

# REVIEWS

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PAVLOVIČ, RICHARD (ED.). *70 ROKOV ŠTÁTNEHO ARCHÍVU V KOŠICIACH* [70 YEARS OF THE STATE ARCHIVE IN KOŠICE]. KOŠICE: MINISTERSTVO VNÚTRA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY, ŠTÁTNY ARCHÍV V KOŠICIACH, 2021.

In 1951, the Košice Regional Archive was established in Košice, taking over the material and resources of the historical district archives, and was later transformed into the State Archive, under which name it continues to operate. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of its foundation, a team of authors working there today published a representative monograph presenting the history of this institution together with examples of the sources it contains.

The monograph is divided into several thematic sections: the history of archival institutions, archival personalities, buildings and symbols, and curiosities and rare documents. The authors have taken the approach of recounting the history of the archives and their predecessors through selected examples of archival documents and brief commentaries.

The institutional history of the archive is presented in chapters, which are further divided thematically and chronologically according to the individual institutions that preceded the present archive. The reader is acquainted with the development and activities of the historical predecessors of the State Archive, which were the Archives of the Abov, Turňa and Abov-Turňa County from the seventeenth century to 1922, the Archives of the Košice County from 1923 to 1928 and the Archives of Abov-Turňa County from 1938 to 1945. After the provisional period (1945–1951), the establishment of the State Archive was preceded by the establishment of the branch of the Agricultural Archive. In connection with the new territorial division, the Regional Archive was established in 1951, which took over the documents of the former county archives and was finally transformed into the State Archive in 1954. The history of each institution is illustrated by the archival documents resulting from the activities of the territorial units – first the historical counties and later, in the twentieth century, the modern counties and regions. Particularly attractive are the sources from the older period – maps, municipal minutes, and oaths of county officials. The origin and function of these texts are explained by short commentaries, which also indicate the fund in which the documents are kept. Among the documents relating to the functioning of the institution in the twentieth century there are also various regulations of the state authorities concerning the functioning of the archives, the removal of documents and the material maintenance of the institution. The published documents from the period of the Slovak state also relate to political events. Documents from the period after the Second World War testify to efforts to consolidate the conditions in the archives, the return of documents from Hungary and the introduction of new collections into the archives.

In addition to the institutional history, the monograph includes a chapter on the staffing of the archives, “The Populated Archive”, in which the older history is presented in the form of a timeline with a list of names of the heads of the archives and senior staff from the second half of the twentieth century onwards, which is also brought to life through photographs. Imaginative graphic design gives the reader an overview of the staff of the archives from the second half of the twentieth century to the present day. A natural part of historical research into the history of institutions is research into the buildings and architecture in which they were housed. The chapter “Buildings and Symbols” presents plans and old photographs of the buildings that housed the predecessors of the current State Archive, and also discusses the history of the building in Bačikova Street, which is the current location of the State Archive.

The history of the archive is presented in an interesting way by means of its boards and letterheads, which reflect the changes in the name of the institution over the different periods. A separate chapter is devoted to the seals, typaria and stamps of the institutions that preceded the current State Archive. The reader will be able to see, in excellent quality, the nineteenth century seal of the Archive of the Abov County, the stamp of its archivist and various stamps from the twentieth century through to the current official stamp of the archive, as well as its heraldic emblem and logo.

The most interesting chapter is probably the one about curiosities and valuable documents of the archive. There are examples of documents connected with important personalities of

Slovak and European history – Rudolf Viest, Sara Salkházi, Viktor Hugo. A separate section is devoted to people connected with Košice. The State Archive in Košice also possesses individual items of particular importance for research into Slovak and Hungarian history – a medieval liturgical fragment, a letter from the Pasha of Eger from 1640, a charter with the coat of arms of nobleman Michal Fischer and a collection of photographs from the Semsey family archive.

The publication *70 Years of the State Archive in Košice* is not a scientific monograph on the history of the archive and archiving in the city of Košice, but it brings the history of this institution closer to the readers through the sources kept in the archives. Its exceptional graphic design, together with its well-crafted content, has a chance to reach a wide spectrum of readers, from generally interested people to specialist historians. It is hoped, that it will open up avenues for research into the history of the archives in Slovakia and the documents they hold.

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