

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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Library of Congress

INTERNATIONAL *Archivum*, VOL. 12 (1962).

The entire issue of 128 pages is devoted to notarial archives in Spain, Portugal, Latin America, Germany, Hungary, Yugoslavia, England, and Denmark and, in varying degree, provides for each country or area the historical background and development of the notariates, a discussion of the laws and authorities creating notaries, a description of the records and the repositories in which they are found, and, in some cases, a bibliography and the text of pertinent laws. The contribution on Germany is the largest (32 pages) and that on Denmark the shortest (2 pages). Basically, the notariate is traceable to ancient Rome, whence it spread throughout the Roman Empire, was lost during the Dark Ages, and reappeared through the medium of the Church in the later Middle Ages. Modern laws establishing and regulating notaries date largely from the period of the Reformation; in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, mainly from the time of Alfonso the Wise (13th century). The nature of the notariate varies considerably in the countries discussed, largely because of geographical location, political vicissitudes, and changes of sovereignty. The greatest detail is found in the articles on Spain, Latin America, and Germany. The contributions are written variously in Spanish, German, French, or English.

Archivum, VOL. 13 (1963).

This 144-page volume, devoted to city archives in the United States, German Democratic Republic, France, England and Wales, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, contains contributions in English, French, and German. In the United States (p. 3-10) there is no uniformity in recordkeeping, because each State, county, and city has its own peculiar characteristics, and "there has been only apathetic activity for the most part." In the eastern part of Germany cities began to be established as early as the tenth century and regulations for recordkeeping are found as early as the twelfth century (p. 13-22). In parts of France (p. 23-59) municipal archives came into being with the functioning of communal institutions in the twelfth century. In England the word "town" has no exact meaning in law; therefore it is the archives of the "boroughs," originating from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries, that are described (p. 61-72). The city archives of Poland (p. 73-86) are coeval with the founding of cities in the twelfth century. In Portugal the earliest city records also are from the twelfth century (p. 87-103). Swedish city archives (p. 105-108) have, in general, a development later than in some of the other countries cited, because of the geographical location and the vicissitudes of war and sovereignty. Municipal archives in present-day Czechoslovakia (p. 109-122) date from the end of the twelfth century. In the present Yugoslavia (p. 123-144) city archives exist in some areas from the twelfth century, as elsewhere, but in other areas only from three or more centuries later. In varying degree each contribution describes the early history, modern situation, archival work, archival repositories, "old"

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and "new" archives, and the influence of war, fire, and changes of sovereignty. In some cases a brief bibliography is appended and archival methods are detailed.

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DENMARK

Nordisk Arkivnyt, VOL. 9 (1964), NO. 3.

Den nordiske arkivdag i Bergen (The Nordic archives meeting in Bergen). P. 45-55. Photo. On August 8, 1964, 82 archivists from all Scandinavian countries except Iceland gathered for their 1-day annual meeting where one expert from each country discussed important aspects of the archival situation in his country. Johan Hvidtfeldt (Denmark) mentioned systematic analysis of filing systems and general office routines as one of the most important steps toward more efficient archives management. The archivist is a sovereign part of the whole administrative structure, with specific functions regarding the whole, including planning and interpreting. Kerkkonen (Finland) emphasized the integral tieup of archivists with the structure of the organizations they serve; if anything, the archivist must acquire a greater perspective than the departmental officials. Reider Omang (Norway) reported that since 1958 there have been specific provisions in Norwegian law charging the National Archivist with sovereign archival functions. The establishment of a permanent inspection office, instead of the present temporary setup, appears to be the most urgent need. Robert Swedlund (Sweden) said recent legislation improved the management of all public records, including church archives. Since 1962 the Swedish National Archives has the final authority in planning the organization of all records and now has a special office for inspecting and counseling. Nearly 400 local archival establishments were inspected by the National Archives during 1963; 133 state offices were visited for inspection and counseling; and about 30 municipal offices were inspected by the two city archives in existence. There is a great backlog of records to be transferred to archival custody, because of reorganization in government offices. (The police department, for instance, has been transformed; more than 400 offices, containing about 25,000 meters of now unguarded archives, were abolished.) "We consider it necessary that arrangement, listing, and reduction of archival documents should take place while these are recent and still in the care of the originators, who can assist us in our work. The archives should be ready to be shelved, when they come to the archives depot."

Förslag om utförelseförbud för svenska arkivhandlingar (Proposal regarding prohibition against exporting Swedish archival documents). P. 58. Most cultural objects may be taken out of Sweden, provided they are less than 100 years old; this is not true for archives. The National Archives renders decisions in all cases pertaining to records.

Nordisk Arkivnyt, VOL. 9 (1964), NO. 4.

Landsarkivarmøde (Meeting of provincial archivists). P. 71. On November 23-24 the four provincial archivists of Denmark met with a number of staff members of the National Archives and discussed office organization and disposal plans in small municipalities and rural communities; a revised plan for the relationship of the provincial archives to the government offices under their jurisdiction; care of archives in the local historical collections; and the office records of the provincial archives themselves.

SANDBERG, ARNOLD, *Arkivfrågor vid omorganisationen av det svenska polis-, åklagar- och exekutionsväsendet* (Archival questions arising from the reorganization of the Swedish police, justice, and law enforcement system). P. 72-75. A national police system, hitherto lacking in Sweden, was initiated on July 1, 1964. The most dramatic result was the transfer of archival documents, filling not less than 25,000 meters of shelving, to the provincial archives. The latest 10-year cumulation of records was

retained by the newly organized offices to assist them in their performance. The archivists participated in this reorganization, providing counsel and instructions.

Et besøg på en byggeplads (A visit at a building site). P. 78-79. The large Swedish stack structure in the rock will contain 24 large archival storage rooms, most of which will be furnished with compact shelving; the 6 largest central rooms will be equipped with stationary shelves. The superstructure above the 15-23 meter thick rock under which the storerooms are located is expected to be completed by the summer of 1966. Moving the archives into the storerooms in the rock will take about 6 months.

Inventering av privatarkiv i Jämtland (Inventorying private archives in Jämtland). P. 87. Records of farms, dairy plants, and Baptist parishes have been comprehensively inventoried and many of the archives have been deposited in the Provincial Archives.

MÅRTENSON, STURE, *Nytt arkivaliefynd i Sydsvrige* (New archives found in southern Sweden). P. 88. In an old house being torn down a considerable number of county clerk and police records were found to have been used as insulation material. There were some 18th-century records; for the period 1800-35 they were practically complete. The corresponding series in the National Archives lacked these very portions. The documents were surprisingly well preserved.

Sikkerhedsfotografering i D.D.R. (Filming for security in the German Democratic Republic). P. 90. By 1975 all important archival groups are expected to be filmed, with a negative copy for reproduction only and a positive copy for reading purposes. The size of the project is indicated by the estimate of 7.2 million exposures to be taken every year.

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THE NETHERLANDS

Nederlands Archievenblad, vol. 68 (1964), no. 1.

DE VEY MESTDAGH, J. H., *Toegankelijkheid van archieven* (Accessibility of archives). P. 12-20. An attempt to demonstrate the gradual improvement in accessibility of archives since Roman days. The trend toward more scientific handling of archives at all stages, from the rational control of office management through the gradual reduction of obsolescent files to the final refinement of permanent archives, is desirable.

Berichten (Reports). P. 37-51. The establishment and development of district archives continues, as does the lack of personnel and office and storage space, though in a few cases new buildings, extension of existing facilities, or the provision of emergency quarters has brought at least temporary relief. The printed reports for Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Leiden are notable for their quality and for their fine illustrations.

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SPAIN

Boletín [de la] Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, no. 80 (1964).

Reports by archivists from the principal archives of Spain on the period 1939-44, compiled by Antonio Matilla Tascón. P. 37-101. Illus. Reports from 26 archives—National Historical Archives, General Archives of the Indies, General Archives of Simancas, Crown Archives of Aragón, General Palace Archives (includes holdings from 16 palaces and monasteries), Regional Historical Archives of Galicia, Historical Archives of Mallorca, Archives of the Kingdom of Valencia, Archives of the Royal Chancellery of Granada, Archives of the Royal Chancellery of Valladolid, Archives and Library of the Presidency of the Government, Archives and Library of the Council of State, Archives of the Ministry of Agriculture, General Archives and Library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Archives of the Ministry of National Education, Archival Library of the Ministry of the Government, Central Archives and Library of the Ministry of the Treasury, Archives and Library of the Ministry

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of Information and Tourism, General Archives of the Ministry of Justice, General Archives of the Ministry of Public Works, Archives and Library of the Director General of African Towns and Provinces, Archives of the Director General of the Treasury, Public Debt and Inactive Files, Provincial Historical Archives, Archives of the Supreme Court, Archives of the Territorial *Audiencias* (High Courts), and Provincial Archives of the Treasury—include situations at the beginning of 1939; documents received, 1939–64; improvements in installations and services; statistics on the number of research cards issued; number of bundles and volumes furnished to researchers; holdings; amount and types of shelving; facilities for preservation and reproduction; and list of guides, inventories, and catalogs.

National Archives

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VENEZUELA

Boletín del Archivo General de la Nación, VOL. 54, NOS. 204/207 (1964).

SÁNCHEZ BELDA, LUIS, *Edificios de archivos construidos en el último decenio* (Archival buildings constructed in the last 10 years). P. 5–16. The author summarizes his observations on archival buildings constructed in Europe in the last 10 years (in a few cases, somewhat earlier) from three points of view: location, general characteristics, and protection of the documents. Usually the archives is located conveniently near the administrative office that it serves although there are a few exceptions. As to architecture, there is a tendency to disregard classical types and design the buildings from a functional standpoint. Various kinds of fire alarms are used, and in some buildings fireproof walls separate the collections. Protection against humidity is afforded by locating windows to provide cross-ventilation and in some cases by the use of electric fans. In no archives is there true air conditioning. The damaging effects of direct sunlight are avoided by the careful placement of windows.

Boletín del Archivo General de la Nación, VOL. 55, NO. 208 (Jan.–June 1965).

ULIBARRI, GEORGE S., *Puntos comunes y diferencias entre archivos y bibliotecas* (Similarities and differences between archives and libraries). P. 5–19. Inasmuch as archives and libraries have developed simultaneously they have been closely connected with each other, and as a result there has arisen considerable confusion about the proper functions of each. In the earliest times the two were usually considered as parts of the same institution, with no clear line of difference. In more recent times they have grown to be in fact separate. The author discusses similarities: service to the public, methods of arranging and classifying material, professional training (though not the same for librarians as for archivists, there is some common ground), protection, and repairing. Differences between the two professions are then indicated: archival material is evaluated in regard to permanence, while libraries cater more to the needs of the moment; arrangement of archival material must consider the principle of *respect des fonds* whereas books in libraries may be arranged in any order that makes them most readily available; cataloging and description differ in that the archivist must deal with groups and the librarian with single books. The differences between the two professions are increasing. Numerous authorities are quoted and references to their works are given.

National Archives

CLEVELAND COLLIER

YUGOSLAVIA

Arhivist, VOL. 14 (1964), NOS. 1/2.

HASANAGIĆ, EDIB, *Novi zakoni* (New laws). P. 7–9. Three laws pertaining to archives enacted by the Yugoslav Federal Parliament in 1964. (Their full texts appear in French translation on p. 386–396.) An earlier, general framework law on archives was enacted in 1949. Although the new legislation did not fulfill all the wishes

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of the Federation of Yugoslav Archivists as expressed at their convention in October 1964, it does bring the legal bases of archival work more into line with modern requirements. It is anticipated that missing details will be supplied by legislation of the individual constituent republics, in whose sphere archival functions properly fall. The laws are: (1) *General law concerning archival material*, which makes a broad enumeration of such material (including material in private ownership) and places it under legal protection through archival institutions. The absence from the law of regulations dealing with the organization and functions of archives and archival services is a weakness. The law specifically continues in force the penal provisions (Art. 10) of the 1949 legislation. (2) *Law establishing an Archival Council*, which will develop guidelines and policies governing the handling and processing of archival material. Previously an archival council had been established by executive order in 1950. (3) *Law establishing the Yugoslav Archives* in Belgrade, replacing the State Archives of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The mission of this institution is to collect and maintain material of special federal interest, *i.e.*, that originating with federal or national agencies with the exception of certain sensitive material enumerated in Art. 6. Private owners of such material are obligated, under penalty of fines, to maintain it in proper order subject to inspection by the Archives' representatives and not to alienate it before having offered it for sale to the Archives. This law falls short in its failure to define the relationship between the Yugoslav Archives and other archives, organizations, or government agencies.

LAKIĆ, ZORAN, *Problemi arhiva i arhivske službe u Cronoj Gori* (Problems of archives and archival services in Montenegro). P. 163-168. The most acute problem is physical space. The service was organized only in 1951 and since then a total of 18 regular and 8 volunteer workers have struggled with the task of processing and classifying more than 23,000 ft. of both old and current material. Only about 5,000 ft. have been processed or partly processed so far. The principal archives pertaining to Montenegrin history are at Cetinje, the former royal capital. Material often is in makeshift repositories, and some of it is still unpacked. More than 20,000 sq. ft. of new space is needed.

Department of State

CARL CHARLICK

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

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