

Résumé of the 1st issue:

The introductory essay of issue 1 of the Archives Review 2023 is the second publication of a previously started topic, which examines the development of document discarding in Hungary and describes the background of the processes (Viktor Haraszti). Bence Csatári's study presents a slice of the popular music life of the Kádár regime, the organization of popular music programs, which provides a valuable summary of the sources, collections, and data used. This issue also includes two studies on Hungarika research. The first describes one of the valuable source collections of the Hungarian emigration in Rome, the archives of the Hungarian National Committee's office in Rome in the years 1950-1958 (Imre László Németh), while the second gives an overview of the Hungarian party and government delegation's trip to East Berlin in June 1966 (Balázs Wencz), while at the same time discussing the most important domestic and foreign sources of this research topic and their availability. The topic of our archival history column in this issue is an episode of 1924 from the life of István Szabó, the editor-in-chief of the Archives' Bulletin, who was also one of the most outstanding and groundbreaking figures of 20th-century Hungarian historiography. This issue also includes an article summarising the findings of an international conference, book reviews, and a bibliography of archival publications for 2022.

Viktor Haraszti: The Legal Regulation of Scrapping in Hungary II - From the Decree-Laws to the Statutory Regulation

Scrapping archives and records is the most responsible task because it is irreversible. The lack of space and the state's economic interest in recycling paper often came at the expense of cultural interests. Legislation can provide a delicate balance, but only if the rules are respected. At the start of the 20th century, the regulation of document disposal was immature, haphazard, and not based on the same principles, even for central government departments. In the reviewed period, there was no uniform legal regulation on scrapping. The established archivist positions in the counties and the cities of jurisdiction widely included filing clerk duties as well. In the case of the towns and villages, the scrapping was even less regulated, neither the archivists had the same level of qualification, and therefore in many cases, the documents were damaged during the scrapping. The Act XXI of 1947 on the regulation of archives did not sufficiently address the issue of the disposal of documents. In the late 1940s, the "paper famine" of the economy overrode all regulations and caused considerable destruction of historical documents.

(The first part of the study can be found in issue 3 (volume 72) of the journal 2022.)

Bence Csatári: The downsides of popular music program organization in the new economic mechanism

The study seeks to answer the question of how the impresarios organised popular music in the new economic mechanism, in an environment where the National Organising Bureau (ORI) had a monopoly in this respect. The article's main theme is the description of the party-state sanctioning procedure for abuses during private performances, in which not only the ORI but also the National Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ministry of Culture were involved, according to a set order. It analyses the activities of private promoters who are hardly present in the public

consciousness today, but without whom the popular music scene of the Kádár regime would not have functioned. The analysis will mainly focus on how these musical backers tried to find their artistic and financial reckoning, and the sanctions applied to them during the process. The study also looks at which archival sources provide information on this subject.

László Imre Németh: The Archives of the Roman Office of the Hungarian National Committee 1950-1958

The archives of the Hungarian National Commission in Rome were discovered in the basement of the St. Stephen's pilgrimage house in the early 2000s. In 2021, the 8500 pages of documents, organized and indexed, were transferred to the Primate Archives. Office documents, correspondence with natural persons and institutions, as well as press materials, make up the collection of documents. The organization, established in New York in 1949, opened its office in 1950. The leader of the organization was Baron Gábor Apor while Endre Hlatky held the position of office manager. Assisted by the press officer, daily press releases related to Hungary were sent to headquarters. They assisted Hungarian refugees living in the camps, especially during the wave of refugees following the 1956 revolution, by rotating speakers of refugee affairs. Those who emigrated at that time were called new refugees. The office stopped operating in 1958. The archives contain valuable information on Hungarian emigration from Rome between 1950 and 1958.

Tamás Szálkai: An archival episode in Debrecen from 1924 - Dr. István Szabó resigns from his position as city archivist

István Szabó was one of the outstanding figures of 20th-century Hungarian historiography, and as an archivist, he was editor-in-chief of the Archives Bulletin between 1935 and 1943. On the 125th anniversary of the birth of the source publication, this study commemorates it by reviving an episode related to the beginning of the archivist's career in Debrecen. The economic difficulties following the First World War also left their mark on the activities of the public administration and the archives operating under it. Unfortunately, due to the war, progress in the archives sector was halted and the workforce couldn't be increased to cope with the growing number of tasks. The city archives in Debrecen also inhibited István Szabó from being promoted locally, which was not an uncommon occurrence. However, this obstacle turned out to be a turning point in his career, leading to new opportunities and professional fulfillment.

Balázs Wencz: The Hungarian Party and Government Delegation's Trip to East Berlin in June 1966

The study aims to provide an overview of the Hungarian party and government delegation's trip to East Berlin in June 1966. János Kádár, First Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Walter Ulbricht, leader of the German Socialist Unity Party, held their first official talks since the East German party delegation spent a week in Hungary in May 1964. During the five-day visit, the Hungarian party and government delegation did not sign any long-term treaties or cooperation agreements but only issued a joint statement. The visit mainly aimed to enhance cooperation between the two parties and to agree on long-term goals, mainly in the economic, cultural, and scientific-technical fields.