

Abstracts of Foreign Periodicals

INTERNATIONAL

Archivum, VOL. 15 (1965).

Les grands dépôts d'archives du monde: Notices sur les archives les plus importantes pour la recherche historique internationale (The major archival depositories of the world: Guide to the most important archives for international historical research). The International Council on Archives has previously published an international directory of Archives (*Annuaire international des archives*; *Archivum*, vol. 5, 1955) and a supplement (*Archivum*, vol 9, 1959, supplementary fascicle). With this volume of *Archivum* the Council has completed, in a sense, the guide to depositories proposed in 1951. The compiler, Robert-Henri Bautier, secretary of the Editorial Committee of *Archivum*, has assembled from answers to questionnaires brief accounts of depositories that are or ought to be most consulted by foreign searchers. Because of the focus on aiding international historical research, archives whose contents are of only national or regional interest have been deliberately omitted. The guide describes nearly 100 depositories in 25 countries and the Vatican. The compiler hopes to publish in a future volume of *Archivum* another group of depositories important to international historical research. Each depository entry contains name, address, and telephone number of the depository; information on the history and organization of the depository; principal record groups or collections (with dates and some indication of contents); documentation of particular interest to the history of other countries (including personal and family papers and records of international organizations); facilities available to searchers; and a basic bibliography. The depositories included from the United States are the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, and the Henry E. Huntington Library & Art Gallery. The five languages of the ICA are used in the guide: German, Spanish, English, Italian, and French. The majority of entries are in French and include those from the Scandinavian and Eastern European countries, Portugal, Brazil, the Netherlands, Switzerland (in part), and Turkey. The table of contents gives names of countries alphabetically in French, and there is an index to depositories by city of location.

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BELGIUM

*Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique/
Archief- en Bibliotheekwezen in België,*
VOL. 40 (1969), NO. 3-4.

WYFFELS, C., *In Memoriam Étienne Sabbe* (In Memory of Étienne Sabbe). P. 263-269. This is from a speech delivered at the meeting of the Association of Archivists on March 14, 1969. Étienne Sabbe was born August 2, 1901 in

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Ostend and died January 15, 1969. Preparation for his doctorate at the University of Ghent with a thesis on "The Material in Flemish Cloisters in Lower Lothring in the 9th and 10th Centuries" was under the direction of Henri Pirenne. After a short training period in the Royal Athenaeum in Ostend, he entered the service of the Royal Archives, where he was successively archivist-paleographer in the General Archives, conservator of the Royal Archives in Antwerp, and since November 22, 1955, Chief Archivist of the Kingdom. He carried out a number of individual projects including inventorying the archives of the Société Générale de Belgique and reorganizing the archives of the National Bank of Belgium. He always maintained his interest in medieval studies, and at the same time developed his skills in work with economic archives. Among his publications is a *History of the Linen Industry in Belgium*. As conservator of the Antwerp Archives he was responsible for preservation of its *fonds* during the wartime bombings. During his entire career he never lost sight of his numerous nonarchival or semiarchival interests. An example is his book *Antwerp, an Occidental Metropolis*, published in 1952. His promotion to Archivist General of Belgium gave him the opportunity to exercise his versatility in an institution that he knew thoroughly. His most important task after 1958 was the application of the law relating to archives, prepared by his predecessor, Camille Tihon. His first act was to create an inspection service for the whole country. He also established two auxiliary depositories and four district depositories. Under his direction the scientific, administrative, and technical personnel nearly doubled. In every way the Archives has been expanded and improved. "Without awaiting the judgment of history, one can say now that under Étienne Sabbe the State Archives has had one of the most fecund periods of its existence."

WYFFELS, C., *Les papiers de Paul Hymans et les papiers de H. J. W. Frère-Orban déposés par l'Université Libre de Bruxelles aux Archives Générales du Royaume* (The papers of Paul Hymans and the papers of H. J. W. Frère-Orban deposited by the Free University of Brussels in the General Archives of the Kingdom). P. 457-460. For several decades the papers of Paul Hymans and H. J. W. Frère-Orban have been reposing in the Private Archives of Statesmen of the General Archives of the Kingdom and have been inventoried. It is only recently, however, that these two *fonds* were officially deposited in the General Archives by an agreement concluded June 30, 1969, between the Free University of Brussels and the General Archivist of the Kingdom. In 1927 Paul Hymans gave to Camille Tihon, then General Archivist of the Kingdom, most of the papers, particularly the political dossiers of Frère-Orban, whose son had given them to him; others were removed in 1940 from the Hymans' home to prevent them from being taken by the Germans. In the meantime, Hymans, then president of the Administrative Council of the Free University of Brussels, had bequeathed the papers of Frère-Orban to Hymans' alma mater, the Free University. The university formally accepted the bequest in 1947 and deposited the papers temporarily, along with the Hymans papers, in the General Archives of the Kingdom. But no legal deed was made. At the end of 1967 a board of inquiry was set up at the university to ascertain under what conditions the papers of Frère-Orban and Hymans happened to be in the General Archives and the legal status of the case. It was discovered that there was no written document authorizing the deposit of

these two important *fonds*. Discussions were begun between the university and the Archives, and an agreement for deposit was concluded to the satisfaction of both institutions. The Archives will keep the two *fonds* for 25 years, maintaining them in the usual manner. This means, that to consult documents less than a hundred years old, permission must be obtained from the Free University.

National Archives

CLEVELAND E. COLLIER

BULGARIA

Izvestiia na Durzhavnite Arkhivi, VOL. 17 (1969).

PEYKOV, IVAN and TODORKA ZASHEVA, *Prinost na Durzhavnite Arkhivi v Naukata i Sotsialisticheskoto Stroitelstvo* (The contribution of the State Archives to science and Socialist education). P. 8-23. A government archives should not be merely a repository for old documents, to be referred to only by historians. It should actively contribute to the development of science and economics. When arranging, cataloging, and making documents available, this should be kept in mind. Furthermore, the choice of material to be kept and to be disposed of should be judged with this aim in view. It is part of the responsibility of archives personnel to make people aware of the usefulness of documentary material to the sciences and economics. This can be done by publicizing the use of archives in the press and by personal contact with persons from scientific institutions, editors of reviews, professional associations, and teachers. Every effort should be made to make such people aware of material contained in archives that can be directly useful to them. Expositions should be organized by archivists to encourage interest in the history of the country. A number of examples are given of how archival material is used in a vast range of scholarly work. Attention is called to the use of documents from archives in the carrying out of geological and archeological research, as well as such projects as building of roads and bridges, economic planning, farming, and administration. The importance of archives to practical work is becoming more and more apparent.

GEORGIEV, KUNCHO, *Microfilmoizdaniata na Dokumenti—Nov Etap v Publikatorskata Rabota* (Publishing documents by microfilm—a new step in publication). P. 55-62. Reviews the history of microfilming of documentary material in various countries. Among the advantages of microfilm are its small size and easy availability for making copies; on the other hand it is expensive and requires rather costly machines both to produce and to view it. When it is desired to publish a large volume of material in a short time and place it at the disposal of the scholar, microfilm finds its place. It satisfies the urgent and growing needs of historians and should find an eager acceptance in Bulgaria.

National Archives

CLEVELAND E. COLLIER

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Sborník Archivních Prací, VOL. 18, NO. 1 (1968).

SAMBERGER, ZDENEK, *Československé archivnictví po roce 1918* (Archives in Czechoslovakia after 1918). P. 3-85. This is a detailed survey of the

development of archival institutions after the establishment of the Czechoslovak state in 1918. Many advancements in archival theory and practice were achieved. At the same time the conflicting views about the responsibility for various archival institutions prevented the establishment of a central national archives, which was the original aspiration of leading archivists. The idea of centralized State archives was strengthened, however, even though several State departments competed for dominant influence. The number of qualified archivists increased as a result of the establishment of a 2-year Archival School in 1919. Their efforts improved the techniques in processing the materials and resulted consequently in increased historical research. In Slovakia, until 1918 within the Hungarian sphere of interest, little was done except some successful efforts to prevent removal of historical records to Hungary.

Sborník Archivních Prací, VOL. 18, NO. 2 (1968).

SAMBERGER, ZDENEK, *Československé archivnictví po roce 1945* (Archives in Czechoslovakia after 1945). P. 321-362. The main theme of post-World-War-II development was the tendency towards central control, which was finally achieved by the establishment in 1953 of the State Archives Board, directly responsible to the Department of Interior. This measure, intended to assert the ultimate political control over the management of archives, thwarted the relative independence of the earlier State Archives Commission and undermined the morale and enthusiasm of archivists who often felt alienated from their work.

Archivní Časopis, 1968, NO. 2.

LOUZIL, JAROMIR, *Literární Archiv Památníku Národního Pisemnictví* (Literary Archives of the National Memorial of Belles-Lettres). P. 79-84. The author outlines the history of the Literary Archives and its changing policies relating to collecting, arranging, and describing the literary records. From its inconspicuous and amateurish start beginning with the establishment of the National Museum in 1818, the evidence of professional treatment of the already accumulated and the recently acquired records of prominent national literary figures has become apparent. This is because of administrative changes, increased and better trained staff, and new methods employed in organizing the materials.

Archivní Časopis, 1968, NO. 3/4.

ČECHOVÁ, GABRIELA, *Disertační práce z archivnictví* (Dissertations in the field of archives). P. 196-201. In the past the main emphasis was placed on the practical phase of archival work, i.e., availability of the accumulated bodies of records for official and public uses. Arrangement, preparation of simple finding aids, and servicing archives became the main and often the only task of archivists. Little attention was paid to the archival disciplines proper, such as archival theory, history of archives, history of administration (public, private, ecclesiastical), etc. The author makes a suggestion for deepening knowledge in these disciplines by outlining the possible themes for research. Eventually, Ph. D's should be awarded to candidates who successfully complete their dissertations in the field of archives as part of their studies.

Archivní časopis, 1969, no. 1.

CHAROUS, JAROMIR, *Z činnosti ústřední skartační komise v letech 1966–68* (Activity of the Central Records Management Commission, 1966–68). P. 1–6. Summary of recommendations made during the meetings of the commission from 1966 to 1968 insofar as they relate to the retention and disposal of public records.

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VENEZUELA

Boletín del Archivo General de la Nación, vol. 59, no. 216 (1969).

BRICENO PEROZO, MARIO, *Normas de Moral Archivera* (The Archivist's Moral Code). P. 5–7. A series of "Ten Commandments" for the archivist, enumerating his obligations to the documents entrusted to his care and to the various groups of individuals who need to consult them. The final two articles stress the obligations of the state and of the public to the conscientious archivist.

National Archives

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