

## *Levéltári Szemle / Archival Review – 2023*

### *Résumé of the 2nd issue:*

Issue 2 of the Archives Review 2023 introduces the report on the work and experiences of the Archives Inspectorate 2022 (Gergő Bendegúz Cseh). From time to time we report on current archival projects, in this case, a study presents the Hungarian National Archives' project on processing gendarmerie cartons. (Ildikó Szerényi). The review also summarizes valuable experiences regarding two new archival areas: it draws lessons from the experiences of involving volunteers and the use of artificial intelligence. In the future, electronic form-made archival aids will play an increasingly important role in archival work, and Attila Brunner's article describes the professional way, experiences, and usability of this - in research and archival work and processing - by a concrete example. The study provides a systematic analysis of the issues and problems raised by the collecting area tasks and summarises the experiences of higher education archives in this field based on questionnaire data collection (Zsolt Osváth). The summary presents the current state of this archival field in these types of institutions, citing several instructive concrete responses. As part of a series of publications on the history of archives, a study can be found on the life, professional background, and work of Antal Andrassy, an archivist from Somogy County who played a significant role in the history of the institution (Péter Farkas). The rest of the issue contains conference reports, book reviews, association reports (Council of the Leaders of Hungarian Archives, Archival Publication and Exhibition of the Year), and a Chronicle summarising the most important events of the first half of the year.

### *Ildikó Szerényi: The gendarmerie cardboard project*

In 2021, the Hungarian National Archives launched a project to bring the 1828 national census database to life with the help of volunteers and artificial intelligence. Encouraged by the success of the project, the idea of processing gendarmerie cartons was formulated. The digital collection, purchased in 2011, contains the records of some 60,000 people in Hungary who were monitored between the two world wars. A total of 70 volunteers took part in the processing, recording a total of 9 fields of information on the questionnaires. The resulting database was made public in April 2023. However, the project is not yet finished with this. Important further tasks to filter out persons recorded more than once, standardizing their data, as well as linking the persons in the database with the information in the Party-State-Party database published in 2018. In addition to the current status of the project and the remaining tasks, the paper describes the experience of the work so far.

### *Attila Brunner: Archival aid as a database - Analysis of the construction files of Nagykőrös and Kiskunfélegyháza*

One of the great advantages of organizing archival aids into a database is that it can reveal contexts that traditional methods cannot, or only at a high cost. The study aims to illustrate the validity of this claim through a quantitative analysis of the construction files of Nagykőrös and Kiskunfélegyháza. In addition to the spatial and temporal changes of the architectural works of the examined period, the analysis substantively examines the distribution of the buildings' spatial location reflecting the Art Nouveau effect, as well as the reasons for this. A new set of sources, including the issued industrial permits, also attempts to compare the

relationship and impact of construction processes and architectural businesses in the two cities. In the future, the electronic production of archival aids may allow more and more processing of this kind.

***Zsolt Osváth: Collecting area challenges of higher education archives***

The paper explores the issue indicated in the title in great depth. The information gathered is based on the responses to an 8-question questionnaire, in which the author summarises several important issues in detail. In higher education archives, insufficient human resources, limited storage capacity, or the relatively marginalized position of the archives within the institution can make it difficult to carry out effective collection area work. In addition to the above-mentioned three main obstacles, the analysis of the questionnaire responses also provides the reader with insight into the following areas: difficulties in receiving electronic documents, the problem of private document legacies, and the inadequate culture of document originators' writing management. Despite the difficulties, the conclusion is positive, as the professionalism and dedication of the archives and their staff, as well as the supportive attitude of the maintainers, are indisputable.

***Péter Farkas: Career profile of Antal Andrásy, chief archivist, director of archives***

Antal Andrásy (1934-1990) was one of the most influential Somogy archivists and local historians of the second half of the 20th century. After a brief start in a museum, his career in a public collection was fulfilled as an archivist. He first worked as the head of the Somogy County party archives of the MSZMP, then as the chief archivist of the Somogy County Archives, and later for a short period as its director. With Antal Andrásy's tragic and sudden death in 1990, Somogy County lost one of the most important archivists and a local historian of its time who worked in extremely rich genre frameworks. Despite being motivated in many cases by the ideology of the party-state, his accuracy and his deep and thorough knowledge of the various archival units and documents, as well as his extensive collection of sources, can serve as a good example for his later successors. His work in the Somogy County Archives of the MNL, collecting, organizing, and annotating documents that go far beyond the personal collection that bears his name, is still an indispensable aid for academic and amateur researchers who wish to investigate the history of 19th-20th century Somogy.