

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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## INTERNATIONAL

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*ACTES DU IV<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DES ARCHIVES*, Stockholm, 17-20 août 1960 (Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress on Archives).

### 1. *Séance d'ouverture* (Opening session). P. 5-10.

Welcoming speeches by S. af Geijerstam, Sweden's Minister of Culture, J. F. Finó, representative of Unesco, and Ingvar Andersson, Director of the Swedish Archives. Sir David Evans, acting president of the International Council on Archives, returns the compliments.

### 2. *Première séance de travail* (First work session). P. 11-58.

SABBE, ÉTIENNE, *Les archives de l'état* (State archives). P. 11-38.

This report summarizes the answers received to a questionnaire sent out beforehand. These answers are synthesized under several headings: (a) the organization of state archives, which may be of two types, centralized or decentralized; (b) the direction of state archives, usually a function of a department of education or cultural affairs (the pertinent budgets in various countries are cited); (c) the personnel of state archives and, in particular, its numbers, qualifications, and formation; (d) the types of records preserved in state archives (statistics of total holdings are given); and (e) methods of storage, disposal practices, and dates of *terminus a quo*—dates before which no disposal may take place. Methods of preservation, microfilming, libraries, buildings, reproduction of documents, inventorying, and public relations are discussed.

### *Interventions* (Comments). P. 39-58.

Comments by M. Bordonau y Mas (Spain) on the organization of the Spanish archives (*L'organisation des archives espagnoles*); A. Szedő (Hungary) on archival problems in Hungary (*Problèmes des archives hongroises*); H. Altman (Poland) concerning the organization of archives in Poland, a suggested study of archival legislation, and an increase of international loans; D. Duniway (United States) on the archives of the States of the Federal Union; G. Nigro (Italy) on the relationship between state archives and archival depositories of autonomous administrative agencies (*Archivi di Stato e depositi di archivi godenti di amministrazione autonoma*); P. M. Joshi (India) on Indian archives; K. Höhnelt (German Democratic Republic) on the organization of state archives in East Germany (*Organisation der Staatsarchive der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik*); A. Bein (Israel) concerning especially the archives of newly created states; B. Brachmann (German Democratic Republic) on the professional training of archivists (*Fragen der Berufsausbildung der Archivare*); H.-O. Meisner (Berlin) on the classification and inventorying of archives (*Einige Bemerkungen zum Abschnitt X: "Le classement et l'inventarisation [sic] des archives"*); H. Lötze (German Democratic Republic) on the division and organization of holdings, using the Centralarchiv in Potsdam as an example (*Umfang und Gliederung des Gesamtbestandes eines Archivs*); and Y. Nurmio (Finland) on

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the problems of audiovisual records (*Problem eines Lichtbild-, Film- und Tonarchivs*).

3. *Deuxième séance de travail* (Second work session). P. 59-126.

BAHMER, ROBERT H., *Recent American developments in archival repair, preservation and photography*. P. 59-71.

The developments in the Western Hemisphere, but especially in the United States, are reported. Existing storage facilities do not always meet requirements—firefighting and fire detecting equipment are often lacking, and few archives maintain complete air-conditioning systems. As far as stack equipment is concerned, containers and steel shelving are widely used in North America, but not in Latin America. Ideal storage conditions for special types of records, especially sound recordings, have been studied. Although the fumigation process has not recently undergone significant improvement, new cleaning techniques have been introduced in the National Archives. There has been extensive research in lamination processes. Microfilming for purposes of preservation is now widely practiced in North America. Special materials for the protection of documents when exposed to light and a system for drying records that have been exposed to water are cited. New films to replace those with a nitrate base have been developed. New developments in microfilming—cameras, readers, electrostatic enlargers—as well as in other methods of reproduction are noted.

BELOV, GENNADYJ A., *New techniques, new materials, and new experiences concerning restoration of documents and seals, preservation of maps and plans, and photography since 1950*. P. 72-80, 104-105.

[See review by Lester J. Cappon of *Current Problems in the World of Archives: Papers from the IVth International Congress of Archives* in *American Archivist*, 25:243 (Apr. 1962).]

PAPRITZ, JOHANNES, *Neue technische Methoden, neue Materialien und neue Erfahrungen auf dem Gebiete der archivischen Restaurierung und Konservierung sowie der archivischen Fototechnik seit 1950* (New techniques, new materials, and new practices in the fields of document restoration and preservation, as well as in the field of photography, since 1950). P. 81-103, 105-107.

This report is concerned with Western Europe (countries not covered in the American and Russian reports). The following subjects are discussed in some detail: (a) silking and lamination processes and the relative advantages of various materials; (b) neutralization and cleaning of documents, and techniques for rendering faded writing more legible; (c) the preservation and storing of special types of records; (d) photography and other methods of reproduction.

*Interventions* (Comments). P. 108-126.

Comments by W. Kohte (German Federal Republic) on the preservation of photographic records; T. Mencil (Poland) on international archival collaboration in technical matters (*Collaboration archivistique internationale en matière de techniques nouvelles*); Miss E. D. Mercer (Great Britain) on sulphur dioxide pollution of the atmosphere and resultant acidity of paper; Gy. Ember (Hungary) on the filming of archives (*Zu einigen Fragen der Verfilmung von Archivalien*); N. Gartig (Denmark) on the preservation, by chemical neutralization, of inks and documents endangered by mildew (*Die Konservierung des von Tinten und Schimmelfrass befallenen Schriftgutes durch Neutralisierung*); G. M. Pinzuti (Vatican City) on experiments with glucose and vitamins in paper restoration (*Sperienze di restauro della carta: glucosio e vitamine*); R. W. Church (United States) on the deterioration and restoration of modern records; G. Schmid and H. Koch (German Democratic Republic) on restoration workshops and techniques of photographic reproduction and on other technical matters in the state archives of East Germany (*Restaurierungswerkstätte und Fototechnik in den Staatsarchiven der D.D.R.*; *Restaurierungswerkstätte und technische Methoden in den Staatsarchiven der D.D.R.*); and D. B. Wardle (Great Britain) on recording information concerning documents repaired.

4. *Troisième séance de travail* (Third work session). P. 127-164.

MARQUANT, R., *Les archives et les recherches modernes économiques et sociales* (Archives and contemporary research in economics and social history). P. 127-146.

In Eastern Europe there exist central economic archives. Even so, nationalized firms are often encouraged to preserve their own inactive records—under the supervision of archival authorities—because of the impossibility of housing them all in archives buildings. In the West, especially in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, and the United States, private institutions have evolved to take care of the archives of some private industries. Archivists on both sides prefer to be in direct charge of business archives, but this is not always actually the case. The interest in these records is everywhere increasing.

*Interventions* (Comments). P. 147-164.

Comments by H. Altman (Poland) on the advantages to searchers of central economic archives and on objections to certain expressions in the report of R. Marquant; W. S. Jenkins (United States) on microphotography and historical research; I. Soós (Hungary) on Hungarian economic records and the central economic archives (*Das Wirtschaftsarchivgut von Ungarn und das Zentrale Wirtschaftsarchiv*); A. Bein (Israel) on economic and social archives in Israel; G. A. Belov (U.S.S.R.) on economic and social research in the archives of the Soviet Union (*Les recherches économiques et sociales dans les archives de l'U.R.S.S.*); A. Matilla Tascon (Spain) on the archival activities of the Ministry of Finance in Spain; W. Kohte (German Federal Republic) on iconographic records; H. Gringmuth-Dallmer (German Democratic Republic) on economic and industrial archives in East Germany (*Wirtschafts- und Betriebsarchive in der D. D. R.*); Z. Šamberger (Czechoslovakia) on economic and social archives in the light of Czechoslovakian experience; H. Schlechte (German Democratic Republic) on the value, as source material for contemporary economic and social history, of archives in East Germany (*Der Quellenwert der Archive für die moderne Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik*); and D. Demarco (Italy) on cadastral surveys and historical records of banks as sources for economic and social history (*Sources de l'histoire économique et sociale: Les documents d'histoire de la banque et du cadastre*).

5. *Assemblée générale* (General assembly). P. 165-166.

Abbreviated minutes.

*Comité de Terminologie Archivistique: rapport de 1960* (The 1960 report of the Committee on Archival Terminology). P. 167-168.

*"Guide des sources de l'histoire d'Amérique latine": session de la Commission Centrale du "Guide"* (Meeting of the Central Committee of the "Guide to the Sources of the History of Latin America"). P. 169-177.

The aims and accomplishments of the committee are summarized and geographic criteria, types of *fonds*, institutions to be included, and format are defined.

*Réunion de la Commission d' "Archivum" et des Revues d'Archives* (Meeting of the Committee on *Archivum* and Archival Periodicals). P. 179-188.

A list of archival periodicals is included.

*Réunion du Comité International de Sigillographie* (Meeting of the International Committee on Sigillography). P. 189-197.

*Drittes internationales Treffen der Papier-Historiker* (Third international meeting of historians of paper). P. 199.

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## FRANCE

*La Gazette des Archives*, n. s. NO. 37 (1962).

FAVREAU, ROBERT, *Ministère de la Construction et archives* (Ministry of Construction and archives). P. 67-77.

The Ministry of Construction and its predecessor agencies have concerned themselves since their beginning with three principal activities: reconstruction (repair of damages resulting from two wars); construction (new housing needs due to expanding population and industry); and land management (removal from and restoration of disaster areas and the decentralization and transfer of industry from areas of overconcentration to regions needing development). In 1950 a national fund was established to supply credit to businessmen and industrialists and to encourage the resettlement of industry. By 1957 some 400 such transfers had been effected.

For many years the Ministry ignored its archives, but in 1954 it undertook to construct a modern records depository and in December 1959 a records administration office was established within the Ministry. The principal archival problems confronted were the enormous quantities of war-damage records and construction permits. One result of a complex administration is the production of great quantities of duplicated records that are needed for the efficient functioning of the agency, although only one record copy is needed for posterity. Often the useful records are buried among records of secondary importance. It becomes the function of the archivist to serve as a catalyst, to confer with bureau and division heads, and to suggest simpler but more efficient classifications and filing schemes. The more complex the functions of an administrative agency, the more essential to it are the services of trained records specialists.

BERNARD, GILDAS, *Les Varia et la Série J aux Archives de l'Aube* (Miscellaneous records and Series J in the Archives of Aube). P. 78-81.

The circular of April 15, 1944, creating Series J, prescribed that all papers acquired in an extraordinary way be placed in that series. Although gifts, purchases, and transfers can be easily classified as belonging to Series J, the Archives of Aube contains many documents dated before and after the Revolution that are of unknown origin. An artificial series entitled *Série des Varia et Nouvelles Acquisitions* (Miscellaneous and New Acquisitions) was created to control these four different kinds of documents and a 9-column, 2-page index card for each document was designed. These identification cards can be used for a variety of purposes: as a general index, to index names of donors, to identify records of a particular period, and to promote the proper placement of many documents that have become separated from their *fonds*.

*Chroniques* (News). P. 82-85.

Principal circulars and memoranda, movement of personnel, and honors received. *Association Amicale Professionnelle des Archivistes Français. Assemblée Générale du 6 juin 1962* (Report of the general assembly of the Association of Professional French Archivists at Nîmes, June 6, 1962). P. 86-90.

Includes a progress report on a 2-volume manual of French archives; also a statement about the question proposed for study and discussion at the 1963 annual meeting: *pré-archivage*, the placement of records in depositories before their eventual destruction or their transfer to permanent archival establishments.

*Publications reçues* (Publications received). P. 91-94.

Abstracts of scholarly articles by French archivists appearing in learned periodicals during 1960-62.

*Comptes rendus* (Book reviews). P. 95-96.

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## ITALY

*Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato*, VOL. 22 (1962), NO. 1.

BISORI, GUIDO, *Cavalieri del documento* (Knights of the record). P. 5-7.

Speech of the Under Secretary of the Interior opening the new State Archives building at Ascoli Piceno.

*L'XI Congresso nazionale archivistico italiano e l'inaugurazione della sede dell'Archivio di Stato di Ascoli Piceno* (The 11th Italian National Archival Congress and dedication of the State Archives building at Ascoli Piceno). P. 8-13.

Minutes of Italian National Archival Association meeting held in conjunction with inauguration of modern quarters for the State Archives at Ascoli Piceno, September 10-12, 1961. Photographs of the new building and equipment. Summary of business meeting and election of officers. The following five articles are papers read at the congress.

D'ADDARIO, ARNALDO, *La formazione delle biblioteche degli Archivi di Stato* (The formation of libraries of State Archives). P. 14-20.

No codified principles govern the selection of books for libraries auxiliary to archival institutions, and no specific instruction on this subject has been included in the training courses for either archivists or librarians in Italy, except in a special course given at Rome in 1951-52 by Concetti. In the past the archival library consisted mainly of scholarly reference works, studies based on the records, and books of special interest to the persons who administered the archives. In the future it should include books on archival science and methods, general reference works, and local history. To a degree, depending on the scope of other libraries in the area, it should supplement them and should provide interlibrary services.

DEL PIAZZO, MARCELLO, *La formazione delle biblioteche dell soprintendenze archivistiche* (The formation of libraries for superintendencies of archives). P. 21-24.

The superintendencies have supervision over non-state records. Their special libraries should include texts, commentaries, and periodicals on laws and court decisions pertaining to their particular function; reference works on general and regional history and culture; administrative history, statutes, and charters pertaining to organizations; and technical information on such matters as inventories and shelving for the use of the supervised holders of record collections.

BATTELLI, GIULIO, *Mezzi bibliografici d'informazione e di studio presso l'Archivio Vaticano* (Reference library and research aids at the Vatican Archives). P. 25-32.

An archival institution needs a carefully selected reference library consisting of books of interest to archivists and books that will help scholars to make good use of the archives. The reference library should be well arranged, accessible, properly cataloged, and in the care of a trained librarian. The Vatican Archives has only a small (though growing) collection of books directly related to its work, because a reference library of 16,000 volumes is at hand for the use of persons who may wish to consult either the documents in the Archives or the books in the vast Library of the Vatican. New rooms are being prepared for the handwritten and printed indexes to the archives. In addition a card index, begun in 1905 and now containing 40,000 cards but still far from complete, lists the references made by scholars in their published works to the sources found in the Vatican Archives.

GRISPO, RENATO, *La biblioteca dell'Archivio Centrale dello Stato: storia, funzioni, organizzazione* (The library of the Central State Archives: history, operations, and organization). P. 33-46.

The law of 1871 authorized regional archives to preserve the records of the several states that had united to form the kingdom of Italy and assigned custody of

central government records to the State Archives of Rome. After 1953 the Central State Archives became a separate institution and began to develop its own library for the use of its employees and those who consult the records. The library specializes in works on archival science and historiography, political history of Italy, administrative history, and law. Some books were transferred from the library of the State Archives of Rome and others were acquired from government agencies and private sources, both Italian and foreign. Scholars are asked to deposit copies of any of their published works that are based on research in the archives. The library has 5,000 volumes and several thousand pamphlets, including many on social questions and political philosophy, but it still lacks some basic reference works. The books and periodicals are arranged, mainly by subject, on open shelves and are classified by a numerical system devised especially for this library. The card catalog is by authors and subjects in a single alphabetical sequence.

STELLA, VITTORIO, *La biblioteca dell'Archivio Centrale dello Stato: natura e prospettive di sviluppo* (The library of the Central State Archives: nature and prospects for development). P. 47-61.

A library within an archives, like other libraries, is brought together by conscious selection of pertinent materials rather than, like archives, by functional accumulation of documents. The Library of the Central State Archives also contains, however, a collection of government publications. This collection is incomplete; similar collections exist elsewhere, and more thought should be given to having at least one authentically complete collection in one place. Another type of book collection that has some archival character is exemplified in entire libraries of former states or discontinued offices, which become the property of the archives and are deposited in its library. The State Archives of Rome has several such collections, which it keeps intact because they reflect the activity in the former states and discontinued offices in much the same way as organized records series do. The library of the Central State Archives has the "Mussolini collection" in which the dictator noted the date when he read each book and wrote comments in the margins. This library can increase its usefulness by cooperating with other libraries in the capital city, providing better documentation services, and acquiring the best that is written on historiography and the meaning of history.

SANCASSANI, GIULIO, *L'inaugurazione della nuova sede dell'Archivio di Stato di Verona* (Dedication of the new State Archives at Verona). P. 62-64.

Report of opening ceremonies held May 14, 1961, and photographs of new building.

CASERTA, ALDO, *Il terzo convegno degli archivisti ecclesiastici* (Third meeting of church archivists). P. 65-78.

The third meeting of church archivists (Associazione Archivistica Ecclesiastica) was held at Naples, September 25-29, 1961. Participants included about 100 church archivists from Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, and Spain, plus laymen representing the Conseil International des Archives, the Ministry of the Interior, the Central Office of State Archives, the Superior Council of Archives, and the Italian National Archival Association. Some individual students of historiography also attended. The following papers were read and discussed: "Considerations and proposals affecting our archives on the occasion of the forthcoming Ecumenical Council," by Monsignor Martino Giusti, Prefect of the Vatican Archives and chairman of the Pontifical Committee on Church Archives in Italy; and "Juridical aspects and scientific requirements in photographing record series," by Giulio Battelli, Archivist of the Vatican Archives and secretary of the same committee. There followed a panel discussion on "Contributions to knowledge of sources for the social, political, and religious history of the nineteenth century in the church archives of Italy" and reports on church archives in other countries. An exhibit of documents selected from the church archives of Naples and Pozzuoli (the suburb referred to in the *Acts of the Apostles* as Puteoli) was arranged for the occasion.

*L'inaugurazione dell'anno accademico 1961-1962 nella Scuola di Paleografia, Diplomatica ed Archivistica dell'Archivio di Stato di Roma* (Inauguration of the academic year 1961-62 in the School of Paleography, Diplomatics, and Archival Science of the State Archives of Rome). P. 79-82.

VEDOVATO, GIUSEPPE, *La preparazione dei giovani alla diplomazia nella Repubblica fiorentina* (Training of young men for diplomacy in the Florentine Republic). P. 83-96.

*Recensioni* (Book reviews). P. 97-102.

*Legislazione* (Legislation). P. 103.

*L'organizzazione degli Archivi di Stato al 1° gennaio 1962* (Table of organization of State Archives as of January 1, 1962). P. 104-109.

*Scuole di Paleografia, Diplomatica e Archivistica* (Schools of Paleography, Diplomatics, and Archival Science). P. 110-113.

Curriculum and faculty for 1961-62.

*Personale degli Archivi di Stato* (State Archives personnel). P. 114-116.

Transfers, promotions, assignments, resignations, and retirements.

GEORGE C. REEVES

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