

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*Archivní Časopis*, 1965, NO. 4.

HOFFMANN, FRANTIŠEK, and JINDŘICH OBRŠLÍK, *Archivy a historická práce v Jihomoravském kraji* (Archives and historical research in Southern Moravia). P. 193-214. The activity of various archives in Southern Moravia, with particular attention to state archives in Brno. The emphasis is on historical monographs published from source materials in the archives. Some archival finding aids and thematic bibliographies prepared by district archives are also described.

HANZAL, JOSEF, *Pojetí archivnictví v nové literatuře* (The concepts of the archival profession in recent literature). P. 214-222. Various concepts about archives, the profession, and training as reflected in contemporary writing in both Germanies, Poland, and France. Is archival science really "an independent science," or is it merely subsidiary discipline, the purpose of which is to provide the historian better use of records? Is the archivist a professional man or is he learning the archival technique as he faces specific practical problems? Should archival principles be applied only insofar as they serve the generally accepted commonsense concept of writing history, or should the archivist be governed in his work by those principles regardless of the wishes of historians? The author stresses that the archivist, by selection of records and their descriptions, has a degree of influence over the writing of history; discusses problems created by specialization of archives; and points out that in Czechoslovakia the archivist's main task lies in gathering, organizing, and making records available.

*Archivní Časopis*, 1966, NO. 1.

NUHLÍČEK, JOSEF, *Archivní konzervace v Rakousku* (Preservation of archives in Austria). P. 21-26. Repairing and cleaning of parchments and the technology of preparation of parchment for restoration purposes in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna are described in detail. Storage facilities for various archival materials are outlined with emphasis placed on continuous ventilation of the area.

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## GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

*Archivalische Zeitschrift*, VOL. 60 (1964).

WANN, WOLFGANG, *Die alten Mainzer Archive* (The old archives at Mainz). P. 100-130. A concise history, with bibliography of published and unpublished sources, of the various archives located in the city; the complexities of archival storage and administration as part of the complexities of German history; the losses resulting from the last war.

MÖHLMANN, GÜNTHER, *Das neue Gebäude des Niedersächsischen Staatsarchivs in Aurich* (The new building of the State Archives of Lower Saxony at Aurich). P. 166-173. A brief history of this archive, its buildings, and its problems precedes the detailed description (floor plans, dimensions, lighting, heating, fire protection, décor, equipment) of the new building, occupied in 1963, which, with its landscaping, is made to blend with its environment. Two photographs and two plans graphically depict the

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single-story administrative wing, the five-story stack building, and the one-story connecting wing, which houses the searchroom.

KITTEL, ERICH, and KURT WIERSING, *Der Neubau des nordrhein-westfälischen Staatsarchivs Detmold* (The new building of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Archives at Detmold). P. 174-181. After a very brief historical introduction, the authors provide a detailed description of the floor plans, dimensions, building materials, shelving, fire protection, and special facilities of this two-part construction of contemporary design. Four photographs and two plans illustrate the six-floor air-conditioned stack building, long and narrow, to which is attached by one wall the much lower square administrative wing, built around a landscaped court, which contains the usual administrative offices, workrooms, searchroom, special rooms for using typewriters, an exhibit room (below ground), and garages.

*Archivalische Zeitschrift*, VOL. 61 (1965).

STEHKÄMPER, HUGO, *Die massenhaften gleichförmigen Einzelsachakten in einer heutigen Gross-stadtverwaltung, dargestellt am Beispiel Kölns* (The mass of similar single-subject documents in a contemporary large city administration, as illustrated by Cologne). P. 98-127. As the "social" state increases its influence over its citizens it collects thousands upon thousands of official forms that differ only by the name of the person who filled them out. These forms should not be confused with "genuine" archives that are to be preserved, individually, at all cost. However, what is a "sample" or "typical" today may not be properly so tomorrow. Some researchers may even want the unusual rather than the usual. Nevertheless, unless a drastic weeding by some arbitrarily selected method is carried out, the archives will be filled to the bursting point. Extensive references to articles by others, discussion of some 30 municipal bureaus that deal primarily with individuals in Cologne, and tables showing annual increments support the arguments.

DEININGER, HEINZ F., *Die Neueinrichtung des Stadtarchivs Augsburg . . .* (The new arrangement-equipment of the city archives of Augsburg). P. 128-141. A brief history (1088-1885) of the archives is followed by a note on the experiences (1885-1948) of the archives in the Renaissance-style town house given to the city "for use by the archives, library, or related public services." Six photographs and two floor plans show the building, the new fittings, and the arrangement of the three main floors (which are complemented by an attic and basement) after the renovation. Details of new freight approach, elevator, lighting and heating systems, shelving, fire protection, special equipment for maps are all given. Administration and searchroom occupy the ground floor; the stacks, the upper two floors.

ZITTEL, BERNHARD, *Der Grossbrand auf der Burg Trausnitz in Landshut: Erfahrungen und Lehren* (The great fire in Castle Trausnitz at Landshut: experiences and lessons). P. 142-192. About 4 a.m. on October 21, 1961, the fire in the 12th-16th-century castle that housed, among other state properties, a branch of the State Archives of Bavaria, was first noticed, and it was not until 5 p.m. on the following day—37 hours later—that the fire was pronounced "out." The director was awakened at 4:20; he called the fire department at 4:22. At 6:00 help was requested from the Regensburg fire department (30-odd miles away), at 6:03 from Munich (37 miles), and at 6:10 from the volunteer fire department in Freising (20 miles). In the interim, the Red Cross, the local army units, the hospitals, and all local government employees had been alerted. In all, more than 600 persons, including 265 firemen, directly fought the fire and engaged in emergency salvage during the conflagration. Subsequent investigation pinpointed the origin of the fire about 12 noon in a cleaning room. Extensive details of the problems confronted—one-way, steep, winding road; narrow archways; several courtyards; iron window grilles that had to be cut off; shortage of water; laying of 5,000 meters of hose—are given from reports of the specialized services.

Emergency salvage, drying at Landshut, Munich, and elsewhere by all available means—in warm cellars, between blotters, by film driers, by pressing machines, by paperdrying machines, by dehumidifiers, etc.—is described in detail as is the task of restoration by lamination and other means, as well as the temporary storage of the

salvaged documents in a number of locations. Three conclusions are drawn: historic buildings under protection of the state are not suitable repositories; the costs of equipping such buildings with essential fire protection is not below that of new buildings; maximum protection is possible only with extensive reconstruction of the old buildings. The investigations and detailed plans for future protection issued by the Bavarian State Archival Administration conclude the report, which is illustrated with 17 photographs of the fire and rehabilitation processes.

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#### RUMANIA

##### *Revista Arhivelor*, VOL. 8 (1965) NO. 2.

BOERAȘ, FL., *Pregătirea lucrătorilor de arhivă de la instituții și întreprinderi* (Training of personnel of archives of institutions and enterprises). P. 291-294. In a socialized state, archives of institutions and enterprises occupy a prominent position. The Central Archival Administration of the State in 1962 inaugurated training courses for archivists of these agencies, and between 1962 and 1965 some 270 persons from central institutions and enterprises and some 3,000 from those in regions, districts, or communes attended. The effectiveness of the course was diminished by the fluctuating attendance of the personnel, a result of the need for them to take care of their regular work. Future courses will place greater emphasis upon practical work and concrete examples of archival activity in institutions and enterprises.

##### *Revista Arhivelor*, VOL. 9 (1966), NO. 1.

SACERDOȚEANU, A., *Sarcinile științelor auxiliare ale istoriei* (The tasks of auxiliary sciences of history). P. 17-46. In addition to the narrowest traditional elements the author insists on other items, which are generally considered major rather than auxiliary, for a complex of historiography, geography, linguistics, sciences (paleontology, geology, anthropology, biology, psychology, etc.), statistics, bibliology, codicology, museology, archeology, papirology, metrology, numismatics, archivistics, paleography, diplomatics, cryptography, chronology, epigraphy, sphragistics, genealogy, and philology. He argues for essential knowledge of the pertinent items in the training of archivists, librarians, and museologists, who are the custodians of the raw material of research and the persons to whom researchers come for assistance, as well as in the training of historians who intend to devote themselves to research.

BOGDAN, DAMIAN P., *Despre codicologie* (On codicology). P. 63-90. Born of paleography as an independent discipline only a quarter century ago, codicology is the study of the technique of making a codex—materials, methods, regional differences, signatures, binding, decoration. Modern science (chemistry, physics) aids the study, which ties in codicology with the other auxiliary sciences of history. Rumania needs much in order to advance the study properly: inventories of manuscripts, specialized lists by date, copyists, collectors, reproductions, miniaturists, etc.

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#### REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

##### *S.A. Argiefblad/S.A. Archives Journal*, NO. 7 (1965).

SNYMAN, J. H., *Die Keuring van Argiewe in Argiefbewaarplekke* (The inspection of archives in archival repositories). P. 25-29. The accumulation of records from the period 1652-1910 is 30 miles; from the period 1910-1960, 300 miles. Careful scrutiny, disposal schedules, and extensive weeding are the task of contemporary archivists, especially in the records management section of the central archival administration. In practice, preliminary examination and recommendation often are made by junior personnel; actually, great experience and thorough knowledge of the working of an agency are required.

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THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST