

## QUO VADIS ARCHIVISTICA, AMOR NOSTER? (INTRODUCTORY REFLECTION)

As the editor-in-chief of *Atlanti +*, the international scientific journal for contemporary archival theory and practice, I dedicate my introductory reflection to the topics of the 35<sup>th</sup> International Institute of Archival Science (IIAS) Conference and the 18<sup>th</sup> International Autumn Archival School. As is customary, the regular members of IIAS have chosen two topics:

1. Popularization of archival sciences
2. Archiving classical and digital documents in theory and practice.

Both topics will be discussed in detail at the 35<sup>th</sup> IIAS International Conference and the Autumn Archival School. The texts of the lectures will be published in *Atlanti+*, as well as in both volumes of *Atlanti*, which will be published during the conference.

Given the title of this reflection, ‘*Quo vadis archivistica, archivistica amor noster?*’, it is possible to respond and point out some citations about positive archival legislation and by-laws or standards adopted by individual countries or those regulations and recommendations that were created within the framework of individual commissions and committees of the ICA (International Council of Archives). In the hope that these instructions and positive legislation will also be used and implemented in archival theory and practice and that they will also be expressed in the scientific and study studies of archivists, my great wish is that archival science in the future would focus on enforcing the definition that archival science is an independent, academic, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science. We must classify this science as a social science and a natural science. The popularization of archival science largely depends on other sciences, which should take archival science into account in their development, as an equal partner in scientific research in general.

I also see popularization in errors in the decisions of individual countries, in the formation of public archives within other institutions, such as in Canada, where library and archival activities are combined. Such and similar solutions are also emerging elsewhere in the world. Guidelines for the popularization of archival sciences can be found in efforts to organize independent archival studies in con-

nection with national and international movements. However, archival sciences should be established through decisions for independent archival studies at all study levels and through many other propaganda-related actions such as exhibitions, publications, and the like.

Another topic is the archiving of classical and digital documents in theory and practice. In principle, we have not had any problems with archiving classical documents and related issues, at least for the last 50 years. Problems have arisen recently, since the activities of archival theory and practice are burdened with the processes of digitization, information technologies, artificial intelligence, personal data security... All these processes influence and shake up the established principles of archival science. At the same time, the foundation of archival science is forgotten, which can be found in the principle of provenance. With this rapid development, the awareness that we must become familiar with the fact that there is no difference between classical and digital archiving when dealing with archival documents is simply bypassed or omitted.

This year will be a year of anniversaries: my personal anniversary, celebrating 60 years of archival activity (started in 1965); the publication of the journal *Archives – Contemporary Archives* from 1979 to 2003, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute IAS (established in 1985), the publication of the 35<sup>th</sup> issue of the journal *Atlanti* and the 8<sup>th</sup> volume of the journal *Atlanti +*.

An interesting path is behind us, but ahead of us may be ‘tectonic changes’, such as activities regarding the formation of independent archival sciences. The development of independent professional archives, the process of creating an independent EU Archive, the development of independent archival studies at universities and faculties around the world. In Slovenia, the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia should be separated from the Ministry of Culture, and financial support should be provided to archival institutions to improve technical and professional working conditions. I recently read the following in an article: ‘Archivarbeit kostet Geld’, meaning that work in the archive costs money. On the one hand, I agree with the article. The funds that archival institutions receive for their operations are always insufficient, and they also need to be distributed over several years. However, I cannot agree with the idea that by digitizing preserved archival documents, as cultural monuments and authentic records of the history of nations, this volume

could be reduced by digitization procedures in order to save on depot space.

In response to my question, ‘Quo vadis archivistica, amor noster?’, I invite all archivists to act together to find ways to develop archives, archival science, archival studies, archival theory and practice, and prepare them for the future, with the desire to proceed from the principles of deontology. Therefore, to find regulations that fully regulate the duties and respect of all archivists and our profession together. Let us insist on ‘*Cuilibet in arte sua credendum*’ - „Each expert should be trusted in their own area of expertise.“

**Peter Pavel Klasinc, Editor-in-Chief**