

insights

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Archives and people in the digital age

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sleeping at the archive

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“Digitisation makes us
competitive!”



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insights provides information about the international archival community today, including archival institutions as well as the related user groups.

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editorial

Dear readers,

following the newspaper headlines during the past few weeks and months, any reader undoubtedly got the impression that Europe is once more heading towards a huge crisis. Construction sites wherever you look! The Brexit referendum has showed up that the growing together of diverse nations cannot be taken for granted anymore; Europe no longer is a one-way success story. Europe, as the Protestant theologian Ulrich Körtner puts it in a recent article in the Austrian weekly "Die Furche", is lacking a "grand narrative". According to Körtner common values are not enough – what we need is the awareness of a common history; otherwise the "project" Europe does not have any perspective.

This is exactly what we from the association ICARUS see as our mission – returning to people the belief in and knowledge of their common history ... and all that in the world of the web 4.0! Today archives are more than ever institutions that give proof of the fact that past nationalisms – which were thought overcome already – have never led to security and freedom. Thus, let's open up our storages and let everyone take part in the merits of history writing.

There is no need to reinvent the wheel, as some of the protagonists of this issue will tell you. What we need is a change of perspective – from keeping and saving our archival documents to the question of what the best presentation to a broader public may be. Enjoy reading how [István Kenyeres](#) manages to achieve such goals in the [Budapest City Archives](#) or [Jussi Nuorteva](#) in the [Finnish National Archives](#). The possibilities and the ideas are already out there – or let me say it in the words of [Vlatka Lemić](#), the role model of the current issue, "[There are so many great project, we just have to bring them together.](#)"

Eventually, it always takes committed people to make a change, just like Lemić, Kenyeres, Nuorteva – or you, dear readers, maybe already active participants of the ICARUS4all-community or linked to us in any other way. Let us know about your personal success stories of opening up your historical treasures and working on a common history for Europe. Maybe it is you, whose story will appear in our next issue!

Kind regards,



Dagmar Weidinger
Press and public relations for ICARUS

PS.: In case you have not noticed it before, the new slogan of our friendship association ICARUS4all is another hint to what we think really matters, "[History for everyone. No fairy tale.](#)"



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“We need to flip the switch”

With **Vlatka Lemić** (44) the Croatia National Archives have entered into a new age, where users come first and digitisation is an everyday issue.

Vlatka Lemić, what’s going on in your life at the moment?

I was just elected on the board of the EURBICA (European Regional Branch), the European branch of the International Council on Archives (ICA). Now I can take part in regional meetings concerning the future of archives – and thinking in this direction really is my passion!

You have been working for the Croatian National Archives for over 18 years. Why are you looking for a new challenge now?

Our archival system is very closely linked to politics. Unfortunately, we encounter this in almost all south-eastern European countries. We do not have the possibility to

work independently of politics. Thus I had to drop out.

What are your visions for the archival world in the future?

During my work in the National Archives I managed to get many bilateral projects with neighbouring countries on the road. I want to continue in this direction. Our archives have to transform from closed institutions to open and modern information centres. We need to flip the switch!

The knowledge of archival material belongs to society. To make this vision reality, we founded “ICARUS Hrvatska” – a network to realize ideas and projects sustainably. There are so many great projects, we just have to bring them together.

... charters have been digitized by the National Archives of Hungary – their complete medieval collection! It therewith presents one of the most comprehensive data sets on Monasterium and thus to the general public.

Link:

monasterium.net/mom/MNL/subdivision

You mean bringing projects already completed together? Could your future job be the one of the “networker” between European projects?

Maybe ... (smiles)



Vlatka Lemić is part of the founding team of ICARUS and since then relentlessly engages in advancing the digital future of archives. She is a true visionary!

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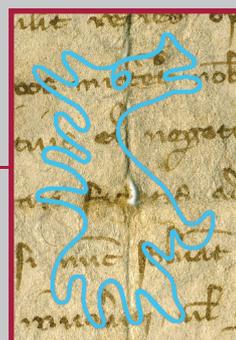
György Rácz is Deputy Director of the National Archives of Hungary and Assistant Professor at the Institute for Medieval Studies at the Catholic Péter Pázmány University in Budapest (HU).

Today not visible to the eye anymore: the dragon as a watermark on the document issued by Cardinal Gentilis de Monteflorum, the Apostolic legate in Pozsony (today: Bratislava, SK) on 2 May 1310. One can only see the dragon – as reconstructed and depicted here – with the help of special light.

curiosity

A dragon from Italy

The National Archives of Hungary hold a very special document: the oldest charter from their collection written on paper that can be connected to one of the oldest paper mills in Europe. The only reason for having safeguarded this document may have been that it testifies the handing over of the Crown of Saint Stephen (Holy Crown of Hungary) to the Hungarian King Charles of Anjou. The watermark on the paper – a dragon – expands our insight into history though: The paper mill of Fabriano near Ancona in Italy invented watermark paper in 1280.



The front and backside of the charter. Signature: DL 40326

do you have a question concerning any of the ICARUS platforms, archives or family research related topics for us?

We will find the right experts from within our ICARUS4all community to answer your requests! Simply send your question to editor@icar-us.eu

Since August 2016 future topotheque managers can participate in training sessions, co-organized by the Lower Austrian State Archives.
Venue: State Library in St. Pölten (AT)
For more info contact info@topothek.at

by the way

Unattainably near

People searching their ancestors often have to look beyond the Austrian archives. Cross-border research in the practical test ...

know how

Dear ICARUS team, our village shows great interest in installing a topotheque. Some of us are even quite enthusiastic hobby researchers but because of the related amount of work and organisation we have so far shrunk back from it. At the event "Topotheque becomes a project of Lower Austria" I saw some very interesting approaches of cooperation from other communities and therefore I would be very grateful to learn more about what efficient topotheque work looks like in detail. Thank you very much in advance for your reply!

Kind regards,
Herbert Schulz

machine with scanner function, the scanned photos being stored directly on the USB drive). First we receive the photos, scan them and immediately give them back to the owner. Then we record the story "behind the photo". Following the preparation of the scans (exposure, alignment, cutting, etc.) the photo with all its corresponding data is uploaded to our publicly accessible topotheque website. Also, in our municipal newspaper we regularly publish interesting articles concerning this subject and ask for making available graphical material to a wider range of individuals. Nevertheless, it is always necessary to seek and maintain direct contact to the population and fix appointments. This is the only way to make this stunning and sustainable project work!

I hope this information was helpful to you! Good luck!
Rebecca Figl-Gattinger



© Dagmar Weidinger

Rebecca Figl-Gattinger leads the regional society for village renewal and has been member of the municipal council for six years, where she primarily oversees the education sector.

My regional historic research originally started very "down to earth" – in Vienna concerning the Jews of Weitersfeld (AT). In no way was I planning a cross-border project, but with the historic relocation of the Jews of Weitersfeld to the neighbouring crownland, cross-border activity became inevitable. Investigating on the question of how life of the then Moravian Jews continued, I stumbled into an unknown cultural area. Suddenly, I was confronted with fundamental questions: Who could know which archival structures to consult? Who could tell me the present names of former counties on the other side of the border? And is there even German literature on any of these topics available? There was no "liaison officer" for the Czech Republic corresponding to the Hungarian Archival Delegation in the Austrian State Archives. So, my search for historians with a Czech "migration background" began. Only then I realized how dependent I actually was on German speaking people in Czech archives. Four centuries of administrative records written in German are even today only accessible via finding aids in Czech. My research work often resulted in tedious investigations. Gradually, I succeeded in enlarging my circle of helpful contacts though, finally resulting in a conference with Czech historians, organized in 2013 in Vranov (Frain) which brought together two separated worlds of historians.

Alfred Damm is researcher on regional history specialized in the field of socially marginalized groups. His book on the Jews of Weitersfeld (AT) was published in 2012.



© Dagmar Weidinger

Interview: István Kenyeres | Budapest City Archives

Research, sports and sleeping at the archive

The Budapest City Archives are not afraid of visitors. István Kenyeres, the archives' director, sees research as a fundamental right. In a four hour tour of the archives, he showed "insights" how he was implementing this idea at his institution.

by Sabine Edith Braun | photos: Markus Ladstätter



Let's start with the good news: It's not really necessary to speak Hungarian in order to do research at the Budapest Főváros Levéltára, the Budapest City Archives. Most of the



archive's documents – up until the mid 19th century – are not in Hungarian, but in Latin or German. This is due to the country's eventful history and the resulting changes in the administration of Budapest and Hungary. Different periods had different administrative languages (Latin for government administration, German for municipal administration). For this reason, German and Latin are part of the Hungarian curriculum for studies on archival science. The interview with the archive's director István Kenyeres was indeed neither in Hungarian nor in Latin, but in German.

All under one roof

The building where the archive is now located was constructed in 2004. Before that, the Budapest City Archives were distributed across seven locations: Among them was the City Hall, a former coach factory as well as a church building that had never been com-

pleted. "It took up to 90 minutes to drive across the city in order to get to a different location. In addition, some colleagues hardly knew each other", the director says. The new archive's building was entirely financed by the City. This applies to no other Hungarian archive, and the archive is furthermore the only cultural Greenfield project in Budapest. "Fortunately, this happened before the financial crisis. Today we would have no luck whatsoever with a building like that", István Kenyeres says. The archive has its own budget. While there is control by the City, "we can organise everything by ourselves", Kenyeres adds – and he is living up to his words. This is the reason why Kenyeres, who is holding a degree in history and archival science, feels more like a manager than an archivist.

Modern and service-oriented

There is little time for his own research projects, as Kenyeres also has a lecturing assignment at the university. His seminars, however, take place at the archive, not at the university. "Our infrastructure is better!" the archive's director proudly says. Another reason for holding the seminars at the archive is a more practical one, "We need the sources in situ!" The openness of the archive's building addresses everyone, not only students. The glass blocks on the front side were chosen for more than purely aesthetic reasons: This area serves as an inviting public atrium. "It's important for us that everybody can come in. Other archives often start by asking, 'Who are you, and what do you want?'. We do not ask for your identity card", Kenyeres says. "The only question our staff asks, is: 'What can I do for you?'"

Research as a fundamental right

Doing research at the Budapest City Archives is certainly something very special: The three air-conditioned

reading rooms with their high ceilings are very inviting.

Last year, 3,500 people visited the archive, a number almost six times as high as it was before the move of the archives in 2004. Using the associated reference library with 60,000 volumes is free of charge, just like coming to the reading rooms. "Here in Hungary, we regard research as a fundamental right", director Kenyeres explains. Taking pictures of the archival material is the only fee-based service. The house holds more than enough material: The collections of Hungary's second largest archive are stored on some 35 kilometres of shelving. The shelvings are located in the attics, which represent the largest part of the building with almost 18,000 m². Wooden chests with vertical pull-out drawers made in the 1870s hold city maps of Buda, Óbuda and Pest on glass, and are something really special. "I have never seen anything similar before", István Kenyeres says.

Large collections in four departments

The collections are organised in four different departments: The first one comprises material on the independent cities Buda and Pest (both of them royal free cities) as well as Óbuda (a market town) from 1686 (retaking of Buda from the Ottoman Empire) to 1873 (unification of Budapest through the merger of Buda, Pest and Óbuda) as well as material on the unified city of Budapest up until 1950 (creation of Greater Budapest and introduction of a communist self-governing organisation). It includes maps, building plans and city maps. The second department comprises documents of the municipal administration from 1950 onwards until today, as well as documents of the communist party. The third department contains documents from various bodies of the administration of justice (police, le-





Two books testify that Budapest was once comprised of two cities: The **letters of privilege** to the **royal capitals Buda and Pest**, issued by Leopold I. on 23 October 1703.

The early modern history of the cities Buda and Pest is Kenyeres' special passion. Above he points at the book of the municipal officer of Buda (1686-1872).

The "Guardian of the treasures": For his guests, the director of the archive, István Kenyeres, opens up a box with administrative documents from the 19th century.

gal profession, courts, notarial documents) from 1873 up until today, while the fourth department holds all files on families and individuals as well as data on institutions and companies of Budapest. There is only little medieval archive material, as most of it was destroyed during the Ottoman rule. The archive is in possession of twelve medieval documents – mainly letters of privilege of the Buda butchers guild, with the oldest one dating back to the year 1300. These highly valuable pieces are kept in a lockable part of the attics, the so-called Páncél ("armour").

one hand, the Budapest City Archives are continually digitising microfilms (birth, marriage and death records) – up to 600 per minute. On the other hand, it is also producing microfilms on a regular basis, with as many as 20,000 a day. In the 21st century, this is something really rare. "While we do have digitisation and e-archiving, we nevertheless think

that microfilming is very important even in our days, owing to its durability", Kenyeres says. The new microfilms are only available as negatives. In the course of digitisation, they are

"Other archives often start by asking, 'Who are you, and what do you want?' We do not ask for your identity card."

turned into positives.

Microfilms for eternity
The archive has its own IT department and workshops, for example a bookbindery for the restoration of damaged books and plans. Two book presses can be lowered from the ceiling, each of them has a load of 350 kilogrammes. They are used to "de-wrinkle" documents that have been folded for a long time. "We made them ourselves", the director says. This part of the building is nevertheless equipped with high-tech material: a book and microfilm scanner, a photo studio, a sound studio for the digitisation of audio documents on audio cassettes, as well as a microfilming device. Yes indeed, a microfilming device: On the

Night at the archive
The Budapest City Archives are regularly hosting events, which shows that visitors are highly welcome. They are also participating in the "Long Night of Museums" as well as the "Day of Research". Twice a year at least, the lobby is used for exhibitions. In 2016, there have already been four exhibitions so far. "Archive pedagogy" is another important keyword. "We are cooperating with six or seven schools. While we also have excursions of university students, we think that it is particularly important to have students from secondary schools here. To us, they are young researchers who first have les-

portrait

First name, last name:

Dr. István Kenyeres

My favourite memories from my professional life:

The laying of the foundation stone of the new archive's building

When I am alone in the archive ...

I work on my academic research on the early modern finance and administration history of Hungary and the cities Buda und Pest.

Coffee or tea?

Coffee

I am impressed by ...

our colleagues.

I am good at ...

convincing people of the importance of archives.

My "favourite object" in the archive:

The medieval guild book of the butcher's guild of Buda

Three things I love about archives:

the historic atmosphere of the archival material, the archivists' willingness to help, new challenges

My connection to ICARUS:

Friendship, common ideas, efficiency



If you want to see the archives' most precious archival material, you have to dare to enter the "Páncél". Visitors get rewarded with a glance at the letters of privilege from the beginning of the 18th century.

Book presses as heavy as pianos eliminate any wrinkles from the papers.

„Indeed, we are very popular because we also have parking spaces!”

sons at school, and then come to the archive to do research together. Here they recognise how interesting it is to use our databases!” says Kenyeres.

Higher demand through digitisation

The availability of databases has led to an enormous increase in the number of visitors. “Earlier we had one or two researchers per year who did research on notary documents. Now that they are available in a database, up to 600 people go through them!” the director proudly says. The effort put into the creation of databases goes hand in hand with the growing number of visitors, Kenyeres thinks. Nevertheless, only ten percent of the entire material held by the Budapest City Archives have yet been

digitised. By the year 2017, all microfilms will be available digitally. In an effort to avoid that spending hours in front of monitors, workshop tables and scanners will harm the health of their staff, the archive even has its own gym.

Gym, guest rooms, and ... parking spaces!

By the way: Just in case that an evening event – or research at the archive – is taking longer than planned, there is no need to worry: The archive has three guest rooms that can be rented – even for the weekend. “Indeed, we are very popular”, the director smilingly says, “because we also have parking spaces!”

Name:

Budapest Főváros Levéltára

Web address:

www.bparchiv.hu

Oldest collection:

Charter on the Buda chapter on a property sale from 1300

Oddest object / best-known archival item:

Letter of privilege for the royal free towns Buda and Pest (23. 10. 1703)

Number of digital copies:

9 million

First digital object:

City maps, 1998

Most loyal visitor of the reading room:

Those researchers that already used the archives before 2004 (year of construction of the new building) – they especially cherish our service-oriented development!

portrait

From the team's point of view

András Sipos (director of the department for documents from Buda, Pest and Óbuda/1686-1872 and Budapest/1873-1950): “The Budapest City Archives offer extremely rich and diverse source material. It is our task to transform this heritage into knowledge beneficial to society – a daily challenge! In our archive we have the opportunity to combine research of history with modern technology. Plus, we can experience an openness for the needs of the professional researchers as well as the hobby researchers.”

Katalin Toma (scientific secretary): “Our department for PR emerged in 2014 and doesn't deal with the traditional tasks of an archive. It is our main duty to present the activities of our institution and therewith the significance of our archive to the general public. Our colleagues are very motivated and it is a wonderful feeling to be part of such a team.”

Sabine Edith Braun works as journalist and proof-reader. She also teaches yoga and fitness classes at an adult education centre in Vienna (AT).

© Andrea Burchhart



“Digitisation makes us competitive!”

In Finland, free access to documents is taken for granted not only in archives. Open data is no longer a future project, but has equally been implemented by the government. In an interview with “insights”, **Jussi Nuorteva (Director General at the National Archives of Finland)** is talking about why Scandinavian archives do things differently than the rest of Europe, and what turns them into a paradise for their users.

Scandinavia is often regarded as a European leader in many different areas. This also applies to archives. Why are things working so well in Finland?

In Finland, archives are indeed geared towards the future. It was back in the 1990s that we started to digitise our catalogues. Today, 97% of them are accessible via the Internet. With an electronic service system it is also possible to pre-order the relevant documents directly to the reading room, right from home. Finland has recognised early on that digitisation was coming anyway; in order to be among those ahead, it was therefore better to be the first ones going for the transition. Only digitisation makes us competitive! It is the only way to ensure that historical documents are a 100% accessible to all users.

Another distinguishing aspect is that we have a single search platform – “Finna” – for all our archives, museums, galleries, libraries, etc., where our users can instantly download the digitised collections free of charge – and without the need to register.

You are describing an incredible openness towards new technical

achievements. Is there no fear of legal problems, data theft, etc.?

Your question sounds very “central European” – we do not think in those terms at all. We are living a tremendous openness, which has, however, developed over time. In 1766, Sweden already had its first “Freedom of Information Act” – more than 250 years ago! The data, or the historical documents we are digitising, do not belong to us. It is therefore our duty to make them available to the public. What should we be afraid of then? Of course, the area of private data is a sensitive one, where we always warn of misuse. But even there, I have never met anything improper throughout my entire term of office. The Finnish “Personal Data Act” passed in 1999 furthermore states that private data may only be used for scientific, statistical or medical purposes.

Links:

search platform “Finna”
finna.fi

National Archives of Finland
arkisto.fi



© Kerstin Muff

Some archivists fear that digitisation will make them redundant. Do the Finnish people still go to the archives?

Of course! The number of people coming to the reading rooms has not gone down. People are only looking for different things now. They do their preliminary research on the Internet and then come to us to go into further detail and look up those collections that have not yet been digitised or they could not find.

Finland is so far ahead. Which direction is still left for progress?

We have just submitted a draft law that will allow the destruction of government documents once they have been digitised. We spend more than 15 million euros a year to rent archival storage. There are enormous saving potentials here! This mainly concerns documents collected from the 1970s onwards. Of course we do not destroy old or culturally valuable documents! Nine years ago, the Finnish

Jussi Nuorteva and Dagmar Weidinger talking about "open data" at the workshop "Freedom for information" in Linz on 2 May 2016.



government already started to send all documents electronically. In all those years, I have never held a pay slip in my hands, it's all digital. As of the beginning of the year 2017, there will no longer be any provincial archives. All Finnish archives will then be under the authority of the National Archives. This increased centralisation makes many matters easier. We save money and can concentrate our forces. Decisions are taken once, not several times.

How do you train your future archivists?

Digital humanities are of course very important in historiography and archival science. Today's students learn things such as digital management quite naturally. They simply need certain capabilities to find a job. It would therefore be irresponsible if we did

not teach them what they will need. Finland has four universities offering a special master's programme in Information Management and Archival Science with a focus on electronic information management. The programmes are held in cooperation between the Universities and the National Archives. Success confirms that our approach is the right one. Almost 100% of our graduates find a job soon after having completed their studies, many of them also in the private sector in the area of information management.

"As long as I do not believe that opening up is something positive, it will not work."

Let's get back to fear. Would it be correct to summarise your message to Austria's archivists in this way, "Forget about your fears and open your data vaults?"

I don't see it as simple as that. To avoid fear of digitisation, it should be embedded in the values of the respective society. As long as I do not believe that opening up is something positive, it will not work. It's no use doing something for the sole purpose that others are doing it. Everything takes its time – and I am convinced that technical change will come by itself as soon as the pressure of the population, i.e. the users is strong enough to open archives in other countries. ■

The Finnish National Archives have currently digitised 2% of their assets (213 kilometres of shelving); this corresponds to 43 million digital representations. 50,000 people visit the archives' website per year, leading to a total of approximately 50 million downloads. Some 90% of the users "enter" the archives digitally!

Jussi Nuorteva has been Director General at the National Archives since 2003. He is very active in developing new projects for the acceleration of digitisation. It is his target to digitise all analogue data as well as the entire public administration within the next 15 years.

info

Dagmar Weidinger is the press officer of ICARUS. For the fourth issue of "insights" she talked to Jussi Nuorteva about the Scandinavian mindset on "open data".



Pupils from Korčula during their visit to the Archival Collection Centre. Lots of questions for the versed archivist Tonko Barčot, who takes the generation of the future on a trip into the past.



© Valerija Jurjević

Archives on islands – The Korčula story

The bay around Korčula in Croatia has a very special archival landscape. The geographical fragmentation of the area led to the foundation of an Archival Collection Centre (ACC). Users and archival material move around by ferryboat!

The history of the archives around Korčula island began with the end of World War II: In 1944 Vinko Foretić, the chief of the State Archives in Dubrovnik (SAD), saved hundreds of meters of archival material from the ruins of Korčula and initiated building an archive. However, it was not until 2011 that the so called Archival Collection Centre (ACC) Korčula-Lastovo started to work as a dislocated unit of the SAD in a reconstructed 19th century school building on the picturesque hill of St Martin in the village of Žrnovo.

The ACC is competent for the islands of Korčula, Lastovo and western Pelješac peninsula, with a total surface area of 495.57 km² and a population of 21,157 inhabitants. Even though we host one of the smallest ACCs in Croatia we have the best employee statistics (two archivists, one archival technician and one janitor), which enables us to carry out more projects and get into closer contact with the community.

Archival work as an integration project

Our main characteristic is the geographical separation of the territory from which we possess archival material by the Pelješac and Lastovo Channels. The fragmentation of the area makes access to us very difficult. Most users need a ferryboat and a car or a bus to reach the Archives! For example, it means a whole day's journey for users from the town of Lastovo to come to the Archives. There is also a problem with the postal service. Sometimes it takes eight days for an item to be delivered 17.5 kilometres away!

Leading an ACC is also some kind of an integration project! Eventually the town of Korčula is the seat of numerous public administration offices, but due to strong antagonisms it cannot grow into the centre of the territory as there are a large number of small local units. Practically, each town and village is a world apart, and we have to take this into consideration in our everyday work. Some of the local communities are quite possessive towards their archival material and have strong ideas about the foundation of their own local archives. Taking into account all these specifics, our archive is trying to embrace all these little islands' worlds.

Being committed, living with failure

The ACC curates exhibitions and gives lectures, trying to attract local students. During 2014/2015 for example, a bilingual documentary exhibition "The District of Korčula in the First World War" was exhibited in Korčula, Žrnovo, Lumbarda, Smokvica-Brna, Blato, Vela Luka and Orebić. Sadly, we had no success in getting the attention of the small community of Lastovo. Working with small isolated island communities and with a narrow circle of the same researchers has its advantages and disadvantages. Encouraging a passive community to be more active calls for personal commitment, while being ready for failure. But this is the the only way to make progress! ■

The Archival Collection Centre of the archipelago Korčula-Lastovo in Žrnovo. The Centre is also responsible for the peninsula Pelješac.



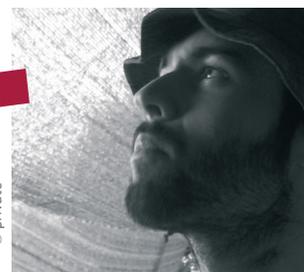
© Neven Fazinić

The Archival Collection Centre (ACC) Korčula-Lastovo is one of ten in Croatia. Two of them are island ACCs (Korčula and Pag). The Croatian law on archives says that the State Archives may found these collection centres as their branches to collect, select, preserve and arrange archival records and registry holdings. They were conceived as intermediate archives and as "bridges" between creators and archives. Practically, they function like independent archives.

info

Tonko Barčot is an archivist and historian. He works at the Archive Collection Centre Korčula-Lastovo (State Archives in Dubrovnik) on the Croatian island of Korčula. He is a passionate archivist and gardener.

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Illustrations from the 15th century already show St. Stephen's Cathedral as a landmark of the city of Vienna, as in this piece from the Schotten Altar. (dated after 1469, Vienna Museum/AT)

St. Stephen's in Vienna: Re-writing the history of architecture!

For some 200 years, art historians have done research on the architectural history of St. Stephen's – quite often without knowing the sources. Currently, two basic research projects do consider them, with remarkable results.

a parish church for the population of Vienna, a representative building for the sovereign, and finally a bishop's seat: over the centuries, Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral has changed in appearance and purpose. For several generations, the huge building site represented a major economic factor for the city. With regard to cultural history, the significance as well as the impact of St. Stephen's Cathedral extended well beyond the medieval territory of the Habsburgs. With its tall and slender tower and the prominently steep roof, the building has been dominating the skyline of Vienna and has been an easily recognisable landmark ever since the 15th century.

Research ignorant of historical sources

For more than 200 years, researchers have assumed that there had been a number of earlier buildings on the same site, and regarded Duke Rudolph IV (1339–1365) as the generous founder of the Gothic church that was finished by the builder Hans Puchsbaum (approx. 1390–1454). However, the interpretation of the building process has so far been based on written records that were not adequately researched. On a closer look it became clear that some of the written sources needed for argumentation had not been included or processed within the necessary context. These findings gave rise to the need for basic research that has

been generously funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and is actively supported by ICARUS. In 2012, a project on the systematic examination of written medieval sources on Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral was started. So far, a comprehensive collection of documents, contemporary descriptions and building invoices has already been established. It turned out that the building process needs to be seen in a much more nuanced way than before. Parts of the Romanesque/early Gothic building remained up until the 15th century, while intensive construction already took place for the high tower and the foundation trenches of the northern tower were in place. The old building was pulled down yoke by yoke, or openings were established to the new compartments. The new compartments were of different height and covered by shingle roofs. Constructions made of wooden slates separated them from the compartments belonging to the old building. The furnishings of the interior made up of multicoloured glass windows, sophisticated ribbed vaults or solid brick floors were long in coming.

The semi-finished church in operation

While this project has led to a good understanding of the construction process of the Gothic church, a follow-up project is dealing with the church's evolving interior furnish-

ings. A look into the source material shows that both the "semi-finished" Gothic compartments as well as the still existing compartments of the old church were used for liturgy. Current issues for research are the location, usage and significance of the great number of donated cult items and artworks as well as representations and memoria of the individual protagonists. As a first step, the research findings will be published in the form of a small volume by Böhlau in 2017. ■

Event tip:
12.–14.10.2016:
International conference:
"St. Stephan in Wien.
Die Herzogswerkstatt"
Venue:
Curhaus Stephansplatz 3
1010 Vienna

More information available under "Forschungsprojekte" on the homepage of the Institut für Art History of the University of Vienna (AT).

Link:

kunstgeschichte.univie.ac.at

info

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The poster of the theatre production *"Alla Bellezza tanto antica"*, 1988. Signature: 27_03_01_001

Genetic material from the theatre production of the *"Oresteia"*, 1995, as presented in *"Curating the Notebook 03: Romeo Castellucci & Eleni Papalexiou"*, Antwerp, 2016. Signatures: 48_01_26_002 & 48_02_266_001

Raise the curtain! Digital theatre archives

How do you keep a memory of theatre performances for future generations? The renowned Italian theatre company Societas Raffaello Sanzio has found a solution. Insight into an astonishingly international archiving project in the world of drama.

It was in the mid-nineties in Paris, that Eleni Papalexiou first entered a performance of the world-famous Italian theatre company Societas Raffaello Sanzio. Experiencing with astonishment their stage creations the Greek research student decided to include them in her Ph.D and later dedicated a book to their work. After that it was only a small step for her to the Teatro Comandini in Cesena, the company's "home base", where she carried out further research. In 2011, Eleni Papalexiou together with her colleague Avra Xepapadaku and an international research team managed to get the "ARCH"-project (Archival Research and Cultural Heritage) on the road dealing with the company's unique archive in the Northern Italian town. It aims to conduct primary research in the field of theatre genetics and cultural documentation, focusing on the artistic work of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio.

The protagonist: the archive

The company's archive testifies to the artistic activity of the theatre group from its establishment in the 80s until today: hundreds of boxes hold the

Monica Demuru performing in *"Buchettino"*, one of the most successful theatre productions for children of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio.

history of contemporary theatre in the form of projects, scenarios, academic texts, posters, notebooks, programs, calendars, correspondence, photos, videos and publications. The ARCH-project, which is led by the University of Peloponnese today, emerged in three phases. A large part of the archival research takes place in situ, in Cesena. Two or three field-trips are organized each year, and the Greek team works there for about 15 to 20 days each time. 200,000 items have already been classified, recorded and digitized so far.

Bridging the gap between theatre and archive

On entering the archive the Greek researchers immediately realized that Claudia Castellucci, the director of the archive, had already applied a personal archiving system. Her "method" constituted a solid base on which the new archiving plan was built. Whilst her classification system and her personal vision regarding the history of the artistic oeuvre of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio were largely respected it was at the same time necessary to introduce a scientific methodology. However, the work and the documentation methodology of the archivist differs from the



© Theatre Archive Societas Raffaello Sanzio

point of view of the artist: the latter considers the archival material his/her own creation and handles it in a selective and subjective manner, while the archivist has a holistic approach according to which all the documents are treated without distinction of value or importance. Another particularity of the archive is caused by its specific nature – this is not a historical archive that remains unaffected by artistic creation. It was thus necessary to develop a methodology focusing on the fact that the archive is alive and evolving. In every single of our visits at the Comandini theatre we find with astonishment numerous new impressive artistic items! So today the archive of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio is already a historical reality but beyond, as it recounts some of the history of contemporary theater, it is in fact looking to the future.



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Avra Xepapadaku is a lecturer at the Department of Philology at the University of Crete (GR).



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Eleni Papalexiou is a lecturer at the Department of Theatre Studies of the University of Peloponnese (GR).

Link:

arch-srs.com

Continue reading on our blog::

coop.hypotheses.org



info





© J. Huyghe

This photo shows the assembly of the Flemish catholic students' union **Algemeen Katholiek Vlaamsch Studentenverbond (AKVS)** in 1930. The document is from the archives of the ADVN, the headquarter of NISE.

Kicking off a transnational archive

National movements are historically transnational: national symbols, discourses and practices migrated across borders and were adapted to and appropriated in local contexts. They cannot be understood but in relation to and interaction with each other. A group of international scientific associations of scholars and institutes has understood this very well and founded NISE (National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe) – an ingenious and new way to carry research across all borders.

Research on national movements is mostly done without a comparative dimension, leaving theory formation on nationalism without sufficient empirical basis. One of the reasons for this is the general situation of the archives of nationalist parties, associations, groups and individuals: their private character necessitating extensive prospecting; authorities taking no interest; archival holders remaining suspicious of official bodies; etc. In not a few cases there has been no concerted and sustained effort to collect the records, documentation and information in a professional manner.

DIANE taking over

That is why the institutions and people behind NISE want to facilitate the comparative historiography of national movements in Europe with the help of centrally gathered and structured data in a research environment called DIANE (Digital Infrastructure for the Analysis of National movements in Europe). DIANE includes a heritage section in its remit and counts archival institutes among its users. As research can only be carried out, i.e. data gathered where sources are available, NISE helps safeguarding, preserving and disclosing

the archives of national movements. Archival projects to that avail have already been carried out regarding the archives of the political parties assembled in the European Free Alliance (EFA), resulting in a publication and a report, a specialised manual and a database, as well as action taken (by the Flying Archivist) on the ground in three cases – in the Basque Country, Sardinia and Moravia.

What NISE has to offer for archives

Other actions include an assessment of the situation for Kurdish archives in the Caucasus and, in collaboration with the international NGO "Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization" (UNPO), the promotion of archival awareness among indigenous peoples, minorities and occupied or unrecognised territories. NISE moreover offers a number of services to organisations and people involved with national movements: they pertain to record management and archival heritage, information processing and historiographical output – with as a last resort the possibility to keep archives temporarily at the ADVN in Antwerp. All source-related information (on archives, publications, materials) is to be linked in DIANE (which becomes operational

in 2016) with the data on the national movements. Finally, NISE is looking forward to connecting more than ever with fellow ICARUS members on projects, instruments, events and/or other initiatives. ■

Links:

"National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe" (NISE) and „Digital Infrastructure for the Analysis of National movements in Europe" (DIANE)

nise.eu

"Archive and Documentation Centre for Flemish Nationalism"

advn.be

"Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization" (UNPO)

unpo.org

Luc Boeva, former archivist at the ADVN, today coordinates the international association NISE and publishes on the theory formation of nationalism.



© ADVN



© ADVN

Coffee breaks are great opportunities to directly exchange knowledge and ideas like at the workshop "Archival awareness" in 2014, organized by NISE and UNPO.

Bavarian Brez'n, the court gardens and archive material

On 11 May, members of the ICARUS4all community travelled to Munich's Main Bavarian State Archives, which are in possession of nothing less but the "Ostarrichi Document". The many facets of a lively excursion.

Photos: Margarete Kowall

The distance between Vienna and Munich is 435 kilometres. 435 kilometres that gave a lively inkling of what was to follow during the day: Many exciting discussions about the participants' previous researches at archives, anecdotes and even plans for exhibitions! During their joint train journey, the ICARUS4all members as well as the members of the Advisory Board and the Executive Board discussed various topics on an equal footing, neither too scientific nor too popular. And it turned out that archivists are not at all serious and dull. The know-how that was exchanged ranged from regional details to historical expertise from almost every period. Archival material comes alive when people give it a voice and exchange ideas. Everyone has an archive in her or his head!



Julian Holzapfl from the General Directorate of the Bavarian State Archives welcomes the participants in front of the archives.

The archive as a centre of competence

After a short walk from Munich's central station to the Main Bavarian State Archives – passing by the Hofgarten (Court Gardens) and the Staatskanzlei (State Chancellery) – we reached our destination. Once we had strengthened ourselves at a buffet lunch, the "hard facts" were presented at a highly interesting tour. The Main Bavarian State Archives in Munich are responsible for the entire territory of the Free State of Bavaria. Apart from the Main Bavarian State Archives, with their head office also located at Schoenfeldstrasse, there are eight further Bavarian State Archives. In a presentation, the participants heard not only about historical issues, but also a lot about the self-perception of a modern archive. The Bavarian State Archives perceive themselves as centres of competence for citizens and experts from all over the world – responsible for all questions pertaining to archives. In addition, the archive is supporting historical-political education work.

Digitisation is a further important challenge which needs to be addressed by every archive. It results in new tasks such as the use of software programs to scan the archiving material with as much automation as possible. Despite all of their modernness, the Main Bavarian State Archives are located in an historical building. The neo-classical building constructed for King Ludwig I by Leo von Klenze between 1822 and

1830 was originally used as the Bavarian War Ministry. During World War II, it was destroyed and reconstructed as of 1964. Today, it holds 3,4 million pieces of archiving material, which together make for a length of 49 kilometres.

A school for archivists et al.

The Main Bavarian State Archives are dedicated to seeing the archive and its visitors as equals. The numerous opportunities for training and various information vents are a clear sign of this dedication. The Bavarian Archive School ("Bayerische Archivschule") is today the centre of training for future archivists in Bavaria. Its origins go back to the year 1821, when an "archival teaching institution" was founded within the "Königliches Allgemeines Reichsarchiv". Now, future archivists can complete their education in a two or three year programme with courses held on a regular basis. The degrees obtained qualify for entering the civil service career from the second up to the fourth qualification level – from archive secretary up to archive counsel. The archives also have a lot to offer for genealogists. The website of the Main Bavarian State Archives provides a guideline for genealogical research in Bavaria, the "Historical Atlas of Bavaria" and – especially helpful – the "Digitale Schriftkunde". In this online reading and training environment, a great number of examples in German and Latin can be used to practice the rea-





On a tour of the archives, the participants learned more about the self-perception of a modern archive as a center of competence for its users.

© Luiza Puiu



Margit Ksoll-Marcon has been head of the Bavarian State Archives since 2008, the same year in which the digitisation activities started.



Being introduced to a textbook for the study of old writings was particularly appreciated.

ding and deciphering of old writings. Starting in the 8th century while sitting in front of one's own computer, different types of archiving material, degrees of difficulty, regions and centuries can be browsed.

tria - "Österreich". I honestly admit that it was an impressive moment to see the "Ostarrîchi Document". The document, which is brief in content, was issued by Emperor Otto III and presented to Bishop Gottschalk von Hagenau of Freising, certifying the donation of the piece of land which has been home to many generations since. Learning about the document at school is one thing, seeing the original in real life is quite another.

cessful event where we met with many people. The various facets such as training and digitisation, the self-perception of a modern archive as well as exciting historical insights from an Austrian perspective merged into an interesting overall picture. ■

Austrian insights

As a group of Austrian visitors, we were particularly interested in the "Ostarrîchi Document". The document dated 1 November 996 holds the first known written mentioning of the name "Ostarrîchi", which later on developed into today's name for Aus-

Farewell with a personal gain

Getting in touch with the archivists and gaining insights into the archive made for a very special experience. The excursion was a highly suc-



Christoph Gestaltmeyr works as a religion, computer sciences and history teacher and is a hobby researcher.

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Press comments and letters to the editor

Dear readers!

For the **fourth** issue of **insights** we have again compiled a few press comments on **ICARUS**. We would also like to invite you to share your feedback with us – the “press comments and letters to the editor”-section is your space!

The topotheque is maturing

“The topotheque is providing a valuable contribution to the history of everyday life. ‘Quite often, photos or documents kept in private hands only last for a few generations. One day, a family member will throw them out. The great value of the topotheque lies in the fact that this material can be stored and made accessible here’, explains Thomas Aigner, President of ICARUS and Director of the St. Pölten Diocesan Archive. (...) Meanwhile, the topotheques of Lower Austria hold 50,000 objects, and these are indexed with 280,000 tags. ‘The topotheque has reached a technical limit which called for support. A short while ago we have therefore connected a much more powerful server’, explains Alexander Schatek from Wiener Neustadt, founder of the topotheque. The topotheque has also entered into a cooperation with the Provincial Archive of Lower Austria: The topotheque is becoming a project of the province.”

ORF Lower Austria

14 April 2016

Hannes Steindl

Making the invisible visible again!

“It’s noisy at the municipal archive of Himberg. The gentlemen present turn the two rooms full of filing cabinets, tables, copying machines and piles of archival material into a beehive. Even the 96-year-old founding father is calling in by phone. But everyone reassures: It’s a really quiet day. There are other Tuesday mornings with a lot more activity. Since the archive of Himberg has been “upgraded” to a topotheque, everyone can bring old photos, admission tickets, etc. over for scanning. (...) Former railwayman Franz Kowatschek, head of the municipal archive as well as the topotheque, is already 77 years old, but on excellent terms with the computer.”

“Universum” magazine

06 July 2016

Sabine Edith Braun

We are looking forward to your letters to: editor@icar-us.at

The power of open data at archives

“Next Monday, May 2, 2016, experts from various areas of the region’s cultural landscape will be discussing open access to data in the cultural field at a conference taking place at the Provincial Archive of Upper Austria. The event is organised by the Provincial Archive of Upper Austria as well as ICARUS, the International Centre for Archival Research, and the working group OpenGLAM. ‘The focus of the event will lie on the question how our archives can make their data accessible to the public – within the legal requirements and as comprehensively and easily as possible’, says Dr. Josef Pühringer, Cultural Officer and Governor. ‘I’m proud that this forward-oriented event on the topic ‘Open handling of digitised cultural assets’ is hosted by the archive of our province.”

Press service of the Province of Upper Austria

29 April 2016

“I have been receiving ‘insights’ through my institution, the Archives of the Republic of Srpska, and I very much enjoy the fact that there’s a magazine like this on archival topics. Next to a variety of journals, local and international, professional and academic, I find that following the latest archival stories through short pieces framed in a new, colorful setting, is quite refreshing. Looking forward to the upcoming issues!”

Vladan Vukliš

Archives of the Republic of Srpska (BiH)

Thomas Aigner in an interview with the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) at the kick-off event “The topotheque as a project of Lower Austria”.

© Dagmar Weidinger



Events

Detailed information on our events is available online on our homepage at: icar-us.eu/events

12-14 October 2016 · Vienna | Austria
Conference, St. Stephen's in Vienna
Tackling the visions behind the figural features of the Gothic-styled church St. Stephen's.

17-19 October 2016 · Budapest | Hungary
ICARUS-Meeting #18
International archives' network meeting discussing the future roles of archives for society.

18 October 2016 · Budapest | Hungary
International conference, "Hungaricana and beyond"
Information on the current Hungarian archival landscape, organized within the EU-funded project "co:op".

24-25 November · Marburg | Germany
Genealogy PLUS: Open Access
Exploration of inspiring and trendsetting developments and visions for genealogic research.

side note

We featured the German **Archive School Marburg – University of Applied Sciences for Archival Sciences** in our last issue. **Irmgard Christa Becker (Director of the Archive School Marburg)** asked us to add information on how the Archive School officially became a University of Applied Sciences: The title has been given to the institution by the Hessian Minister for Sciences and Arts as of 1 January 2012. Since 1 January 2013 this title is also noted in the Hessian Archives Act (§5). The public administration in Germany disposes of a variety of university titles which often don't actually hold the status of an university but realize the tasks of such an institution.

Read up on the article on our online blog:

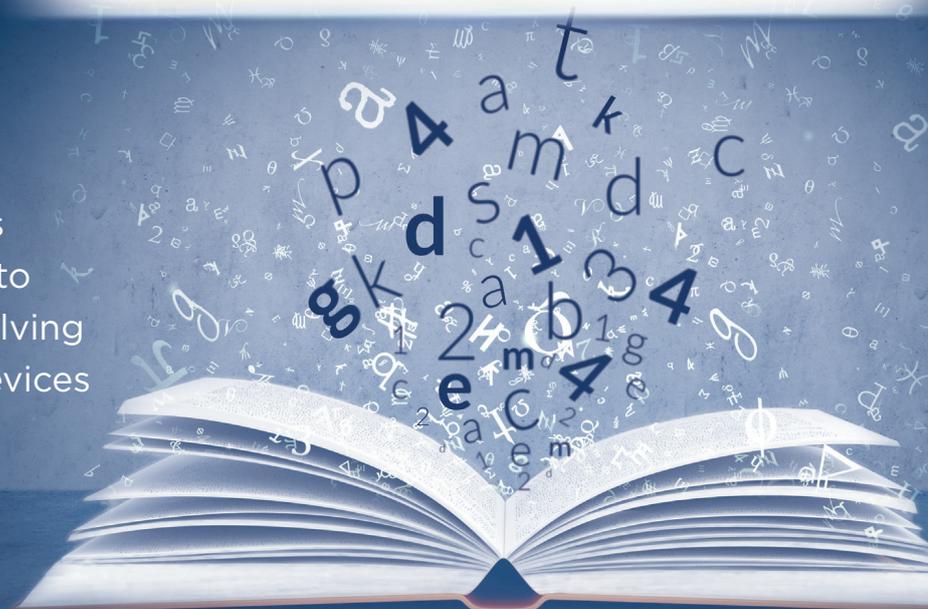
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