

Archival Review, Issue 4 (2025)

The lead article in issue 4 of the journal for 2025 discusses a topic of practical importance – archival appraisal, arrangement, and the creation of finding aids (Ákos Ámik) – based primarily on experiences in Pest County, although it also provides an overview of the activities of institutions in other counties. Two of the workshop papers deal with one of the main topics of the 2025 travelling conference of the Association of Hungarian Archivists (MLE), namely archives and science. Norbert Péter Kiss presents examples from Somogy County regarding the significance, processing, and enrichment of literary legacies, while Eleonóra Kovács writes about the appearance of archivists and archives in literary guise in connection with the bicentenary of Jókai's birth. Gábor Széll's study on archival pedagogy is not only a good example of how to teach young people about the Holocaust using archival documents, but also an instructive practical example of cooperation between a school and an archive. The issue concludes with reports from various associations (Association of Hungarian Archivists – MLE; Association of Hungarian Church Archivists – MELTE; Association of the Archives of Hungarian Higher Education – MFLSZ; Association of Young Archivists – FLE) and the Chronicle section. The latter (published twice a year) discusses the most important news in archival life in a single paragraph, thus creating a balance between news from different types of institutions.

Ákos Ámik: Archival appraisal, arrangement, and the creation of finding aids for documents from the dualist era in the Pest County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary

The study presents the appraisal, arrangement, and finding-aid creation practices carried out at the Pest County Archives of the Hungarian National Archives (MNL) using the example of two important document collections held by the institution: the documents of the chief magistrate and the deputy magistrate. Although the need for professional appraisal arose within the profession in Hungary as early as the 1930s, in practice this only took place after World War II in the case of the institution under review. However, during the actual appraisal process, an overly mechanical procedure was followed, which led to the destruction of valuable document collections. The arrangement was carried out in parallel with the appraisal, resulting in the current order of the documents. Starting in the 1950s, guides were also prepared for the now organized document collections. At this time, the basic finding aids were compiled, along with the fonds and inventory lists, and the publication of the repertoires for the individual fonds was begun. In recent times, databases that increasingly comply with modern archival standards have been helping researchers

find their way around, but until recently, previously compiled repertoires provided significant assistance in filling in the data fields.

Péter Norbert Kiss: Literary Legacies in the Somogy County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary

Although archives are not the primary custodians of literary legacies, they sometimes acquire collections of this kind if the deceased person was a writer or otherwise active in literary life. The study presents the characteristics of these document collections and the most important lessons learned from their arrangement through the presentation of literary document collections preserved in the Somogy County Archives of the National Archives of Hungary. It also seeks to show how researchers can exploit the source value of the processed archival material after its arrangement. The information provided here may be useful for similar archival arrangement work carried out in other archives.

Eleonóra Kovács: Archives and Archivists in the Novels of Mór Jókai

On the 200th anniversary of Mór Jókai's birth, researchers examined many areas of the writer's work. The author's extensive oeuvre covers a wide range of topics, including various offices, institutions, and archives. Jókai, who was well versed in law and county administration, often included information and references in his works relating to archives and the work of those who had access to the documents stored there. He was preoccupied with the wealth of data contained in the archives, and documents necessary for legal certainty and court proceedings, inheritance, and proof of nobility as an official procedure often form part of the plot of his novels. The archive as a repository of historical values and a place for family history research also appears. The study summarizes how a writer familiar with archival research evaluated the archives and the work done there.

Gábor Széll: Researching the victims of the Holocaust in Csongrád with high school students – A joint project of the Csongrád Archives and Batsányi High School

The report presents the story of an exemplary collaboration. In 2024, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust. In connection with this, the Csongrád branch of the National Archives of Hungary's Csongrád-Csanád County Archives joined forces with the local Batsányi High School to implement a joint project. As part of this, participating students at the school attempted to compile as complete a collection of data as possible on the victims of the Holocaust in Csongrád. In preparation for the project, special history

lessons were held at the school, which focused on teaching about the Holocaust and presenting the history of Hungarian Jewry. This was followed by the actual implementation of the project, which resulted in the publication of a commemorative book about the victims of the Holocaust in Csongrád. The joint work did not end with the publication of the volume; those involved in the project hope that further research will expand and successfully uncover currently unknown data.