

## Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review

### **Résumé of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue:**

The main topic covers research opportunities in Hungarica materials. After Krisztina Arany's introductory review more studies follow regarding Hungarica archival materials in Slovakia and in Turkey, by István H. Németh and Éva Sz. Simon as well as a description of an archival study tour by Bálint Ternovác. This issue reports a paper on the last five years of scopeArchiv, the archival information system used by Hungarian public archives, by Sára Kohút and György Laczlavik. The reader will be also informed about the work and success of the Károlyi Research Team of the National Archives of Hungary, by György Laczlavik. Within the first issue, there is a writing on nobility research opportunities in the sources of Pest county, by Gyöngyi Berényiné Kovács. There is a report also about new archival publications and issues in 2018, by Aranka Konrád and lastly, two book reviews by József Ö. Kovács and László Brigovác.

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### **Krisztina Arany: Status, objectives and opportunities of Hungarica research in the National Archives of Hungary**

The so-called archival Hungarica research was initiated in Hungary during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Such research activities are carried out by the National Archives of Hungary for more than five decades already. This collection work resulted Hungarica archival material of eight million recordings on microfilm. Nowadays, the work broadened primarily to collecting digitized recordings. In order to make the work more systematic and organised, the National Archives of Hungary created a strategy on Hungarica research in 2015. Within its framework, a new Hungarica workgroup was also established in the institution. Main issue of the workgroup is to create a nationwide Hungarica register and to keep it up-to-date. For that, the IT support is provided by scopeArchiv. In the interest of successful work, contact with all partners – institutions, research groups or private researchers – is essential. In the last few years, regular contacts are facilitated by different support programmes and schemes, like *Mikes Kelemen Program*, between 2015 and 2019. Latter helped to make strong progress in archival Hungarica research. On the other hand, there is a need for a duly accredited coordination group with nationwide authority, in order to increase efficiency.

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### **Gyöngyi Berényiné Kovács: Exploration of archival sources in nobility research at the Pest County Archives, between 1901 and 1967**

Nowadays, genealogy thrives in Hungary. The situation was the same at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but mainly amongst noble families. Exploring family relations had a secondary role, as the main motivation was to proof the family's nobility and filiation. Consequently, these researches meant more serious attention to a collective archival

fond of nobility records. On the other hand, several other sources can be studied in nobility research, like conscriptions, county protocols or testaments. Archivists of the Pest County Archives created finding aids to help nobility researches, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are two leading archivists who helped this case prominently: Sándor Kőszeghi, who's monograph, *Nemesi családok Pest vármegyében (Noble families in Pest County)* is still the only monographic work on this issue and Domokos Kosáry, who's finding aids meant great help to the conscriptions' researchers.

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### **György Laczlavik: Károlyi Research Team in the National Archives of Hungary**

The Károlyi Research Team had been officially set up in the autumn of 2017. Main aim was to expand and broaden knowledge regarding a noble family with one of the richest cultural and political impact in Hungary. In this team, historians, specialists of collections and archivists are working together, from the whole territory of the Carpathian Basin. The idea of forming the research group originated from the workshop conference "*A Károlyi család történetének kutatási lehetőségei*" (*Research prospects of the history of the Károlyi family*) in Nyíregyháza, in the autumn of 2016. At that point, a plan of organising a similar and sequent workshop conference in every year was also decided between the members of the newly formed group. The team plans not only to carry out basic researches on the Károlyi family history and to publish its results, but to build databases as well, in order to provide an exploration of the Károlyis' past, as complete as possible. Next target is to establish a separate homepage of the research team, where all the results can be presented and disseminated in a wide range.

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### **Sára Kohút – György Laczlavik: The last five years of scopeArchiv in the National Archives of Hungary**

The IT system which provides to keep detailed registry and document management of paper-based and digitised archival records was established in 2013, within the framework of the Electronic Archival Project. The system consists of two core elements: *scopeArchiv*, a Swiss-developed registering program, and *Preservica*, an archiving system. Switching to the new IT system has not always been easy, due to time constraints. There was an initial delay in training colleagues at the county archives, until autumn of 2016. A new user manual was created during the summer of 2017, which proved significant assistance in the use of the new systems. However, the manual explained and clarified only the most necessary correlations and information. Moreover, the internal logic of the newly introduced expert system departed from the archival precedence used earlier in Hungarian archives. As a result, it is conceivable that another new expert system will be developed in the future, which can fit better to the national professional practice on one side and to international archival standards on the other side – even if the current IT system provides the best potential in register records electronically.

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## **István H. Németh: Early times of urban Reformation – Results and edifications of a thematic Hungarica study tour**

Researchers of early urban Reformation emphasize the importance of cities regarding the spreading of Luther's teachings. However, as a result of the relative weakness of Hungarian towns, this phenomenon attracted somewhat less attention in the literature so far, focusing mostly on the role of the nobility in dissemination of Protestantism. The *Reformation MNL* project provided a new opportunity to survey the archival records of the late royal free cities, in the area of present-day Slovakia. City archives of this territory keep rich and exemplarily registered archival material. During the study tour it had become clear that exploring and uncovering pre-20<sup>th</sup> century records in an appropriate level is only possible if a closer cooperation will take place between Slovakian and Hungarian archivists. It is also evident that despite the attempts to be comprehensive, 19<sup>th</sup> century archival source publications were not covering several record types, such as inventories and town protocols, even though these sources would modulate and specify the historical research significantly.

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## **Éva Sz. Simon: Current situation of Hungarica researches in Turkey**

The National Archives of Hungary and the Research Centre for the Humanities (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) – Institute of History closed the first period of their shared project on Ottoman studies, in 2018. As a result, a new relational database was created, that offers 16-17<sup>th</sup> century conscriptions from four Hungarian Sanjaks, so far. As a subsidiary element, a geo-spatial database was also created to provide visualisations too. This system became the first Hungarica database of the National Archives of Hungary. Although Hungarian conscriptions has been mostly destroyed in Hungary, a systematic data collection was still possible, because other issues of these conscriptions were kept in the centre of the Ottoman Empire. These issues remained luckily up to the present day. Taking into account the last few years researches and also previous researches in Turkey, it became clear that the Sanjak conscriptions remained almost completely and only few minor rectifications will be necessary. The amount of available archival sources has started to increase substantially, mostly with records of granting domains, and nominations as well as a digitised series of protocol books containing decrees of the Ottoman state council. According to the future plans, the database will be supplemented by the data of other Sanjak sources, which has not been processed so far.

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## **Bálint Ternovác: Archival research in Dubrovnik:**

I had the opportunity to become a visiting fellow in the town of Dubrovnik, in 2018. Main objective of my research was to study ecclesiastical history from the era and territory of the medieval Bosnia. Furthermore, I've studied relations between Bosnia and the medieval Ragusa (today Dubrovnik). Main experience of the study tour was exploring the

archives of Dubrovnik – they are very customer-friendly, and their service is very helpful, smooth and quick. On the other hand, finding aids of these archives shows some data-deficit, despite of the improvement of the situation. Their archival homepage offers also very few help to a foreign researcher.