

# ARCHIVAL STUDIES IN THE WORLD

## ICARUS Meeting # 10, Bratislava

In the context of the co-operation that began in 2010 with International Center for Archival Research (ICARUS), the National Archives of Romania participated on November 19-21, 2012 at the second biannual session of this organization, hosted in Bratislava by the Slovak National Archives. The meeting of the institute's staff in the first day was followed by the workshop taking place simultaneously for the four working groups: *Monasterium/Didactics*, *Population Registers*, *Technical Developments* and *WWI*. The latter refers to the most recent project initiated by ICARUS, has the setting up of a virtual archives dealing with the First World War as purpose, and is still in a preparation and documentation stage in order to have European funds granted. The ICARUS platform has had a spectacular extension during the last two years, since the "ICARUS Community" has reached 120 archival institutions from 23 European countries and Canada. The Romanian Archives' contribution has been in a first moment materialized by the online publication of the documents in *Peceți* [Stamps] collection on *monasterium.net* portal.

Some data are necessary to be mentioned with regard to the birth, evolution and purposes of this portal, in order to generally understand what does ICARUS mean. Since the number of the documents issued by monasteries originated in the area of Low Austria, where the need to assemble together the huge quantity of ecclesiastical archive of the monasteries and the impossibility to physically gather it led to the necessity to set up a virtual archive. Since the number of the monastic documents is extremely high and covers a large period from the middle ages to the early modern period, it has been naturally necessary the setting up of an efficient search engine, which would be subsequently created, consequent to the co-operation between the monastic centers and the authorized institutions. The starting point in this digitalisation approach and the virtual assembling of the ecclesiastic documents has been represented by the bishopric archive of St. Pölten. Afterwards, the action has been spread with governmental and monastic assistance in the whole Austria and since 2006 in the entire Europe. Surpassing the national and content limits initially established and taking advantage of the support of the Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture in Austria and of the European Union, MONASTERIUM has become today a platform not only for the Austrian monastic archives, but also for a large variety of documents issued in the past all over Europe.

The basic post online of the documents (either via MONASTERIUM in our case, or through MATRICULA – parish registers, old manuscripts or CADASTRAL MAP – maps of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hapsburg Empire, all these representing portals administered by ICARUS) does not represent the final purpose of this institute devoted to the research in the field of the archives. Thus, the working group coordinated by Antonella Ambrosio, professor at Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II" makes efforts – and in the most cases it succeeds in – to discover and implement various goals in order to assure unlimited access for those interested – scholars, professors, students – in the historical sources provided by *monasterium.net* database and to train for their use as didactic material for the auxiliary sciences of history, especially diplomatics and paleography. The methods used

by Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes in Paris, Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II" in Naples, Institut für Geschichte (Universität Wien), and so on revealed inside of the group gathered in Bratislava both the advantages taken from the didactic experiences relying upon the documents in *monasterium.net* and the limits confronted by, for which solutions are looked for, especially regarding the technical support. The high professional level to approach these topics along with the specific and no prejudice milieu make that these meetings inside of the working groups be extremely animated and to attract the interest of the participants and what is the most important to reach the purpose.

Returning to the ICARUS meeting held at the seat of the Slovakian National Archives – actually, it was only one meeting that took place at the seat of the State Archives of Bratislava –, it was during the second day when the hosts presented to the audience the most important respects related to the legislation, organization, and activity, meaning the administration of the archive, the duties towards the public, international projects. All these details are not necessary to be developed here, since they are easily to be detected on the institutional website, [www.slovakia.culturalprofiles.net](http://www.slovakia.culturalprofiles.net) in its English version. A particular approach was delivered by restorer/facsimiler Ivan Galamboš, trained in Prague and Vienna, who presented some of his achievements: restored manuscripts and globes or copies of pieces in the field. The lunchtime was animated as usual by not formal talks in various fields, from topics related to the profession of archivist, the eternal financial needs of the archival institutions, the solutions applied by various managerial systems to each country's traditions and customs. It was followed by a session already classic for ICARUS biannual meetings, that is the introducing of the new members. Since the middle of 2012 the team was joined by: Saxon State Archive in Dresden (*Sächsisches Staatsarchiv*, HSA Dresden), Croatian State Archives in Osijek, State Archives in Wrocław, *Biblioteca Catariniana*, Historical Archive of Diocese of Calabria-Bova, Institute for Quality and Development of Human Potentials in Croatia, Faculty of Humanistic and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, State Archive in Frederikshavn (Denmark). We paid attention to the efficient system implemented by the Danish archives in using volunteers in the transliteration of the documents written in German paleography, which could be also applied in the Romanian archives.

A part reserved to the proposals for projects is to be noted during the ICARUS meetings. This time, *Topothek* was presented, meaning an Austrian system initially created to assist exclusively the topographical location of several pre-established objectives – as its names suggests –, but which has become today a complex database and which is used for both the initial and the historical purposes. Stella Montanari (*Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa*) exhibited the manner in which various educational projects organized at *Bibliotheca Catariniana* evolved. The representative of the Archives of Voivodina (Novi Sad) proposed that the parish registers preserved by them should be posted on MATRICULA portal – as a note, some of the languages in which these are written is Romanian –, while the ancient maps (including those referring to the Romanian Banat) be posted on CADASTRAL MAP portal. One of the members of ICARUS staff, Žarko Vujošević (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts) described the difficulties and stage of the institute in digitalizing the 200 documents that represent actually 90% of the whole medieval Serbian archive. The purpose of this section is to present on one hand the activities already in execution in various archival institutions – and

presented as available solutions that surpassed the test of efficiency – and on the other hand the ideas for searching the necessary support in order to be put into practice.

A very present topic of debate regarding the European archival science was approached also in the context of the ICARUS meeting. It is about APEX (Archives Portal Europe network of excellence) project, which was promoted and supported by the European Commission in order to represent a special frame of co-operation for the development of the digital understructure of the European cultural heritage in the field of archives, libraries, and museums destined to assure an unrestricted access. APEX is scheduled to take place for a period of three years – between March 2012 and February 2015 – and carries actually on an European older project in the field of archives, that is APENet (2009-2012), according to which 19 national institutions and EUROPEANA settled the European archival portal: [www.archivesportaleurope.eu](http://www.archivesportaleurope.eu). The representative of the National Archives of Sweden – an institution with a special status due to the total independence from the political and state elements – described succinctly the advanced phase of the institution in the present day regarding the process of digital conversion of the documents – 100,000 documents per day – in the context of the international co-operation of APEX. As a matter of fact, Sweden is the APEX partner that leads the section of “Disamination and Training (WP 7)” of the project.

The ICARUS meeting came to an end in a more pleasant manner by the soccer game between the host and the guest teams, already a tradition. The farewell dinner offered the participants a last opportunity in 2012 to communicate, to establish and strengthen the connections with the ‘ICARUS team’, in a less punctilious milieu entertained by the director of the Slovak National Archives, Jozef Hanus, who proved a real musical skill, beside the managerial and archival ones.

Concluding, what we regard as important is the fact that, although the ICARUS meetings have a friendly feature, the professionalism proved by the team’s leaders, the working groups and all the participants leads to remarkable concrete results. It would be ideal for the National Archives of Romania to persist in taking the opportunities of counseling and the financial solutions provided by ICARUS into consideration and in taking advantage of the affiliation to each international structure in the field.

*Codruța-Elena Mihailovici*

### **Department of Film Collection in State Archive in Split**

National Archives in Split was founded in 1952. It is located in Gripe Fortress (17<sup>th</sup> century) near the Maritime Museum and close to the city center (5 minutes walk from the Diocletian palace). In the Archive there are different departments: the Department of Classification and Processing of Archival Records; Records Management Inspection Service; the Department for Information and Documentation Services; Archive Folders for Istria and Dalmatia; and the Department of Workshops for the Conservation, Restoration and Book-Binding. In May 2000 the Department of Film Collection was founded. It is the second film archive in the Republic of Croatia, after the National Film Archive in Zagreb – Croatian Cinematheque, founded in 1979.



The main entrance in the State Archive in Split (the door on the right), entrance to the Submarine museum (the door on the left)



Split by night (it was founded as a palace of Diocletian, 295-305)



In front of the Archive: the Chapel of St. Anthony and the partisan warship “Bakar”  
(from World War II)

The film material from the area of Split and the whole of Dalmatia stores in this Department of Film Collection at the State Archive in Split. Finally, there is a possibility of storing film treasures that have been deteriorating at various locations in inadequate conditions. Now all the film records can be stored and displayed in the best possible conditions (air conditioner and dehumidifier in the storage and other necessary equipment). Recently the department was renamed to the Department of Film and Unconventional Records (Materials), so that the range of material that is stored – vinyl records, microfilms, video tapes, audio tapes, CDs, DVDs – be expanded. All these materials have in common the fact that for each type of material a machine for reading (watching or listening) is required and that they need to be preserved under certain climatic conditions (we store it at temperatures up to 18°C and humidity up to 40%). In addition, in order to preserve different unconventional records we also collect old projectors, tape recorders, gramophones, and so on.

Consequent to the interesting material that is preserved in this department, it is important to emphasize that lectures are regularly given to students of various ages (elementary/secondary school and university) who are able to see the filmstrip, storyboard, LPs, which today can rarely be seen. They are especially delighted to see the old footage of Split from 1910 and 1911 taken by our first Croatian cameraman and first cinema owner in Split (1907), Josip Bepo Karaman. His first projector, camera and the original films are preserved in the Museum of the City of Split. He was the first Croat ever to make a film; he was making short documentary films at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is assumed that he made six-seven short documentaries that unfortunately did not survive, except for only three films from years 1910 and 1911: “Procession of St. Duje” (the patron of Split), “Sports jamboree”, and “The funeral of Vicko Mihaljevic” (former mayor of Split). The protective tape is preserved in our department and we are extremely proud of this valuable material that is old for over 100 years.

With the opening of this department, a long-standing problem of neglect towards the film material has been resolved and acquired conditions for systematic archiving of Split and Dalmatian cinematic treasures have been made. Therefore, from now on it will be able to preserve it for future generations. At the same time this material could be used for movies that can be done by studying these documents. The department is constantly

working on collecting new material from a various sides and the number of records is constantly increasing. Unfortunately it is still a need for equipment for the complete processing of the data, especially there is no option for protective copying, so that it is necessary to send all the important films (records) to Croatian Cinematheque in Zagreb.

In the Department of Film Collections, there are two secondhand tables for rewinding and washing films on which physical protection and processing of each film strip is performed. First it is necessary to hand wash the film tape in alcohol and then dry it, and then to rewrite all the relevant information from each tape to. Every filmstrip has two cards: identification and technical card, where it is registered all basic data about the tape: title, year, length and format of the tape, whether it is in color or black and white, it is audio tape, which kind of film is it, the kind of filmstrip, whether it is flammable, the available data about the director, producer, actors, owner of the film, and so on, until the evaluation of image quality. We also have the old assembly table Prevost 16/35mm, which was allegedly owned by Orson Wells.



Assembly table PREVOST 16/35 mm (allegedly it was Orson Wells)



Table for washing (in alcohol), drying and rewinding – for performing the physical treatment of the filmstrip



Storage premise where the temperature is being kept till 18°C and humidity until 40%

We use plastic boxes in which all the filmstrip are stored (before they were kept in a tin box). There are two air-conditioned rooms: one of which is a study room where the physical processing of the tape is made, while the other one is a storage room that has enough space for now, but there are hopes that eventually some more rooms be acquired, since the number of film material will surely grow in the future.

The Split Film Archives preserve the following film materials and films:

- Karaman's oldest film (from years 1910 and 1911); materials of Split and Dalmatia filmed between the two World Wars, recorded from unknown authors;
- materials and film production company from Split, which operated between 1968 and 1998; over the years, it has changed its name: "Dalmatia movie", FRZ "Marko Marulic", "Slavica movie", and the last name is "Marjan movie";
- movies from amateur filmmakers of Cinema Club Split (founded in 1952), who were known as the golden generation of the Split film school and were making experimental short films: I. Martinac, L. Zafranović, A. Verzotti, and so on;
- the archive stores a film documentation of exceptional value for the city and region, which refers to the period between 1973 and 1990: all important cultural, political, sporting and other events were filmed (as for example the construction of facilities for the Mediterranean Games in 1979);
- short and author movies and experimental films are also conserved in the film archive, a large number of purpose, experimental, documentary, and educational short films and there are only eight that are feature films. The ruins of the cinematic treasures of Split and Dalmatia from Karaman films to the present day, and valuable award-winning films at

festivals in the country and abroad are preserved. Film Archive of the State Archive in Split is the memory of well-known and recognized "Split Film School" ("Cinema Club Split") and all that Split and Dalmatia meant in the total corpus of Croatian and ex-Yugoslav cinematography. Originals (excluding leftovers) are stored in Croatian cinemateque in Zagreb and only tonal and working copy format 16 or 35 mm are stored.

In addition private (film) collections are also stored:

- first of all, it is a complete film archive of "Cinema Club Split" (established in 1952), which has given birth to generations of famous authors, their material being recorded in non-professional format N8 and S8 (mm) and only a small portion on the tape of 16 mm (the originals are preserved in the film archive and piece by piece is being dubbed, depending on the priority list and the finances);
- all the films of the late distinguished Split director Ivan Martinac, who was the originator of Cinema Club Split and a leading figure of the golden generation of "Split film school", which is known and recognized abroad;
- a film collection of the late director Alexander F. Stasenko (his wife decided to store all his films in the film archive);
- There are also various private persons (or their ancestors) that collected various ancient local and foreign films (fiction, animation, newsreels, and so on) or even shooting home movies and have them downloaded; they are preserved because of the history and future generations; each film is good to precious and interesting because everybody knows that a picture speaks a thousand words;
- Recently the film archive of the City puppet theatre was taken over; now we keep all their puppet plays that they recorded on VHS tapes (they are transferring them to DVDs and we have submitted to keep the originals on VHS);
- the collection of gramophone records that some private persons donated – because people are finally becoming aware of the importance of saving different types of records.

In the future, we will continue to receive and store the film and other unconventional materials because, unfortunately, it is difficult to have at disposal home climate conditions that are ideal for the storage of this type of material. Therefore, there is always the possibility that one donate such (unconventional) material to us or with the aim to preserve audio/visual recordings for future generations. We also hope that in future we will achieve good cooperation with various cultural institutions, and in particular with the schools to make students able to demonstrate in practice the importance of preserving their archival material including film and other unconventional materials.

*Vendi Ganza Marušić\**

---

\* Vendi Ganza Marušić has a degree in the department of information science (archivistics) and the department for Spanish language at University of Zagreb. She is currently employed in the State archive in Split (since 2003.) in the Department of film and unconventional records. She has passed the exam for archivists with the specialization in film records in December 2007. She is a member of Croatian Archival Society.