Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review - 2022

Résumé of the 3rd issue:

The opening essay of the 3rd issue, written by Viktor Haraszti, describes in detail the legal regulation of archival disposal in Hungary, from common law to the rules and regulations. Balázs Sallai's article introduces the reader to the procedures and types of records in the field of certification procedures, with reference to Hajdú-Bihar County. In connection with the previously published archival pedagogical reviews of state institutions, Rita-Magdolna Bernád's report on the work of the Archdiocesan Archives of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) and Zsolt Osváth's article on the registration of documents in the custody of congregations are among the presentations given at the convention of Hungarian Church Archivists. The latter also adds to a topic already discussed in relation to other denominations. The issue also contains a summary of several successful projects of the Association of Hungarian Archivists: the educational videos for archivists on a wide range of professional topics by Csaba Fehér, the renewed Hungarian Archives Portal by Katalin Toma and the latest edition of the volume Archives of Hungary by Árpád Tyekvicska. The issue closes with reports on the conventions of the Association of Hungarian Archivists as well as the archivists' associations of ecclesiastical archives and archives of higher education.

Viktor Haraszti: The legal regulation of disposal in Hungary from customary law to regulatory orders

Disposal is the most responsible part of archival work, as it decides which records will be accessible to future generations and which will not. The author explores the legal regulation of the disposal of historical records, tracing its historical background from the Middle Ages onwards. In the early period, the key factor was whether the legal document still fulfilled its function. If it no longer had any administrative value, it was discarded or recycled. This practice essentially continued until the end of the 18th century. Although during absolutism, scrapping became more and more common, there were still no detailed central instructions on how to carry it out. In the 19th century, regulations on disposals began to be issued, although they did not contain detailed instructions. But there was a positive trend towards a wider consideration of historical value. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, professional supervision of the National Archives also began to be required in principle. At the beginning of the 20th century, the first extensive rules of administration were published, which also dealt with the issue of disposal, but due to the low level of professional enforcement of the archives, these decades were not about thoroughly planned and professionally implemented disposals.

Balázs Sallai: "They aimed to disrupt the existing social order" – Justification proceedings in Debrecen (1919–1920)

The article focuses on a small segment of the post-1920 "wave of impeachment", the so-called justification procedure and its documents. In addition to general historical statements and the legal background, the author uses archival sources to examine the workings of the Justification Committee of the Debrecen Law Court as an illustration of the practice of law. The study deals

with the procedural practice of this commission, its substantive and formal interpretation of the law and the nature of the sanctions it imposed.

Rita-Magdolna Bernád: A new challenge for the archival profession: archival pedagogy – Activities for children at the Archdiocesan Archives of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia)

The Archdiocesan Archives of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) have been running archival courses and workshops since the mid-2010s. For this purpose, a four-hour thematic programme was developed in 2016, which was later extended to include regular one-week archival camps. The sessions are organised around eight different activities: visiting collections, making diplomas and records, Hungarian palaeography, preparing books, leatherwork, learning about preservation techniques, folding envelopes and boxes. The feedback from the visits carried out has been positive, and efforts are being made to expand the range of activities to meet the requests expressed, in order to enable more students to get to know the archival records and the work carried out there.

Zsolt Osváth: The Calvinist Collection Treasury - An example from North Pest

The synodal decree on the protection of the cultural heritage of the Reformed Church in Hungary has been in force since 2017. This decree laid down the obligation to create parish treasuries. It also specified what exactly should be included in each of the treasuries. The present study summarises the experience gained from the development of such collections. Among the lessons learned, it is worth highlighting the need for a separate survey to map the archival material preserved, which should also include the archival material of schools and other institutions under church administration. Once the treasuries of all the dioceses have been compiled, it would be possible to compare them at national level and draw conclusions for the entire diocesan collection.

Csaba Fehér: Educational videos for archivists - a project of the Association of Hungarian Archivists

In 2022, the Association of Hungarian Archivists successfully applied for the implementation of an educational project aimed at presenting the latest Hungarian practices in several topics to the archival professional community. In the framework of the project, a total of six educational videos were produced, covering the following topics: conservation methods, exhibition organisation, development of archival pedagogical activities, genealogical research, event organisation, and institutional marketing. This article describes the videos individually and evaluates the project as a whole.