

# Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

LESTER K. BORN, *Editor*

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### *Archivní Časopis*, 1967, NO. 3.

ČAREK, JIŘÍ, *Archivní průzkum k výstavbě sídliště* (Archival research used in a building project). P. 129-144. The article describes the research undertaken in 1966 by several archivists of the Prague City Archives to establish from historical manuscripts evidence of the stability of the earth in the northern suburbs of Prague, the site of a building expansion project. On several occasions the ground in this area had shifted, indicating the possible existence of old mining tunnels. The survey requested by geologists required investigation of some 42 groups of records relating to mining in this area during the preceding centuries. Although the result was not satisfactory because of the scarcity of relevant records, the research pointed to the increased importance of archives in contemporary practical tasks.

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### *Sborník Archivních Prací*, VOL. 17 (1967), NO. 1.

ŠAMBERGER, ZDENĚK, *K problematice pomocných věd historických a archivnictví* (Some problems relating to auxiliary historical sciences and archives). P. 23-36. The author discusses several disciplines of auxiliary historical sciences (source materials study, archeography, and study of documents), explains their meaning, and evaluates the modern trends in each. He also attempts to clarify the meaning of *archivistika*, a new term introduced into the Czech language in addition to the traditional *archivnictví*. Both terms are translated as *archivistique* in French and *Archivwesen* in German. *Archivistika* should denote a concern with archival theory, particularly archival terminology, methodology, and history of archives.

KUŠÍK, MICHAL, *Teoretické postuláty v archivnictvě* (Theoretical postulates in archival sciences). P. 36-39. Archival terms lack accurate meanings. Practising archivists, unaware of archival theory, use their own individual ideas in arranging and describing records. The writer discusses ways of improving archival terminology and cites, as an example, the success of the Hungarian academician Ember in enumerating all the main characteristics of a finding aid to arrive at its definition.

HANZAL, JOSEF, *K obsahu pojmu archivnictví a pracovní náplně archiváře* (A note to the term "archival sciences" and to the working objectives of the archivist). P. 45-47. The author explains the term "archival sciences," argues the pros and cons of the new term *archivistika*, and elaborates on specific historical themes which should be taken up by archivists in Czechoslovakia, i.e., origin and growth of modern bureaucracy, growth of cities, condition of serfdom from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Archivists should take a greater part in historical research and not act merely as the medium making materials available to historians. Since the archivist arranges and describes the materials, he is most familiar with the contents of records and therefore in the best position to judge their worth.

ŠEDA, OLDŘICH, *Rozvoj archivní teorie i praxe a výuka archivnictví* (The development of archival theory and practice and teaching of archival sciences). P. 53-55. Archivists in their efforts to justify their existence, to achieve recognition, and to satisfy pressing social demands, have failed to pay attention to archival theory. The main emphasis in an archivist's work has become the compilation of guides and finding aids for specifically needed themes. In many instances new instructions relating to the preparation of various finding aids reached the archivists only after the work had progressed too far for the instructions to have any effect. The knowledge gained by the archivist who arranged the records should be reflected in a scholarly introduction providing historical perspective and evaluation of the records. The archivist's university training should include a course on planning and

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Materials for abstracting and related communications should be sent to Lester K. Born,  
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management of archives. More attention should be paid to the history of modern government, since recent records will soon constitute a substantial part of archival holdings. Practical training of archivists is inadequate; in most cases archivists take their first job without having completed a single finding aid.

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# FRANCE

*Gazette des Archives*, N.S., NO. 58 (1967).

CHABORD, MARIE-THÉRÈSE, *Les archives de l'Organisation internationale des Réfugiés* (The archives of the International Refugee Organization). P. 165-175. A brief history of the organization, its precursor, and its successor precedes a short description of the part of the records that have been "retired" and were given space and care by the Archives Nationales in Paris.

BURCKARD, FRANÇOIS, *L'archiviste et les enquêtes orales* (The archivist and oral investigations). P. 177-178. Notes made at oral interrogations, radio-television interviews, tape recordings of reminiscences, and the like are "archives" in the contemporary manner and must be preserved, preferably in archives where they can be used in conjunction with traditional records. This new material poses problems of storage, service, and staff training.

L. K. B.

# RUMANIA

*Revista Arhivelor*, VOL. 10 (1967), NO. 1.

MĂRCUȘ, I., and V. ARIMIA, *Instrucțiunile arhivistice factor de seamă în îmbunătățirea muncii* (Archival instructions, important factor for improvement of work). P. 3-19. On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the state archives, the tasks and accomplishments are reviewed. Instructions issued in 1957 and 1961 and tried out have enabled archivists in 1964-65 to refine in detail some of their tasks, assess and control problems. There is now a central file that enables one to know precisely what *fonds* exist in the repositories of the state, where they are, the quantity of materials in them, and whether or not they are inventoried. This information, *inter alia*, permits the staff to know what needs to be done and to carry out sequential steps leading to inventorying.

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# SPAIN

*Boletín de la Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas*, NOS. 90-91 (1966).

S. E. el Jefe del Estado inaugura las nuevas instalaciones del Archivo de la Corona de Aragón (His excellency the Chief of State dedicates the new installations of the Archives of the Crown of Aragon). P. 2-4. The Chief of State inaugurated the new installations on July 2, 1966. The renovation had been in progress since 1940. The holdings of the archives, more than 8 million documents in all and dating from the ninth century, occupy 6 kilometers of shelf space. Included is a security area for the protection of the documents.

*Inauguración del Archivo de la Real Chancillería e Histórico del Reino de Granada* (Inauguration of the Royal Chancellery and Historical Archives of the Kingdom of Granada). P. 6-7. The new building of reinforced concrete was dedicated on October 3, 1966. The archives, first brought to Granada in 1505, had been inadequately stored in the basement of the Palace of Justice for many years. A manor house was purchased in 1956, and its second floor was converted for use as offices and an exhibition hall. The remainder of the building was used to store the 30,000 bundles of documents that comprise the principal holdings of the archives. A modern seven-story building has been erected in the former garden of the manor.

*Boletín de la Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas*, NO. 93 (1967).

FERNÁNDEZ GARCÍA, MATÍAS, *Los Archivos de Buitrago y su región* (The archives of Buitrago and its region). P. 8-11. This is a study of the parochial and municipal archives of Buitrago and its 32 villages that once belonged to the Duke of Infantado. The manuscripts and books discussed date from the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th with indirect references to even earlier periods. Very few loose documents have survived and many volumes were destroyed during the Civil War. Information on baptisms, marriages, deaths,

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wills, and accounts of brotherhoods and hospitals are included. The parochial archives at Montejo were surveyed by the local priest. Most municipal archives have been destroyed or sold as waste paper. Those that survive are in grave danger from pillage and dampness.

*Simposio sobre archivos y paleografía*. P. 12. At the 37th Congress of Americanists held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, September 3-11, 1966, a symposium was held on the use of European and American documentary sources as aids to linguists, archeologists, ethnologists, and historians. Special emphasis was placed on the preparation and distribution of guides, catalogs, inventories, and indexes. The establishment of national archival commissions for historical publications on judicial and financial matters was urged. Specific institutions were to serve as centers of coordination for the study of social, economic, political, and cultural affairs. The panel members recommended that more departments of paleography be established.

*National Archives*

DONALD L. KING

# VENEZUELA

*Boletín del Archivo General de la Nación*, VOL. 56 (1966), NO. 211.

RODRÍQUEZ MORALES, LUIS M., *Algunas consideraciones sobre la restauración y rehabilitación de documentos* (Some thoughts on restoration and rehabilitation of documents). P. 267-279. In the layman's language, a presentation of the causes of deterioration of printed and manuscript material and some solutions to the problem: air conditioned storage, fumigation, washing, humidification (or dehumidification, as required), lamination, and microfilming or other photocopying to prevent excessive use of originals.

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# YUGOSLAVIA

*Arhivist*, VOL. 15 (1965), NO. 1-2.

MILOŠEVIĆ, MILOŠ, *Neki oblici efikasnog arhivističkog doprinosa razvoju istorijske nauke* (Some forms of successful contribution of archives to the development of historical science). P. 13-17. The author recognizes that historians in their search of archival sources are usually interested in a specific event, date, personality, place, institution, context, or period. To meet their needs, archives should be able to afford them summary lists or properly analyzed card indexes with brief digests of the material. In the interest of standardizing such retrieval tools on an international scale, the author proposes the development of a manual, explaining the theory and practice of subject-oriented indexes, either alphabetical or classified.

ŽONTAR, JOŽE, *Služba dokumentacije i arhivi* (Documentation service and archives). P. 24-30. The growing need on the part of public authorities or economic and technical enterprises to supply documentary evidence has led to the development of a system for earmarking and segregating certain records according to special classifications, of which various examples are shown. An organization comprising documentation centers for specific branches of information on a countrywide scale has been developed.

JAČIMOVIĆ, OLGA, *Neki problemi arhivske terminologije* (Some problems of archival terminology). P. 35-45. Discussed is a current project for a dictionary of archival terminology for the Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, and Macedonian languages to fill a need in a country where archival staffs were largely dependent on the literature of other countries whose languages they read. A brief survey is given of the beginnings of such terminological efforts in other countries, going back to the 1920's. The international archival dictionary, which the International Council on Archives initiated in 1953, is reviewed, with selected problems such as the French *fonds*, the English *record group* or *archive group*, and the German *Bestand*.

RIBKIN, TATJANA, *Osvrt na aktuelna pitanja konzerviranja i restauriranja arhivske gradje* (Report on current questions of conserving and restoring archival material). P. 49-54. The author, who is conservator of the Croatian Archives in Zagreb, briefly reviews the development of this service since its inception in 1948 and mentions the work of outstanding technical laboratories, with special reference to various operating problems, such as frequent duplication and the need for trained personnel.

HRŠAK-FLAJŠMAN, VERA, *Principi i metode konzerviranja i restauriranja stare arhivske gradje u laboratoriju historijskog instituta Jugoslavenske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti* (Principles and methods of conserving and restoring old archival material in the laboratory

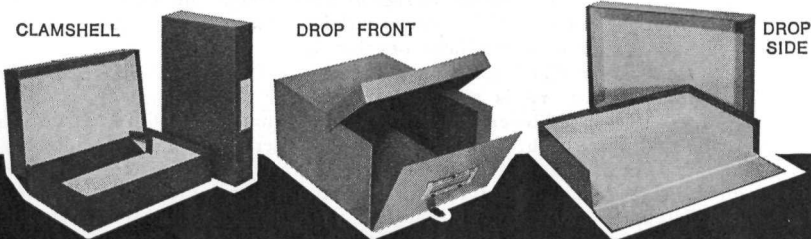
of the Historical Institute of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences). P. 59-61. The laboratory was established in 1953. From its early years it has acted as a guide and instructor to archival institutions in the country on the basis of its extensive experience with processes for safeguarding parchment and delicate or damaged paper. Various processes covering the cleaning, reinforcing, and laminating of documents are described. The laboratory has restored some 20,000 documents, 4,500 pieces of parchment, about 150 drawings, and 100 maps, 400 wax seals, and about 1,000 pieces of graphic art.

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