

Résumé of the 3rd issue:

The introductory paper of issue 3 discusses the methods and development of records and documentation of real estate relations in Hungary up to the recent past, with a presentation of source types, by András Pál Oláh. In the section on church records, archives and document preservation, you will find a summary of the increasingly pressing problem of the records kept in the congregations of the Hungarian Evangelical Church and possible answers to it, by Eleonóra Kovács. The paper on the activities of the Information Office is equally important from the point of view of institutional history and the presentation of sources. It also provides the reader with the background of the management of culture before the change of regime, by Bence Csatári. The series of archival publications is enriched by a career profile of Mihály Jakab, an archivist from Bihar, by Tamás Szálkai, and a profile of János Román, the former director of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Archives, which provides useful information for the exploration of recent archival events, by Ádám Kurucz.

András Pál Oláh: From the land register to the real estate register

Although a series of documents on real estate relations dates back to the Middle Ages, an actual, continuous real estate register in Hungary can only be found from the second half of the 19th century. The first major national register was basically created in 1875 for the purpose of levying land tax, followed by the introduction of land registers. This led to a dual administrative system for the registration of real estate in the following decades. The establishment of a unified registration system and the merging of the previously parallel registers only started in the 1970s, at the same time as the establishment of the land registry system. The initial manual registration forms were replaced by an electronic registration system in 1994. In addition to outlining the above process, the paper will also present the types of sources that enable and facilitate this type of research.

Eleonóra Kovács: The need to save the documents – On the documents of the Hungarian Evangelical-Lutheran Church in the parishes

The archives of the Evangelical Church of Hungary are only partly kept by institutions, while a significant part of them is in the custody of parishes. This fact raises a number of professional questions for the collections management, and in some cases it is already a matter of concern for the parishes that keep the records. Standardisation of professional work, taking account of new research needs, safe preservation, the demand for digitised material and increased researchability are the challenges for the future, but the long-term safe preservation of the archives is a prerequisite for all these. The author of the paper outlines a possible way forward to this question, based on a number of preliminary studies, the opinions of archival colleagues and clergy, which could be the starting point for an effective records management plan and a joint work of professionals, in the future.

Bence Csatári: The press management work of the Information Office at the Hungarian Radio and Television in the second half of the 1950s

In the period of socialism, the one-party system in Hungary tried to keep the shaping of public opinion in its hands, and the most effective way to do this was to control mass communication. In

order to ensure the exercise of control, an operational body was needed to act as a link between the individual media actors and the party and state leadership. The Information Office was set up for this purpose, first in 1954 and then again in 1956, after its brief closure. In addition to exercising control over the various press products and the Hungarian Telegraph Office, the Office's tasks included supervising the Hungarian Radio and Television. The close relationship was not limited to the regulation of the programmes broadcast on radio and television, as the reports sent by the Hungarian Radio and Television often provided the authorities with important feedback on the public mood of the population.

Tamás Szálkai: The "living archive" of Bihar – The career of Mihály Jakab

The life of Mihály Jakab, archivist of Bihar, has been little known to the public, although his two decades of work have left a significant mark on the county archives. After obtaining his law degree, he entered the county service, working for a few years as a deputy notary and as a juror, before being appointed head of the archives office. During his tenure, he introduced three filing systems in his search for the best way to index records. He was a versatile individual, writing poetry, magazines, drama reviews as well as being active in cultural and public affairs. During the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-1849, he supported the Hungarian cause. He helped to arm the Bihar National Guard and became a member of the courts-martial of Bihar, for which he was sentenced to severe imprisonment. Although Mihály Jakab was released on amnesty a few years later, he was physically and mentally broken and died after a two-year illness. His life is an interesting archivist's career for later generations.

Ádám Kurucz: From a Reformed pastor to a Marxist historian and archives director - János Román, the first director of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Archives

The study deals with the career of János Román, the first director of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Archives. Growing up between the two world wars, János Román graduated as a pastor in Sárospatak, but apart from brief service as an assistant pastor, he did not stay in his original vocation. His interest turned to history during this period, and he became archivist at the Scientific Collections of Sárospatak, where he worked between 1950 and 1965. In 1965, he was reassigned to the Miskolc State Archives, and in 1968, when the county archives were established, he was appointed its first director. János Román dedicated his whole life to collecting, researching and organising sources. The results of his work are preserved in numerous studies, mainly on local history.