

Masaryk University Archive

Annual Activity Report 2003

head: PhDr. Jiří Pulec

The Masaryk University Archive is an integral part of the network of Czech archives, in which it is classified as an archive of special importance. At the same time, it is also the fundamental historiography workplace for the history of Masaryk University, and for the history of scientific disciplines taught there. The archive's acquisition area covers mainly documents of lasting historical and administrative value generated by the university, its faculties and other constituent parts. An important type of documents deposited in the archive is written legacy (personal holdings) of eminent scientists and teachers from the university's history, and also documentation of scientific associations, societies, professional and social organisations whose activities were associated with Masaryk University. At the end of 2003, the archive was taking care of 26 so-called official holdings, 104 legacies, 41 holdings of societies and associations, and 10 archival holdings (historic documents, photographs, videos, audio recordings, medals, pictures and busts, diplomas), extending over a total of 1,900 meters. Acquisition activities have recently been considerably limited by a critical shortage of storage space. Classification and cataloguing in the Archive was seriously hampered in 2002 by extensive civil engineering work in the central archive at the Faculty of Law. In view of inadequate working conditions, it was only possible to process smaller sets of archive material or holdings of a simple structure. Very valuable personal collections of the philosopher Josef Šafařík were made accessible by J. Plovová, an FoA undergraduate who worked on them under the supervision of the Archive's director as part of her entry into the student competition organized by the Czech Archival Society. An inventory was made of the holdings of the Pedagogical Institute in Jihlava, and a significant progress was made in the processing of the largest personal collection in the MU Archives, i.e. written documents from the legacy of the physiologist Vladislav Kruta, to which new additions were acquired in 2003.

The number of searches made increased dramatically with the increase in the requests for abstracts of study plans and of exam results, which was partly due to the increased mobility of university graduates (issuance of documents for degree recognition abroad), and partly to the requests from state administration, the Ministry of Justice (academic achievement certificates for judiciary service applicants) and the Ministry of Interior (materials for the recognition of qualification for state administration posts). The number of requests for specialist historical searches has also increased significantly.

The number of researchers using the study room was very small because the room was closed for a long time in 2003. In emergencies, the Archives made other premises available for research purposes. Extensive search in the archive was made by the researcher Laurent Mazliak from the 6th Paris University, who studied the correspondence between French physicists and Professor Hostinský.

In 2003, workers of the Archives published results of their research under a grant project of Brno and Olomouc authors in "Chapters from the History of University Education in Moravia Between 1945 and 1990". The Institute of History of Charles University published the book "Professor Václav Chytil and Uranium Ore Mines" that includes text by this professor of the Faculty of Law MU who was cruelly persecuted by the communist regime in the 1950s. The staff of the Archives participated in the publications by selecting written documents from the personal holdings of this eminent MU personality, and also as co-authors. The work on the third volume of Professor František Weyer's memoirs based on his personal holdings to be published in 2004 by Atlantis Press has entered the final stage. For the use by the University of the Third Age, the Archives have produced a brief outline of MU history. The Archives continued the digitization of photographs from its collections and processing the images of Rectors and Deans for MU web pages in cooperation with the Institute of Computer Sci-

ence. The Archives cooperates on the long-term basis in the production of the Encyclopaedia of Brno with the City of Brno Museum.

The Archives' director is the only representative of university archives in the Scientific Council for Archives of the Minister of the Interior. In this position, he participated in the drafting of the Archives and Documents Services Bill in 2003, and producing materials for the Bill's sponsor's negotiations in the parliament. He is also a member panels of examiners at state final and state doctoral exams for archival and auxiliary historical sciences at the FoA MU. Dr. Kalendovská from the Archive's staff is the chairperson of the Brno office of the Science and Technology History Society, and a member of the Society's national committee. The Archives' representatives are on editorial boards of The Archival Journal, Journal of the Science and Technology History Society, and Zlín Space cultural review.