Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review - 2022

Résumé of the 1st issue:

The first issue of Archival Review 2022 opens with a report by Gergő Bendegúz Cseh on on his work and audit experiences in 2021. The previously discussed topic of private records' collection continues with the theoretically and pragmatic study by Ágnes Nagy. In our archival history section András Sipos' article deals with the current issues of archival terminology the context of the well-known archival textbook, Győző Ember's lexicon of terminology, which continues the analysis of a previously discussed era. The article by Eszter Gaálné Barcs and Szilveszter Dékány on the Historical Archives of the European Union and the report by Adrien P. Holl on archival cooperation in the field of archival preservation in the Visegrad Group are part of the section on international perspectives. Petra Gabriella Czégé's article on her experiences at the Békés County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary is also related to the topic of preservation. In our series on new and transforming institutions, Xénia Jonica gives an overview of the newly established Franciscan Archives of Transylvania. The issue is completed by a bibliography of archival publications for 2021, and concludes with a presentation of the permanent exhibition of the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security by Eszter Anita Tóth.

Ágnes Nagy: The documentary universe of private life – Theoretical considerations and practical experiences in the field of private documentary collection – Part II.

Collecting private records has not been the focus of archival theory either in an international or a Hungarian context, even though the practice of collecting itself is indeed very much present. At the same time, its intensive relationship with society calls for the development of a social science approach to both collecting and handling. Choosing the society-centred conception among the competing interpretations of archival science, the study identifies theoretical orientation points such as the international archival literature, which regards the creation and preservation of private records as a social practice since the 1990s, and which aims to extend archival thinking on forms of documentation and record-keeping systems to the field of private records.

The study focuses on the social context of the creation, use and preservation of private collections in the Budapest City Archives, considering the different phases of the collection process. Its approach is based on the idea that family archival records are tools of self-identification, self-representation and the creation of family memory, and their archival management must therefore be based on this practice. (The first part of this study is available in the second issue of Archival Review 2021.)

András Sipos: The terminological lexicon of Győző Ember and contemporary problems of archival terminology

Győző Ember's lexicon is internationally renowned for its level of detail and the high number of entries. The work was published in 1982. The present study introduces the reader not only to the circumstances of the lexicon's creation and to Győző Ember's theoretical principles, but also to its international and national origins. It also uses a typical archival concept (record, fond) to show how

relevant Győző Ember's definitions are today, when the explosive development of Information Technology has caused fundamental changes in the way we think about certain archival concepts. In his summary, the author positions the significance of Győző Ember's work in the present, and at the same time indicates that Hungarian archives are still in need of a reconsidered, modern terminology that is adapted to the present.

Eszter Gaálné Barcs – Szilveszter Dékány: Visit to the Historical Archives of the European Union

The Historical Archives of the European Union based in Florence is still relatively unknown among Hungarian archivists and researchers. It was founded in 1986 with the aim of presenting the process of European integration and collecting, preserving and organizing the most important documents related to the European Union in one place. The archives' entire holdings are divided into four main sections: EU institutions; private individuals; corporate bodies; archival collections. The material collected over the decades is enhanced by a significant collection of photographs, as well as sound and film archives. The institution is also at the forefront of digitization and database management. Its preserved material is essential for any researcher interested in the process and history of European integration.

Adrien P. Holl: The Visegrad Group's cooperation in the field of conservation

In 2020, the Budapest City Archives successfully applied to the Visegrad Fund for a conservation project with partner institutions from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland. In addition to the mutual exchange of experience, the aim of the project is to produce a five-language conservation glossary as well as a common emergency protocol. Two workshops have been organized so far in Budapest and Prague. The experience gained from the latter event has clearly shown that the Hungarian conservation field is considerably behind the neighbouring countries in terms of technical equipment, but as a result of the joint work, scientific research results available abroad can be adapted to the Hungarian conditions.

Petra Gabriella Czégé: Preservation at the Békés County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary

This study is an attempt to describe the conservation activities of the Békés County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary. In addition to a brief description of the two premises of the institution, the author reviews the forms of preventive conservation available locally, including the conditions of the storage facilities and the steps taken to create and preserve an optimal environment. In preventive conservation, the human factor is a key element. All professional employees are involved in preservation activities, starting with the handling of records. The importance of this is illustrated by a few examples. In the following part of the article, the activities of the conservation workshop are outlined in the context of damage restoration. Every year, dozens of volumes and fragile records are restored to a searchable condition. All this was possible thanks to grants over the last 20-25 years. The final conclusion is that conservation is still an essential part of the archival work to this day.

Xénia Jonica: Introduction of the newly established Transylvanian Franciscan Archives

The idea of collecting the remaining documents relating to the past of the Franciscan monasteries in Transylvania was first raised in 2016, which could be used to create a separate archive. The project started in 2017. The study introduces the reader to the history of the Transylvanian Franciscans, the process of collecting and organizing the records as well as the results already achieved, and briefly outlines the institution's plans for the near future.