

Masaryk University Archive

Annual Activity Report 2002

head: PhDr. Jiří Pulec

The Masaryk University Archive is among the most significant university archives. It is an integral part of the network of Czech archives, in which it is classified as an archive of special importance. Its main objectives are to store, process, make accessible, and professionally make use of archive sources that have been created from the activities of the university, faculties, and other organisational bodies within the university. The archive collection contains the written legacy of eminent university personalities and written documentation of scientific associations, societies, professional organisations, and social organisations whose activities were (and in some cases still are) associated with Masaryk University.

Some of the most important additions to the archive in 2002 have been the voluminous collections of study documents from the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Law, records of awards of full and associate professorships, diploma works, and rigorous studies of the Faculty of Education. Taken over from the rector's office were mostly documents from research and development, legal and personnel departments, and minutes from the meetings of the MU Academic Senate up to 1919.

Last year, the personal collections of the Faculty of Science professors Stanislav Obr and Josef Sekanina were acquired for the archive; the collections of Faculty of Medicine professors Vladislav Kruta and Karel Žlábek were greatly extended. Currently there are 183 archive collections which occupy a total length of 1800 metres.

At the beginning of 2002, the Archive Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic conducted a thorough inspection of the archive with the objective of reporting on the storage conditions, the recording of archive materials and on the spatial and security provisions of the archive. The inspection reported a good level of processing, recording and storage of archive materials, as well as their security. However, there were some reservations about the quality of depositories and especially their insufficient capacity, which could threaten the new accreditation of the archive according to the archive Law being prepared for 2004.

The organisational activities of the archive were henceforth focused on processing the study documents that were recently acquired by the archive. The need to speed up access to these documents has come about as a result of an increasing number of requests for the abstracts of study plans and exams, and diploma duplicates and certificates, the handling of which forms a significant part of the administrative literature search of the archive.

The research work of the archivists working in the area of the history of the university was based upon a grant from the Czech Grant Agency entitled The History of University Education in Moravia 1945 – 1990. The research of sources was completed, as was a large portion of text for the chapters of the publication, which the employees of the archive and the History Department of Olomouc University took part in. Besides this major task, the employees of the archive also assisted in the preparation of the foundation materials for the digitization of photographs (ICS grant), the creation of web pages on the history of the university and the preparation of an encyclopaedia of personalities of the City of Brno (in co-operation with the Museum of the City of Brno).

Last year in the archive, there was practical training programme for students of Archive Studies of the Faculty of Arts and those of Secondary Librarian School in Brno under the leadership of archivists. The director of the archive actively took part as an external teacher of archive studies at the PVH Institute and archive studies at the Faculty of Arts, and also sat on the committee for SZZ in the archive studies section and auxiliary historical sciences. The archive employees served as consultants and

second readers of diploma works for students of archive studies and history at Masaryk University and Palacký University; these diplomas were then registered into the university archive.

As a member of the Research Archive Board of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the director of the archive took part in the preparation of a new archive act.

In 2002, 57 specialist scientists visited the research centre; they were recruited from amongst the students and teachers of the faculty and other scientific institutions from the whole Czech Republic.