

Résumé of the 4th issue:

The introductory article of issue 4 presents the first experiences of a new professional initiative of the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security, the method and technical problems of e-research, and future directions of development, by Gergő Bendegúz Cseh. The publication by Gergely Tamás Kovács-Veres presents the experiences of the archival work with the documents of the nobility investigation, which are considered an important source for social and family history research, and also contains data on the history of archives. A study on public collections, document collection and corporate documents joins the topic already discussed in previous issues, this time dealing with the case of a specific institution, the Láng Gépgyár (Láng Machine Factory), by László Köcze. Tamás Szálkai's article is published in the archival history section, which also includes excerpts from a recently discovered source, the travel diary of archivist Gábor Herpay. The professional and biographical details in the article are particularly remarkable. In the field of Hungarika research, a study in the issue's Outlook section provides an overview of the sources on the history of relations between Habsburg Netherlands and the Kingdom of Hungary, by Tibor Monostori. Issue 4 concludes with reports on associations and a bibliography of Hungarian-related publications published outside Hungary between 2015-2020.

Bendegúz Gergő Cseh: E-research in the archives of the secret service

The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security have been digitising its archives since 1997. As a result, more than 5 million pages of documents have been digitally copied to this day. Since 2013, these materials have been made available to researchers within the institution. In 2019, the implementation of an online research service was an integral part of the archives' strategic plan for the next 7 years. The Covid epidemic has accelerated this process, and from 2021 onwards, it is now possible to explore the archives' holdings online. The study outlines the experience gained so far with online research and describes the problems to be solved and the development directions that will be the task for the coming years.

Gergely Tamás Kovács-Veres: Verification of nobility in Nitra County in 1754-1755

The nobility investigations of the 18th century are still unprocessed in their full extent. It was at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries that the first works were published, which raised the need for a more thorough treatment of the investigations and sought to provide guidance for those who wished to prove their nobility in the modern age. At the same time, archives published their first source works on the subject. In this paper, the author highlights one of these, the series of publications by János Romhányi. Although he did not manage to complete his work, the documents relating to nearly 500 families that he has examined allow us to gain a better insight into the world of 18th century attestations. The descriptions of each family allow statistical analyses to be carried out in order to distinguish more precisely between the landed and 'common' nobility, the doubtful and the doubtless nobles. We can also trace the institutional history of the nobility inquiries by looking at who and what type of documents were used in the inquiries.

László Köcze: Public collections, document collections and corporate documents: the history of the documents of the Láng Gépgyár (Láng Machine Factory)

In parallel with the presentation of the past of the Láng Machine Factory, the study also aims to outline the fate of the documents produced by the factory. The first archival contacts were made in the 1950s. During this period, a considerable amount of archival material relating to the factory's pre-World War II period was preserved. However, due to the lack of adequate research into the operational structure of the factory, only a fraction of the factory's archival material of historical value has been preserved in archives. Another part of the company's documents - mainly photographic material and technical drawings - was taken over by various museums. After the change of regime, when the company was privatised, during the period of continuous restructuring, most of the documents kept in the company archives were destroyed and only a fraction of them were preserved in various public collections.

Tamás Szálkai: 'These Germans do everything with dumplings!' – Gábor Herpay, archivist of the Hajdúság region (1915)

Gábor Herpay's name is known to researchers of local and family history of Hajdúság through his books. His archival work has also been covered, but a travel diary that has been missing until now presents the archivist of Debrecen City and later Hajdú County Archives from a new perspective, as he also recorded his gastronomic experiences during his official travels. Herpay studied to become a Reformed pastor, taught and then completed a doctorate in humanities. The study trip was planned in connection with the reform of the Debrecen City Archives, with the aim of familiarising Herpay with the archival systems of the National Archives in Budapest, the Haus-, Hof-, und Staatsarchiv in Vienna and the Transylvanian Museum Association in Cluj (Kolozsvár). The travel diary also refers to the archivist's family and friends, the sights of the cities visited and the food the archivist ate in those cities.

Tibor Monostori: Besançon and Brussels. Early modern sources for the history of relations between Habsburg Netherlands and the Kingdom of Hungary (16th–17th centuries)

The early modern material of the Royal – now: National – Archives in Brussels and the Besançon Archives has not been systematically examined from the Hungarian side, since the 19th century research of Mihály Hatvani (Horváth). The present study aims to draw attention to the sources concerning Hungarian nobles and hussars in the Low Countries or Burgundy, as well as to the rich documents on church, military, diplomatic and economic history, coronations, the Holy Crown and ceremonies related to Hungarian royalty.