the need for a clear concept of archival principles. Technical means for the preservation and duplication of records are scarce and badly needed.

TOPOLOV, ANGEL, *Za tsentralizatsiia na arkhivnoto delo* (For the centralization of archival work). P. 20-23.

A complete centralization of the state archives *fonds* has not yet been achieved. There are about 100 museums in Bulgaria and many libraries and cultural organizations that collect records, mostly of historical nature. These institutions are under the Ministry of Education—not under the Ministry of Interior, which is the only legal administrator of the state archives *fonds*. Records that are really needed in museums or other cultural institutions should therefore be kept there only in photocopies, and the originals should be deposited in the State Archives. Such a practice was observed in the U.S.S.R. by the author during his visit there in 1956. Other institutions legally authorized to hold records (the Orientalia Section of the State Library Vasil Kolarov, the Archives of Military History, the Party Archives of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Archives Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and a few major museums) should provide the State Archives with complete lists of their holdings.

*Dokumenti* (Documents) and *Obzori* (Reviews). P. 25-140.

*Kritika i bibliografia* (Critiques and bibliography). P. 141-152.

M. Kuzmanova reviews the Rules for Arrangement and Treatment of Private and Nonprivate Documentary Materials of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (*Pravila za kompletuvane, obrabotka, zapazvane i izpolzovane na dokumentalnite materiali ot lichnite i obshtestvenite arkhivni fondove i kolektzii ot XIX i XX vek*), published in the *Izvestiia* of the State Library Vasil Kolarov for 1954. The authors of the Rules are blamed for having misunderstood the scope and limits of their archival holdings as established by law. The principle of provenance is also violated, the compilers were too much under the influence of library science, and they also omitted rules for the compilation of inventories as they are published in the U.S.S.R. and by the State Archives of Bulgaria.

*Chuzhestranni spisanii i izvestiia* (Foreign literature and reviews). P. 148-152.

*Suobshteniia* (Report)

Various reports on newly acquired *fonds*; a report by N. Nedeliakov on the bicentennial of the Hungarian National Archives (*Dvesta godini Ugarski natsionalen arkhiv*, p. 157-160); and Il. Georgiev's report on the activities in East German and Czechoslovak archives, which he visited on October 1956 (*Vpechatleniia ot arkhivnoto delo v germanskata demokratichna republika in Chekhoslovakiia*, p. 160-163). D. Mintsev reports on the sessions of the Scientific Council (*Zasedaniia na Nauchniia suvet*) of the State Archives established in 1952. The reported session was held in June 1956 and dealt with the instructions for the compilation of yearly plans in the State Archives and other establishments. At another session held in December 1956 the main topic of discussion was the forthcoming new publication *Izvestiia na Durzhavnite arkhivi*. It was generally felt that the main emphasis should be put on archival work, its theory and practice.

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*Archivní časopis*, VOL. 8 (1958), NO. 2.*Editorial*

The article *Celostátní výstava archivních dokumentů* is dedicated to the speeches of Minister of Interior Rudolf Barák (p. 57-61) and Josef Maček of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (p. 62-65), on the occasion of the exhibit of historical records in the Castle of Prague (see *American Archivist*, 23:88). Under the slogan "From heroic past to the victory of socialism," it coincided with the eleventh assembly of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the tenth anniversary of the communist establishment. A detailed description of the records displayed (tenth century to 1948) is supplied by G. Čechová and A. Šlais (p. 65-88).

*Dopis sovětských archivářů archivářům Československým k 10. výročí Vítězného února* (Letter of Soviet archivists to the Czechoslovak archivists on the tenth anniversary of the Victorious February). P. 91-92.

An appeal for brotherly ties between the two states and an even closer collaboration between the Czechoslovak and Soviet archivists.

ŠAMBERGER, ZDENEK, *Čtyřicáté výročí Leninova dekretu o archivnictví* (The 49th anniversary of Lenin's decree on archives). P. 93-96.

A rather standardized evaluation of Lenin's decree in terms of communist political ideology, emphasizing achievements of the Soviet archivists after the Twentieth Party Congress (see *American Archivist*, 23:71). The author points to three main tasks confronting Czechoslovak archivists: (1) to intensify archival work with the help of the newest technical achievements and to unify the rules for the state *fonds*; (2) to speed up the publication of guides, inventories, and documents; and (3) to keep raising the political and scientific level of the archival economy.

BÍČEK, LUBOS, and JAROSLAV ŠKUBÁK, *Za další rozvoj okresních a městských archivů* (For a further development of district and city archives). P. 96-112.

After 1945 Czechoslovak archivists were confronted with the heavy task of reorganizing archives. This work was in three periods. Until 1947 the archives were under the Ministry of Education, which supervised archival establishments through its inspectors. The second period began in 1951 when the State Archives Commission was established with the task of working out drafts for new archival legislation; it was set up by the Ministry of Interior, to whose authority archival depositories had been transferred. The third period began in 1954 when the whole archival network was reorganized and all archival sources were united into a single state *fonds*. With respect to city and district archives the author analyzes the decree of the Ministry of Interior of April 28, 1958, for the Czech part of the state, and that of the Slovak Department of Interior of January 10, 1958, for Slovakia.

ŠAMBERGER, ZDENEK, *Ze zkušeností archivů v Sovětském svazu* (From experiences in the archives of the Soviet Union). P. 112-125.

A review of the publishing activities of the Soviet archives after 1945. The published materials are treated in three groups: records on events prior to the Revolution, those on the Revolution itself and the establishment of the Soviet power, and those on the events of World War II.

BEDNÁŘ, KAREL, *Obnova starých fotografií* (Repairing old photographs). P. 125-130.

The first part of this paper, to be continued in the next issue, deals primarily with procedures in preserving and copying daguerrotype prints according to Seeligmann and Miethe formulas.

*Zprávy* (Reports)

The damages in the Hungarian State Archives in relation to Slovakia (*Straty Maďarského krajinského archívu so zreteľom na Slovensko*, p. 131-133) caused by the

1956 Revolution are listed by *fonds*. J. Nuhlíček reviews the fourth volume of City Names in Bohemia and Their Origins (*Místní jména v Čechách, jejich vznik, původní význam a změny*, p. 134-135). J. P. reports on the first session of the Commission on Publishing Medieval Historical Sources (*První zasedání Komise pro vydávání středověkých historických pramenů*, p. 135-136), organized by the Historical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences under the direction of Dr. J. Šebanek. The meeting took place on March 3, 1958. J. N. reports on the conference of the Historical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, held February 20-21, 1958, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the communist establishment (p. 136-138).

*Archivní časopis*, VOL. 8 (1958), NO. 3.

NUHLÍČEK, JOSEF, *Pětasedmdesátiny akademika Václava Vojtěška* (75th anniversary of Academician Václav Vojtěšek). P. 157-167.

A tribute to the long and successful career of this distinguished historian and pioneer archivist, member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, professor of auxiliary historical sciences at the Charles University in Prague, former chief archivist of Prague, an expert in archival theory and practice.

LUKÁŠ, VÁCLAV, *Výstava "Minulost Libereckého kraje v archivních dokumentech"* (The exhibit on the history of the Liberec District in the light of historical records). P. 168-170.

A review of the exhibit held in Jablonec nad Nisou from June to September 1958, organized by the local State Archives in collaboration with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec.

FABIAN, FRANTIŠEK, *Úřední soudy* (Official Courts). P. 171-182.

The German occupation of Czechoslovakia, 1938-45, introduced the German judiciary system and organization of the so-called *Amtsgerichte*. Lack of knowledge of the exact administrative structure of these courts caused, in the immediate postwar era, some confusion in the arrangement of records. The author analyzes the organizational and administrative structures of these *Amtsgerichte* and their branches. He concludes that inasmuch as these courts were by their functions, their organization, and their administrative structure completely different from the abolished Czechoslovak courts, their records must be treated as separate and independent *fonds*.

BEDNÁŘ, KAREL, *Obnova starých fotografií* (The repair of old photographs). P. 182-188.

In this continuation from no. 2, p. 125-130, the author discusses various procedures recommended for collodion glass plates, pannotype, ferrotype, and photographs printed on paper. There are bibliographic references to German and Czech works.

BENES, FRANTIŠEK, *Poznámky o archivní ochraně přivěšených pečeti* (Observations on archival preservation of pendant seals). P. 189-191.

Pendant seals are preserved in Czechoslovak archives mostly in leather bags. The State Archives of Brno uses paper bags also for this purpose. Each—leather and paper—has its advantages and disadvantages. Leather is softer and therefore less damaging to fragile surfaces, but less damage is caused by wrapping and unwrapping paper bags than by insertion or withdrawal of seals in or from leather bags. The author proposes the use of plastic materials, whose softness and transparency would greatly reduce the damaging effects of handling.

KOCMAN, ALOIS, *Poznámky k technickým vlastnostem papíru* (Remarks on the technical properties of paper). P. 192-198.

An analysis of the method for establishment of the pH factor as laid down by the Czechoslovak State Standard ČSN 50 0381 and conforming to the Soviet Standard GOST 1782-42. The analysis of various kinds of paper shows a rising pH for hand-

made paper in the years 1650-1850 (1650-4.1, 1750-4.8, 1850-5.7) and a greatly varying pH for different brands of paper manufactured in 1956. A selected bibliography of German and Czech works on the subject concludes the article.

#### *Zprávy* (Reports)

Bohumil Kut reports (*Z kroniky Celostátní výstavy archivních dokumentů*, p. 198-200) on the prominent foreign visitors to the June archival exhibit in Prague (see *Archivní Časopis*, 1958, nos. 1 and 2). -zd- reports on the seventh session of the Joint Commission of Czechoslovak and German Historians (*Zpráva o VII. zasedání komise historiků ČSR-NDR*, p. 200). The agenda for this session (for report on the sixth session see *American Archivist* 23:90) included exchange of microfilms and joint publication of records from Czechoslovak and German archives on the revolutionary years 1848-49.

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### SPAIN

The Facultative Corps of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists of Spain was established in 1858. Its purpose was to provide technical personnel to direct and administer the archives, libraries, and archeological museums of the nation. On the occasion of the centenary of its founding the Corps devoted vol. 65 of its *Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos* to an extraordinary commemorative number. The volume comprises articles by members of the Corps discussing problems and achievements during the century. It was felt that the occasion was a proper moment to reconsider what had been the mission of the Corps, how it had fulfilled its duties, and what was the task ahead. There are two introductory articles. One, by Gratiniano Nieto, points out the chaotic conditions existing when the Corps was formed, indicates the work of the organization, and describes the establishment of many new institutions. It emphasizes the work of the last 20 years and lists many of the improvements achieved, including better service and valuable publications. The other, by José Antonio Pérez Rioja, deals with the importance of the achievements, with a look to the future when the spirit that motivates the Corps will continue its contributions to the various institutions with youthful vigor. Then follows a long series of articles on many topics. The first section has some 130 pages devoted to archives; the second has about 330 pages dealing with libraries; and the third 140 pages on archeological museums. The abstracts presented relate only to the articles about archives.

#### *Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos*, VOL. 65 (1958).

SARRALBO AGUARELES, EUGENIO, *Los archiveros españoles hasta mediados del siglo XIX* (The Spanish archivists to the middle of the nineteenth century). P. 19-37.

A brief historical account. Mentions the Archive of the Crown of Aragon at Barcelona, founded in the fourteenth century; the Archive of the Crown of Aragon at Zaragoza, 1461; the Royal Archive of Valencia, fifteenth century; the Archive of Simancas, 1526; and the Archive of the Bureau of Accounts, 1659. The information is based on the *Guía histórica y descriptiva de los archivos*, 1916. Names of the early archivists, their salaries, and some data on their duties are included. To illustrate the type of persons who were archivists, a list of the dowry brought by a bride in marriage to one of them is given.

PESCADOR, MARÍA DEL CARMEN, *Los otros archivos* (The other archives). P. 39-47.

A general statement about some 2,500 archives not under the Corps, with historical data, an indication of the problems in connection with these institutions, an account of the efforts of the Corps to solve them, and some suggestions for future attention to the problems.

UDINA MARTORELL, FEDERICO, *El Archivo Real Patrimonio de Cataluña: sus vicisitudes e incorporación al de la Corona de Aragón* (The Archive of the Royal Patrimony of Catalonia: its vicissitudes and incorporation in the Archive of the Crown of Aragón). P. 49-68.

Tells of the founding in the thirteenth century of two archives—La Bailia, with documents from 1285, and Maestro Racional, with documents from 1293—which in 1819 were united to form the Archive of the Royal Patrimony in Barcelona. This archive was finally united with the Archive of the Crown of Aragón.

ARAGO, ANTONIO MARÍA, and VICENTE SALAVERT, *Datos acerca de investigadores nacionales y extranjeros en el Archivo de la Corona de Aragón, 1849-1911*. (Data regarding national and foreign investigators in the Archive of the Crown of Aragón, 1849-1911). P. 69-102.

After a general introduction, there is a brief account of the directors of the archive, especially Manuel and Francisco de Bofarull. Then follow notes on the Spanish investigators, giving names, dates, and works published. Also there is information on French, German, Austro-Hungarian, Italian, and Slavic students, with indication of the subjects studied and the resulting publications.

MARTÍNEZ, FERRANDO, *Una visita de Próspero Mérimée al Archivo de la Corona de Aragón* (A visit of Prosper Mérimée to the Archive of the Crown of Aragón). P. 103-111.

An account of the relations of Mérimée with the directors of the Archive, Prospero and Manuel de Bofarull. His interest in documents relating to Peter the Cruel of Castile and his visits to the Archive and Barcelona are recounted.

ÁLVAREZ SOLAR-QUINTES, NICOLÁS, *La musicología en el Archivo Histórico Nacional* (Musicology in the National Historical Archive). P. 113-121.

The author gives a list of his publications regarding musicology in the National Archive, with notes on the material relating to music there. There are examples, also a consideration of the work of Alejandro Scarlatti.

DEL VAL, MARÍA ASUNCIÓN, *El archivo y biblioteca de la Dirección General de Plazas y Provincias Africanas: posible base para un centro de documentación de Africa* (The archive and library of the General Office of the African Cities and Provinces: possible base for a documentation center of Africa). P. 123-128.

A very brief description of the organization of the archive and library, with an indication of the materials and the possibilities of the future.

DEL VAL, FÉLIX, *Archivo de la Dirección General del Tesoro, Deuda y Clases Pasivas* (Archive of the General Office of the Treasury, the Debt, and Retired Employees). P. 129-136.

A brief history of the organization of the archive with an indication of the documents included and an estimate of the number of bundles and folders. The immense work involved in organizing and cataloging, the shelving in use and the problems in connection with it, and the services rendered are all described.

DEL VALLE, FRANCISCO, *Archivo de la Delegación de Hacienda, Biblioteca y Archivo Histórico Provincial de Palencia*. (Archive of the Delegation of the Treasury; Library and Provincial Historical Archive of Palencia). P. 137-143.

Brief notes on each institution with lists of directors and an indication of the catalogs of the archivalia. A list of documents transferred to the National Historical Archive is included.

GUASTAVINO GALLENT, GUILLERMO, *La acción española en los archivos y bibliotecas de la zona norte de Marruecos* (Spanish activity in the archives and libraries of the northern zone of Morocco). P. 145-212.

A lengthy article on the libraries and archives established by the Spaniards in Morocco. The part on archives comprises Section IV, The General Archive; Section V, The Historical Archive; and Section VI, The Photographic Archive. Each section gives brief data on the formation of the archive, the places occupied, the installations utilized, the materials included, the organization of the staff, and the services rendered.

MAGDALENO, RICARDO, *El Archivo de Simancas en los cien primeros años del Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Arqueólogos* (The Archive of Simancas during the first hundred years of the Facultative Corps of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists). P. 213-238.

First there is a historical account of the archive, giving the names of the directors and indicating something of their contributions. A continuing problem has been the condition of the old castle where the archive is located and the need for repairs. The neglect of the government is pointed out. Attention is called to prominent visitors. The location in a small village was a handicap for investigators until the automobile furnished transportation to the nearby city of Valladolid. There is some account of the work of arrangement and cataloging, and an indication of the publications about the archivalia. Notations are made of records lent and returned.

MUT CALAFELL, ANTONIO, *Inventario de la documentación del justicia conservada en el Archivo del Reino de Valencia. Primera parte: Justicia de Valencia (1280-1321), justicia civil (1321-1410) y justicia criminal (1321-1669)* (Inventory of the documentation of justice conserved in the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia. Part 1. Justice of Valencia, civil justice, and criminal justice). P. 239-259.

Part of an introduction to a series of inventories prepared by the author. It gives a general description and history of the Archive of the Kingdom of Valencia and a detailed listing of the groups of documents under the Valencian titles with descriptions in Spanish.

ARRIBAS ARRANZ, FILEMÓN, *El Archivo Histórico Provincial y Universitario del Valladolid* (The Historical Provincial and University Archive of Valladolid). P. 261-267.

A brief description of the founding of this provincial archive in 1931, with an indication of the records deposited in it.

CARUANA, JAIME, *Breve reseña histórica de los centros turolenses dependientes del Cuerpo Facultativo de Archiveros, Bibliotecarios y Arqueólogos* (Brief historical survey of the centers in Teruel under the Facultative Corps of Archivists, Librarians, and Archeologists). P. 269-271.

DE LA PLAZA BORES, ÁNGEL, *Noticias sobre algunos depósitos documentales castellanos anteriores al de Simancas* (Notices regarding some Castilian documentary deposits prior to that of Simancas). P. 273-281.

The story of royal documents deposited in the house of García Ruiz de la Mota in Burgos. In a revolt of 1520 a fire destroyed some of these records and damaged the others. In 1545 they were deposited in Simancas.

SÁNCHEZ BELDA, LUIS, *Misión social de los archivos* (Social mission of archives). P. 283-290.

Arguments for an improved program for the exhibition of documentary materials to interest young people. The writer is very critical of the current practices in this matter.

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