

September 24th – 26th 2015
Ljubljana, Slovenia

TOGETHER

1st International Conference of State Archives from Slavic countries

World War I

ORGANISERS



PARTNERS



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Andreja Rihter

Director of
Forum of Slavic culture

The international foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures joined the first gatherings of archivists from Slavic countries years ago, when they took place at the initiative of Peter Pavel Klasinc. The meetings took place in Ljubljana, Lipica and Trieste, providing archivists the opportunity to share their experience.

As it is FSK's mission to innervate the creativity of Slavic cultures, bring together institutions and individuals, and allow them to further develop their expertise through diverse activities, meetings and good practices, we made the first step toward bringing together archives from the Slavic region in 2013 with our first integration project, the joint exhibition Slavic Capitals in 2D (which opened at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris). The first international conference Together is therefore a step forward in our efforts to build professional bonds and appear together among the professional and general public outside the borders of Slavic countries. Recently, archives have increasingly become cultural institutions that have opened their doors and allowed access to the unknown that had been hiding among the known; they have learned how

to present the previously frequently hidden archive material in an open, contemporary manner.

WW1 offers itself as the best subject for the discussion on the preservation of archive material and digitalisation that we aim to complete by the centenary of its end in 2018.

At FSK we are convinced that based on the stories "safely kept" in archives, our common stories of the present are the stories of future success. On the other hand, professional liaisons and exchange of good practices in the Slavic region and beyond serve as the path to getting to know each other and the Slavic cultures in the European and global cultural arena.



Bojan Cvelfar

Director of Archives
of the Republic of Slovenia

The purpose of the 1st International Conference of State Archives from Slavic Countries is to bring the participating archives closer together and share experience. The theme for the first conference of this kind was not particularly difficult to choose, since almost all European countries have recently been commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War I. Archives have also been more or less actively involved in such commemorations.

Archives are treasuries of memory, including the memory as painful as that of World War I, or the Great War as it came to be known upon its completion. The war ended with the loss of too many lives, leaving behind staggering devastation in the countries involved. Nevertheless, it also left behind archival documents that bear witness to those difficult times. Many of such documents have been preserved by the archives of Slavic countries that were all but spared from the horrors of war. I have no doubt that the conference will not only showcase the variety and importance of the documents kept by Slovenian archives, but also present how these documents are processed and made available to our users.

It is therefore my belief that the theme we have chosen is very much appropriate for the first conference and I sincerely hope we will see the conference evolve into a traditional event, one that in the years to come will tackle many other important professional issues and dilemmas to which there seems to be no end.

PARTICIPANTS

National Historical Archives of Belarus, Belarus

Dmitry Yatsevich, Director

Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BiH

Šimun Novaković, PhD, Director

State Military Historical Museum, Bulgaria

Svetlin Ivanov Radev, Director

Croatian State Archives, Croatia

Vlatka Lemić, PhD, Director

State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonia

Jasmina Damjanovska, Counseling for collecting and processing archival material

State Archives of Montenegro, Montenegro

Stevan Radunović, Director

Head Office of the State Archives in Poland, Poland

Paweł Pietrzyk, PhD, Director of the Department of Shaping the National Archival Holdings

Russian State Military History Archives, Russia

Irina Garkusha, PhD, Director

Archives of Serbia, Serbia

Miroslav Perišić, PhD, Director

Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia

Bojan Cvelfar, MA, Director

Jure Volčjak, PhD, Head of the sector for the Protection of oldest records

PROGRAMME

TOGETHER

1st International Conference of State Archives from Slavic countries - World War I

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 24th – 26th of September 2015

Thursday, 24 September

- 17.00** Visit of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia and the exhibition The Assassination in Sarajevo including two short documentary films
Archives of the Republic of Slovenia (Zvezdarska 1, Ljubljana)
- 18.00** Reception

Friday, 25 September

1st International Conference of State Archives from Slavic Countries

Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana (Gospodskas 15, Ljubljana)

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.00 Inaugural Addresses

- Mr. Blaž Peršin, Director of the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana,
- Mr. Bojan Cvelfar, Director of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia
- Mrs. Andreja Rihter, Director of the Forum of Slavic Cultures
- Mrs. Julijana Bizjak Mlakar, Minister of culture of the Republic of Slovenia

10.00 – 11.30 Plenary Session 1

The presentations of the Archives and their archival fonds and collections on the IWW theme

- **National Historical Archives of Belarus**
Dmitry Yatsevich, Director
The First World War in the documents of the National Historical Archives of Belarus
- **Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BIH**
Šimun Novaković, PhD, Director
Archival materials about the World War I at the Archives in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **State Military Historical Museum, Bulgaria**
Svetlin Ivanov Radev, Director
Documents for the I World War recorded in the Archives State Agency
- **Croatian State Archives, Croatia**
Vlatka Lemić, PhD, Director
The role of the CSA in the Commemoration of the I World War in Croatia

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 Plenary Session 2

The presentations of the Archives and their archival fonds and collections on the I World War theme

- **State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonia**
Jasmina Damjanovska, Counseling for collecting and processing archival material
I World War in the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia
- **State Archives of Montenegro, Montenegro**
Stevan Radunović, Director
World War I in the documents of the State archives of Montenegro
- **Head Office of the State Archives in Poland, Poland**
Paweł Pietrzyk, PhD, Director of the Department of Shaping the National Archival Holdings
I World War in the Holdings of the Polish State Archives

13.30 – 15.00 Break for Lunch

15.00 – 16.30 Plenary Session 3

- **Russian State Military History Archives, Russia**
Irina Garkusha, PhD, Director
The Documents on the I World War from the Russian State Military History Archives
- **Archives of Serbia, Serbia**
Miroslav Perišić, Director
World War I in the Documents of the Archives of Serbia
- **Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia**
Jure Volčjak, PhD, Head of the sector for the Protection of oldest records
A Guide To Archival Records of World War I

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.00 Plenary Session 4

Discussion and Conclusions moderated by Bojan Cvelfar, MA, Director of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia

19.00 Dinner

Saturday, 26 September

9.00 – 15.00 Excursion to the Gorenjska region

BELARUS

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The National Historical Archives of Belarus is one of the largest archives not only in Belarus, but also in Central and Eastern Europe. The Archive stores documents on the history of Belarus, the period of its entry into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Rzeczpospolita and the Russian Empire in the period from the late XIV to the early XX century. At present, more than 1 million files are stored here, together with 3,155 fonds and 29 microcopy collections. The scientific reference library has about 40 thousand copies of books, newspapers and magazines. The oldest documents are original parchment diplomas as well as acts of public books and court institutions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The oldest document stored in the archive is from 1391. Archival documents reflect the processes of formation and development of the Belarusian nation and the Belarusian statehood.



Dmitry Yatsevich
Director

Director of the State Institution “National Historical Archives of Belarus” Dmitry Yatsevich born on October 9, 1978 in Borisov, Minsk region, Republic of Belarus.

In 1997 he graduated from the Polytechnic College in Borisov. In 2002 he graduated from the Faculty of Economics and Law at the Belarusian Institute of Law. In 2006 he graduated from the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus. From 2002 to 2009 he served as lead counsel, general counsel, legal adviser of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus. From 2009 to April 2012 he worked in the Office of the Council of Ministers, where he was responsible for the activities of the Department of Archives and Records Management of the Republic of Belarus, in the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and as the Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs. Since April 2012 he has served as Director of the State Institution the National Historical Archives of Belarus.

The First World War in the documents of the National Historical Archives of Belarus

The fonds of the National Historical Archives of Belarus keep a significant number of documents relating to the events of the First World War. The documents make it possible to illuminate the course of mobilisation activities in the Belarusian provinces of the Russian Empire, the organisation of local authorities' assistance to the troops, the implementation of measures to combat espionage, the deportation of ethnic communities and the evacuation of human and material resources, enemy air raids and other military, political and economic events in the Belarusian lands which evaluate the effects of war on civilian population, servicemen and their families, trace the activities of local authorities and management under occupation and highlight the fate of prisoners of war of the German and Austro-Hungarian armies.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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The Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established by the Decree of the State Archives of the National Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared on 12th December 1947. Due to historical circumstances and the late start of an organised archival service, today significant archival material relevant for Bosnia and Herzegovina is located outside the country's borders. The last war (1992 - 1995) left the Archives with a lack of sufficient number of skilled personnel and damaged Depot 1 in which first-class archival fonds were stored. Other facilities used by the Archives had also suffered serious damage.

The Archives has continued its mission in the postwar period. The reconstruction of the entire archival service has been launched.

The period of unobstructed functioning was interrupted by the civil protests in Sarajevo in 2014 when protesters attacked the building of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and set Depot 1 on fire. Many fonds were completely burned or seriously damaged. Through joint assistance of Turkish and Czech Agency for Relief and Development Depot 1 was restored and in 2016 a new laboratory, which will meet the highest archival standards, should become operational.



Šimun Novaković, PhD
Director

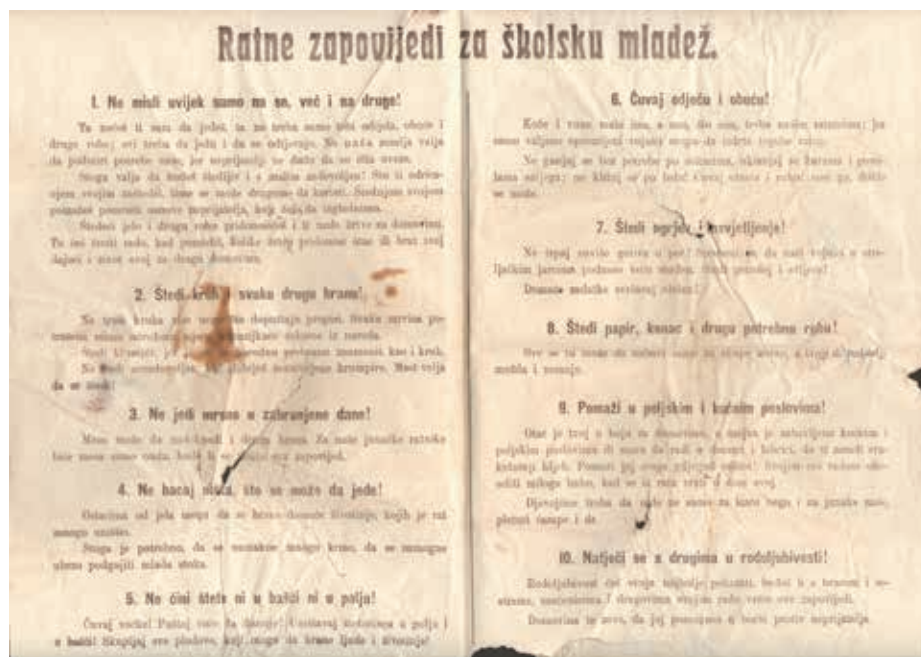
Born in 1973 in Jaklići, municipality Prozor-Rama, he finished elementary school in Ripci and high school in Prozor. In 1999 he graduated in Croatian language and literature and German language and literature at the Pedagogical Faculty of Mostar University. He enrolled postgraduate studies in Croatian studies at the Philosophical faculty of Zagreb University in 2001. The same year he was appointed as a junior teaching assistant for courses in old-Slavic languages and Croatian Glagolism, History of the Croatian language and Croatian dialectology at the then Pedagogical Faculty in Mostar. He currently works as assistant in studies of historical grammar of the Croatian language and Croatian dialectology at the Philosophical Faculty in Mostar. He is employed at the Institute for missing persons B&H in Sarajevo.

Archival Materials on World War I at the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Difficult historical circumstances characterized by long occupations and frequent wars have had a significant impact on the fate of archival materials in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the period of 1878 – 1918, Bosnia and Herzegovina was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. Sarajevo was the site of the Sarajevo assassination – the assassination of Franz Ferdinand – which was the event that led to the Great War. The fonds in our Archive painted a real and vivid picture of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the WWI. This is certainly a different image than the one that may have been formed without them. The modest selection of preserved posters, whose value is informative rather than aesthetic, says a lot about the mobilization and war loans, hygiene and control of infectious diseases, rescue and humanitarian work.

On the eve of the centenary of the outbreak of The Great War, the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina made efforts in various ways to draw attention to the archival sources. Unfortunately, owing to the circumstances, we found ourselves in a position where the centenary of the assassination was largely dedicated to repairing the damage from the fire in Depot 1.



Podnaslov

BULGARIA

Archives State Agency State Military Historical Archives

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The State Military Historical Archives is a directorate at the Archives State Agency. It manages the selection, acquisition, registration, processing, preservation and provision for the use and publication of the documents of the Ministry of Defense, the Bulgarian Army and the structures subordinated to the Minister of Defense, as well as of the related important figures' legacy. The priority tasks of the Archive include administrative and legal services to the public bodies and physical persons by delivering certificates of labour, legal and social character. The Archive was created in 1951 upon the order of the Minister of Defense. In 1971 it was shifted to the General Department of Archives and renamed in 2007 to the State Military Historical Archives under the Archives State Agency.

An important part of the State Military Historical Archives (SMHA) are laboratories for microfilming, conservation and restoration of records. A reading room and a library keep 25,000 volumes of vocational literature.

As of the 1st January 2015 the number of fonds in the Archive amounts to 8890.38 linear metres with 3,442 archival fonds with 440,578 archival units; 97 partial accessions and 810 memoirs.



Svetlin Ivanov Radev, Director of the State Military Historical Archives

Svetlin Ivanov Radev was born in 1973. He earned his master's degree in history in 1996 and his master of laws degree in 2005 at the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. He worked as archive and chief specialist – Head of Photolab at the State Military Archives, where he continued as head of department between 2002 and 2008. Since then he has served as Director of the Directorate State Military Archives Veliko Tarnovo within the Archives State Agency. He is in charge of the organization and management of activities carried out by the Directorate DVIA, preparation of plans and programmes, monitoring and reporting. He was also a teacher at the National Military University Vasil Levski.



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Archives State Agency

World War I Documents Recorded in the Archives State Agency

The Archives State Agency (ASA) is a state body of the Republic of Bulgaria. The need for regulation of the documents related to the army led to the creation in 1892 of the War Department archive in the Military Office that receives documents of Bulgarian volunteers from the Serbo-Bulgarian War and others.

Archival work in the Bulgarian Army was “centralized” during the period 1914-1917. That was the beginning of the preservation of wartime documentation and of the search of documents with military importance. For this purpose, the War-history committee was established in November 1914 at the army headquarters by decree of King Ferdinand.

In 1917, the military historical department was formed at the headquarters the current Army Military department to collect WWI materials.

The Ministry of Defense is the only central administration body with its own historical archive on its destination and activity. Since 1921 the directorate “State Military and Historical Archive” serves as the successor of the described structures and the Military and War-History Archive.

CROATIA

Croatian State Archives

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The Croatian State Archives in Zagreb (CSA) is the central archival institution in the Republic of Croatia. Its beginnings are symbolically linked to the year 1643 when, according to a decision made by the Croatian parliament, the state treasurer Ivan Zakmardi de Diankovec ordered the making of a special Chest of Privileges of the Kingdom for keeping the state's charters, privileges and legal regulations. CSA holds more than 28,000 linear metres of archival records, dating from the 10th century to the present day and arranged into more than 2,000 archival fonds and collections. The Central Laboratory for Photography was established in 1961 with the task of performing security and preservation microfilming of archival records, and recently it started digitizing them. Microfilm collections contain more than 12 million images of register books, documents in Glagolitic script, maps and other archival records, while photograph collections hold more than 1,750,000 photographs. The Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration of the CSA was founded in 1954 and the CSA Library currently numbers more than 190,000 volumes. Recently, special emphasis has been placed on the social significance of the archives and their activities connected with the development of user and information services.



Vlatka Lemić, PhD
Director

Vlatka Lemić was born in 1972 in Zagreb and holds a PhD in information sciences. Since 1998 she has worked in the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb in the area of reference services, information systems, publishing and presenting archival records, registers, development and documentation services and international cooperation. She currently holds the position of Director of Croatian State Archives. Since 2003 she has been teaching archival studies at Zagreb University and participated in various educational programs. She works as Archival Advisor and during her professional career she has participated and lectured at various professional meetings and conferences in Croatia and abroad and published more than 50 works in both Croatian and foreign publications.

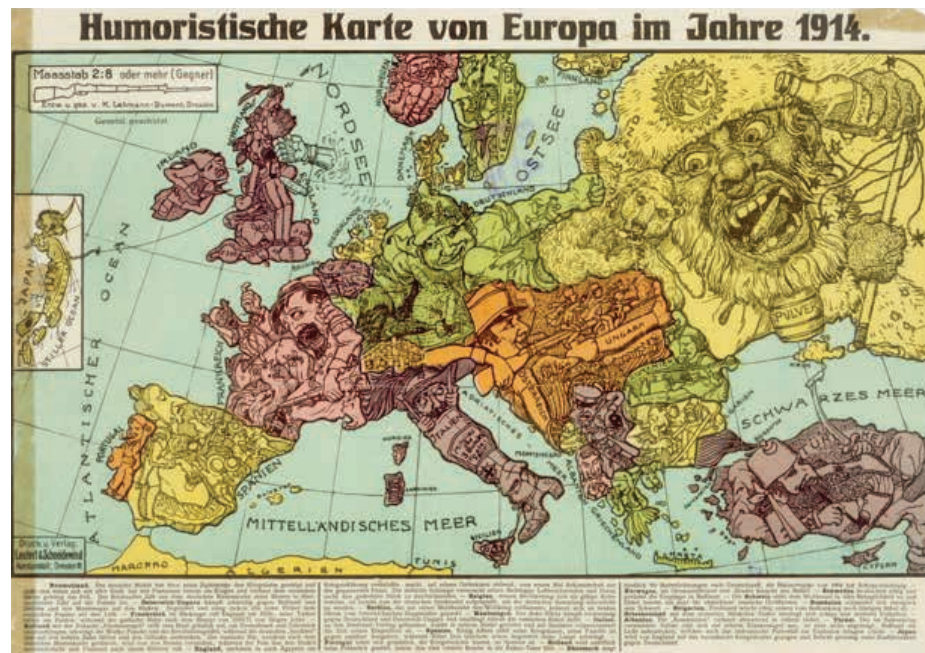
The Role of the CSA in the Commemoration of the First World War in Croatia

In accordance with a number of national and international initiatives dedicated to the celebration of the centenary of the First World War the CSA is actively involved in various activities and programmes related to research, processing, digitization and presentation of archival sources about the Great War at the level of institutions, archival services and national and international projects.

In collaboration with various institutions and associations, the CSA has, in the last two years, published a variety of sources, organised lectures and exhibitions on this topic and prepared a programme of corresponding activities for the period 2014-2018; within the archive service the CSA coordinates the activities of the state archives network, and is also one of the main holders of the national project “Centenary of the Great War” headed by the Ministry of Culture. Through international co-operation in late June as part of ENaRC project in Sarajevo the CSA organised the international archival conference “WWI: Reflections from behind the frontlines”, and also published archival sources that serve as witnesses of that period on thematic portals on the Great War (Europeana, CENDARI et al.).

The paper will present these and other planned activities of the CSA and

other Croatian archives which the aim to facilitate access to the previously unknown sources from that time, to promote the importance of historical sources for the study and understanding of history as well as their use in the educational process.



Humoristische Karte von Europa im Jahre 1914.
K. Lehmann-Dumont, color printing; 49 × 34 cm.
HR-HDA-902 Cartographic collection, D.V.8

MACEDONIA

The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia

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The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia (SARM) is the most precious cultural and historical treasure house. With its archive groups and records it has a national value and represents an integral part of the World cultural and historical heritage.

The SARM officially started working in 1951. The existing building of the SARM was in use from 1969 to 2014, when the Archives moved to a new, modern building. In the period between 1951 and 1961, the archives network of Macedonia was completed with the establishment of nine regional (city) archives in Skopje, Ohrid, Bitola, Shtip, Kumanovo, Prilep, Veles, Strumica and Tetovo. The priority task of the SARM is to receive, process, protect, disseminate and make such records available for use, which is of relevance for both the history of Macedonia and the Macedonian nation. The SARM has developed a publishing activity as well. The Archives publishes collections of documents and monographs (more than 200 editions) prepared on the basis of archival records kept both in the Archives and in foreign archives, brought here in a form of copies collected through completed research.



Jasmina Damjanovska, PhD
Counseling for collecting and processing archival material

She has BA., MA and PhD from the Institute of History, St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, on the subject of "Processes of modernisation in the Vardar part of Macedonia 1918-1941".

She has experience in archival and field research, collecting and processing of documents, organising exhibitions, book editing. Between 2006 and 2015 she worked on several projects like "Revealed Testimonies – Soldiers' Letters from the Great War 1914-1918" (monograph on the original letters and other documents of Macedonian soldiers from the Kratovo and Probistip region, who were mobilised in the Serbian and Bulgarian army and imprisoned during the First World War (1914-1918) at Austro-Hungarian war camps); 150 years of Veles Gymnasium (monograph); History and Apocrypha - Demythologization of 2001 (chronology of events from 2001), Books for Open Society Debates, Intercultural Initiatives; exhibitions on the topics: Macedonia 1914, Macedonia from Berlin to Bucharest 1878-1913.

World War I in the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia

The intensive development of various economic and political interests of major capitalist countries at the beginning of the 20th century left an imprint on the new history of the Balkans whose representatives, guided by the ideas of territorial redistribution in the network of two opposing alliances, the Triple Entente and the Central Powers.

In this context, new wars in the Balkans were imminent for Macedonia, which was under the Serbian and Bulgarian rule between 1914-1918. The SARM has extensive documentation for this period, consisting of original documents, photocopies, micro records, facsimiles and photographs collected in archival records. The most prominent archive record groups include: World War I (micro records), Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Belgrade (micro records), Macedonia Military Inspection Area (archival groups of district, regional, city and municipal administrations for 1918-1941) and Foreign Office (photocopies).

MONTENEGRO

State archives of Montenegro

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The State Archives of Montenegro is organized as an independent state authority. It performs the archival activity related to the current records and archival material of the bodies, political parties, NGOs and other legal and natural persons engaged in activities in the territory of Montenegro. It is organised as a single organisation and has organisational units in almost all municipalities in the country. It has two sectors with twenty archival departments, two departments and one service. It has 1,485 archival fonds, 78 personal fonds and 51 collections, making a total of just over 11,150 linear meters of archive material. In addition, it keeps in its possession 60,000 library units. The archival material is available to the public if required for scientific or evidentiary purposes. The State Archives has been quite successfully working on the publication of archival materials. It covers the area of 6,052 m², of which 61% is intended to accommodate the archives. The National Archives has 155 employees, of which 74% have completed higher education.



Stevan Radunović,
Director

Stevan Radunović was born in 1949. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Titograd, worked at the shoe factory "IMO Košuta" in Cetinje; served as secretary and later director of Social Insurance Agency and Fund; in the Municipality of Cetinje at the position of Vice-President of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of the local assembly; in the National Archives at the position of director since 2003. He worked on the organisation and improvement of working conditions, protection of archival material as well as the advanced training of employees in the archives and in the creation of archival material; he participated as a lecturer at many professional events. He took part as a speaker in a number of conferences, worked on the preparation of numerous collections of documents for several conferences dedicated to historical topics. He took an active part in drafting the Law on Archives and a number of by-laws.

World War I in the Documents of the State Archives of Montenegro

The paper deals with a review of archival fonds and collections containing the material on the participation of Montenegro in the First World War. In addition, it analyses their incompleteness and the insufficient thematic structure of the content. The integrity of the documents generated by the work of the Montenegrin state authority and administration, and in particular for the period 1914-1916, was scarce during the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Montenegro in the post war period 1918-1926. The documentation created by the occupation forces and administration in the period 1916-1918 did not survive, except for fragments. The occupying authorities partly destroyed it or carried away the material as part of the structure of the Montenegrin state archives.

The documents created by the Montenegrin government in exile 1916-1922 are also incomplete, curtailed in their thematic content and structure, and were not in the possession of the National Archives until the 1970s.

Due to different motives, aspirations, plans, programmes etc., the history of these fonds is unusual and exciting, similarly to the history of the Montenegrin state and nation in this period.

POLAND

Head Office of the State Archives in Poland

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The state archives in Poland are supervised by the General Director of State Archives who is responsible for the running of the Head Office of State Archives. Subordinate to the Minister of Culture, the Managing Director exercises control and care over the national archival depository. Three main archives of national significance are located in Warsaw: the Central Archives of Historical Records – preserving the records of the central, and partially provincial authorities as well as the archives of families of national importance that were produced prior to 1918; the Central Archives of Modern Records – keeping the records of the central authorities, institutions and associations of national importance, as well as the documents and papers of outstanding political and social leaders produced after 1918, and the National Digital Archives – preserving photo- and phonographic records as well as film documentation produced since the beginning of the 20th century. There are also 33 state archives and 41 local branches with 4 local offices subordinate to them. The most valuable and oldest records are to be found in the state archives in Gdansk, Krakow, Lublin, Olsztyn, Poznan, Szczecin and Wrocław.



Paweł Pietrzyk, PhD

Director of the Department of Shaping the National Archival Holdings, Head Office of the State Archives

Paweł Pietrzyk got his master's degree at the University of Lodz and attended postgraduate studies in archival science at the University of Mikolaj Kopernik in Torun. In 2015 he received his doctoral degree at the University of Rzeszow. He is an active member of the Association of Polish Archivists and European Archival Group. He took part in several archival conferences in and outside of Poland. During his professional carrier he has worked in the classification section of the State Archive in Lodz and assisted numerous Polish institutions in the United States of America, Great Britain and Australia in organising their archives.

First World War in the Holdings of the Polish State Archives

The First World War, also known as the Great War or the War of the Nations, had a profound impact on the history of Poland. The Polish society hoped that the upcoming armed conflict would bring the long-awaited independence to the enslaved and partitioned Poland. And these hopes came true. After 123 years of non-existence, the Polish State reappeared on the map of Europe. The war involved 33 countries and about 70 million soldiers. The Poles served in all armies of the partitioning powers. In total, about 2.5 million Poles served in those armies. As a result of the First World War, the imperial partitioning powers ceased to exist and were replaced by republics. The new geopolitical situation was determined in equal measures by the emergence of the Soviet Russia and the establishment of new countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

The archival materials connected with the First World War are stored in Polish archives all over the country. The presentation of archival materials constitutes only a small fragment of the preserved archival resources connected with the Great War. Despite the concise character of this presentation, it seems reasonable to conclude that

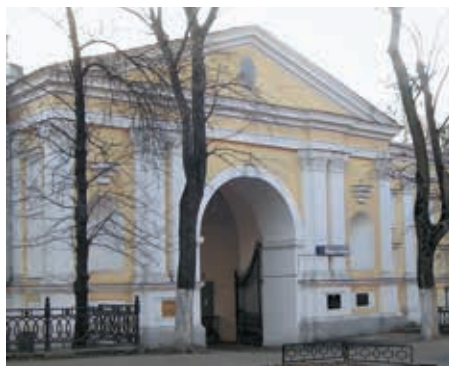
the holdings of the State Archives in Poland provide general history researchers with an important source of information about this turning point in the history of the world.

RUSSIA

Russian State Military History Archives

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The history of the Russian State Military History Archives (RGVIA) began in 1797. The archive created at that time was intended to preserve records of military agencies and later also the records of the Military Ministry. RGVIA now preserves more than 3.4 million files on the Russian military history from the time of the establishment of the Russian Regular Army by Peter the Great at the end of the 17th century until its disbandment in March 1918. It also holds records that document the history of the peoples of the Russian Empire and the development of natural resources of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Siberia and the Far East. RGVIA keeps the personal materials of commanders and military administrators, strategists, historians and writers whose activities were related to the military history of Russia.



Irina Garkusha
Director

Irina Garkusha graduated from the Moscow State Institute for History and Archives in 1976. She worked in the Central State Archives of the Soviet Army – the Russian State Military Archives for 25 years at different positions up to the deputy Director. Since 1994 she has held the position of the Director of the Russian State Military History Archives. She is a member of the Scientific Board of the Russian State Archives of Ancient Acts, the Russian State Military Archives, the State Historical Museum and the Museum and Reservation “Moscow Kremlin”, and a member of the Editorial Board of the “Military History Journal”. Irina Garkusha is the author and editor of more than 20 scientific works on the issues of the Russian military history. She is the recipient of state and public awards.



The Documents on the First World War from the Russian State Military History Archives

The Russian State Military History Archives is Russia's largest repository of documents on the history of the First World War: there are more than 1 million files from more than 3000 creators. At the beginning of the war the special *Instruction for the acquisition and delivery of documents on the present war*, under which all military units and institutions were obligated to deliver records of military and historical significance, including the trophy and personal documents, to the special archives, was declared by the Supreme commander order No. 65 dated 22 September 1914. These documents represent the basis of the collection and include records of military field managements, front and army headquarters, the documents of the Military Ministry, the Main Headquarters and the General Headquarters as well as materials from military agents abroad. The archive also keeps the records of public organisations that provided assistance to victims during the First World War, the collection of photographic and illustrative material.

SERBIA

Archives of Serbia

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The Archives of Serbia was founded on 14 December 1898 on the basis of the Law on State Archives of the Kingdom of Serbia. Mihailo Gavrilović, PhD, one of the most important Serbian historians of the time, was appointed its first manager. The present-day building of the Archives of Serbia was erected for this purpose in 1928. It is the design of the Russian architect Nikolai Krasnov. In addition to the history of modern Serbian statehood, the material kept in the Archives of Serbia is important also for the research of the history of the Balkans, the history of World War I, World War II and the Cold War era. The material is divided in 672 fonds and 71 collections. The most important documents kept at the Archives of Serbia include: the Charter of Dečani (1330), Sretenje Constitution (1835) and the Telegram of the Austro-Hungarian declaration of war on Serbia (28 July 1914). Publishing activities are divided into several series: the history of Serbian diplomacy – documents, personal fonds, visual history. The two most important exhibitions staged during the past decade are the *Culture of Serbs in Dubrovnik 1790-2010* (2012) and *The War Begins: 1914 in the Documents of the Archives of Serbia* (2014).

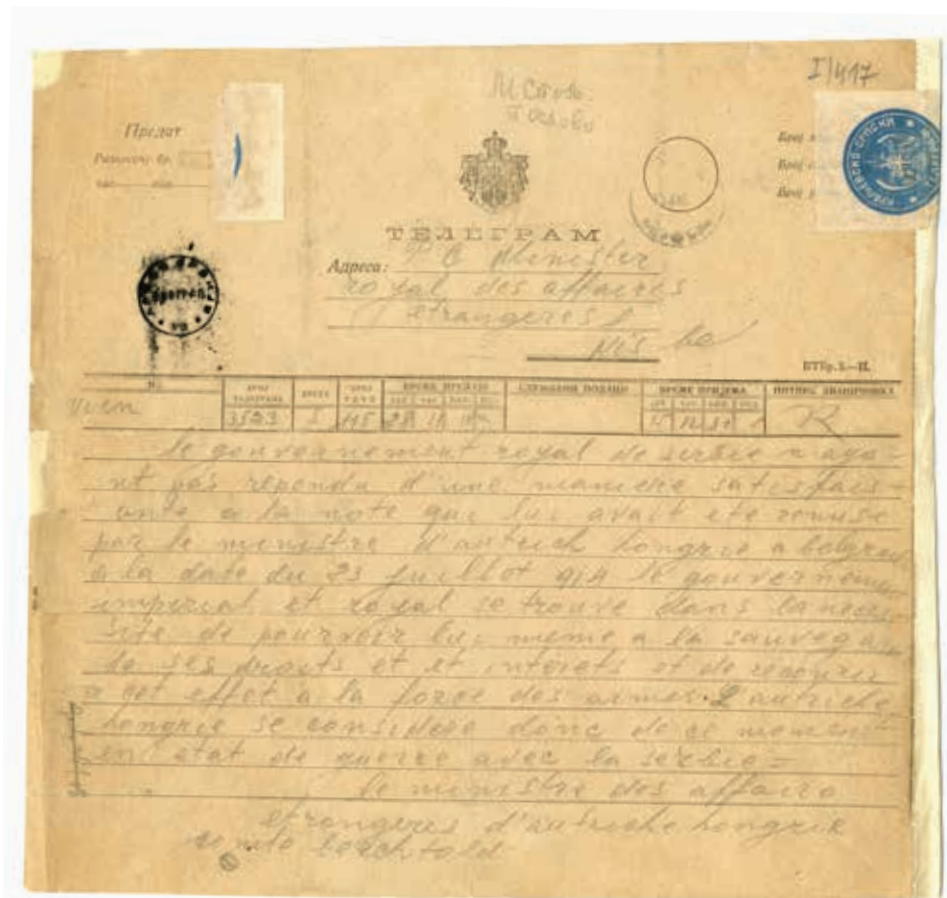


Miroslav Perišić, PhD
Director

Born in Ub (Serbia) in 1959. Graduated from secondary school in Valjevo. Graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, where he obtained his master's and doctoral degrees. Focused on the history of the city and civic life in Serbia of the 19th and 20th century, history of elites and modernisation processes, history of World War I and diplomatic history. Mr. Perišić is the author of more than one hundred scientific works. His most important books are Valjevo City in Serbia in Late 19th Century, Living in Belgrade (1837-1940), From Stalin to Sartre, Formation of Yugoslav Intelligentsia at European Universities 1945-1958, Consulate General of the Kingdom of Serbia in Trieste, Sarajevo Assassination. He manages the Department of History of the Andrić Institute in Andrićgrad and is a member of the Committee for the history of the Serbs in the 19th Century of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

World War I in the Documents of the Archives of Serbia

The Archives of Serbia is one of the international reference archives for research of pre-history and history of World War I. Its fonds and collections boast more than 500,000 documents about Serbia in World War I. The most important documents are: Telegram of the Austro-Hungarian declaration of war on Serbia (28 July 1914), Ultimatum of Austria-Hungary to Serbia, Response of Serbia to Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum and the Information to Austro-Hungarian authorities on preparation of the assassination in Sarajevo in 1914. Of particular relevance are diplomatic communications, documents on Austro-Hungarian bombing of Belgrade in 1914, reports on Austro-Hungarian crimes in Serbia, reports on battles on the river Drina and the battle of Kolubara, lists of the wounded and killed in action, lists of foreign medical missions to Serbia, documents on the retreat of the Serbian army through Albania, on the Thessaloniki Front and the liberation of Serbia in 1918.



Telegram announcement of war from Austro-Hungarian to Serbia, send from Vienna at 11.10 and received in Niš at 12.30, 15 / 28 July 1914.

SLOVENIA

**Ministry of culture
of the Republic of Slovenia
Archives of the Republic of Slovenia**

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The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia is situated in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. Its headquarters are located in Gruber Palace, the construction of which was begun in 1773 by the Jesuit Gabriel Gruber. The Archives' tasks relate to public archival material and documentation created by government authorities and other entities under the public law. The Archives also preserves private records and archival film material for the entire country. It keeps a central register of public records kept in Slovenia, a register of foreign records concerning Slovenia and Slovenes, and a register of public symbols, coats of arms, flags, seals and stamps of national significance. The Archives keeps 1945 fonds and collections amounting to approximately 20 linear km. As an administrative institution within the organisational structure of the Ministry of Culture, the Archives' professional and administrative activities also involve the preservation of records significant to the Republic of Slovenia, and other tasks defined by the Minister of Culture and the Ministry of Culture. The beginnings of the Archives as an institution date back to 1859, when the Carniolan Historical Society proposed the establishment of a provincial archive. Once the

construction of the former Carniolan Provincial Museum (the present-day National Museum) in Ljubljana was completed in 1887, all archival material collected to that date was stored under its roof. In 1926, in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the State Archives was officially established, although it continued to operate as an organisational unit within the museum. In 1945, the National Government of Slovenia established the Central State Archives of Slovenia, which began to operate as an independent institution.



Jure Volčjak, PhD

Head of the sector for the protection of oldest records

Born in 1976 in Kranj, he finished the Grammar School in Kranj and enrolled at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana where in 2000 he graduated with a degree in history.

He continued his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Arts, Department of History. In 2010, the University of Ljubljana Senate confirmed his doctoral thesis title »The Church in Carniola under the Gorizia Archdiocese during the Time of Karl Michael von Attems (1750-1774)«. In 2014 was awarded the title of doctor of science.

His bibliography includes over 70 units, 9 of them are scientific dissertations, four in foreign language. He is the (co)author of several books containing critical analysis of published archival sources. In 2014, he received Aškerc Prize for his edition of older ordination registers. He is currently employed at the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia as the head of the Oldest Records Protection Department. Since 2006, he has also been the editor of the scientific journal Arhivi.

Abstract

A Guide To Archival Records of World War I

Between 2014 and 2018 we are commemorating the centenary of the start and the end of World War I. Ten of the Slovenian public and church archival institutions decided to commemorate this occasion by compiling a guide through archival records that directly or indirectly refer to the events and

the people of that time, either those on the front line or the ones in the hinterland. Expected to be published in 2017, the guide will hopefully be of help to researchers when looking for documents in archival fonds and collections, as well as to archival personnel when offering advice to their users.



Destroyed bridge near Avča (Auzza).

September - October 1917

(SI AS 1201-71-68, Franc Uršič collection, Photographs of the IWW, Isonzo front, 1917)

FORUM OF SLAVIC CULTURES

The Forum of Slavic Cultures is a nonprofit and non-government organization that was founded in 2004 on the initiative of the Slavic cultural circles and today unites thirteen Slavic countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine.

The Forum of Slavic Cultures nurtures the creativity of Slavic cultures, science and arts, their creative charge and heritage, while it also actively cares for a recognizable contribution of Slavic cultures to global dialogue. In strong partnership with international organizations, national initiatives and economy, it presents, supports and develops innovativeness and creativity, and invigorates common cultural projects, mobility of artists and professionals, and also boosts data circulation in culture, science and arts.



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