



The Historical Archives of Belgrade

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65 Years of Service



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INSTITUTION HISTORY

FOUNDATION

The Historical Archives of Belgrade was founded by the Decision of the Executive People's Council of the City of Belgrade, reached on the Session of September 26th, 1945, under the authority title of City Archives. The main task was to collect original documents relative to the history of Belgrade. When founded, the Archives functioned as a constituent part of the City Library until 1947 when started to work independently. It got its present name in 1958.

THE ARCHIVES BUILDING

Prior to moving into the purposely built building, by the design of Milan Jerković, the architect, on October 15th, 1973, the Archives was housed in the premises of the City Library and the former Lottery Building.

Lottery building in the Vasiņa Street in which the Archives was housed since 1954 to 1973.





The present premises of the Historical Archives of Belgrade in the Palmira Toljatija Street

In April 2003 the Archives adapted some premises into the Gallery of the Historical Archives of Belgrade, which functional interior enabled the realization of conceptually innovative archival exhibitions.

Gallery of the Historical Archives of Belgrade



AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS

PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CITY

The Historical Archives of Belgrade is authorized to protect the archives and the documentary material of the local government authorities – Assembly of the City of Belgrade and 17 municipalities. In addition, the Archives has the actual authority over the archival material created by the corporative bodies which function on the territory of Belgrade but do not come under the authority of the Republic Administration. The Archives reviews 1656 creators and holders of the archives and the documentary material in the area of government, judiciary, education, culture, welfare, health, commerce, banking, socio-political organizations and associations.

The protection of the archives as the cultural heritage of the City starts from the moment of its creation during the activities of their creators and holders by the competency of check-up and the assessment of their records management and by offering professional help and assistance. When

Belgrade Fair, 1937



transferred to the Archives, the archival fonds are further arranged according to the professional principles and described according to international archival standards. A number of fonds and collections have been processed and described in the Archives Information System "Janus", in compliance with the ISAD(g) standard. The archival material may be consulted and researched in two functional units: Research Room and Citizen Service Room, according to the Research Room Regulation Rules. The Historical Archives of Belgrade presents the cultural heritage of the City to public and fosters its unique value by its educational activity, its exhibitions and publishing.

PUBLISHING

In order to make the fonds, categorized as of great importance and of extraordinary importance, more accessible to public, the Archives is oriented to publishing activities. Since its foundation the Archives has published 50 editions. Here is a list of the historically most distinguished ones:

A view on the Exhibition *Modernism in Belgrade*, 2003.



- Jorjo Tadić, Toma Popović, *The Dubrovnik archives on Belgrade 1521–1606*, I–III, Belgrade 1950; 1976; 1986.
- Mihajlo Dinić, *Sources for the history of Belgrade in the Middle Ages*, I–II, Belgrade 1951–1958.
- *Documents from the Zemun archives on the History of the First Serbian Uprising 1810–1813*, I–III, editor Tanasije Ilić, Belgrade 1955; 1961; 1969.
- Muharem Kreso, *The German Occupational Administration in Belgrade 1941–1944*, Belgrade 1979.
- *Living in Belgrade 1837–1940. Documents of the Belgrade City Administration*, I–VI, Belgrade 2003–2008.
- *BITEF – 40 Years of Theatrical Tendencies*, compiled by Olga Latinčić, Branka Branković, Svetlana Adžić, Belgrade 2007.
- *The Modern Serbian State (1804–2004). Chronology*, group of authors, Belgrade 2007.
- *The Banjica Concentration Camp / Camp Inmates*, II, compiled by Evica Micković, Milena Radojčić, Belgrade 2009.

EXHIBITIONS

Over three decades the Archives has been organizing exhibitions. When the Gallery was opened this activity became even more intensive. During the period 2003–2010, the Archives opened 21 exhibitions. All of them exposed important concepts of thematic and chronological segments of the history of Belgrade. Here are some exhibitions that were best recognized by the public:

- *New Belgrade 1948–1988*, 1988.
- *Fifty Anniversary of Bombardment of Belgrade*, 1991.
- *Russian Emigrants in Belgrade – traces and inspiration*, 1996.
- *Centuries of Belgrade /XVI–XX/ Belgrade ad acta (the Standing Exhibition)*, 2003.
- *Along the Danube River through the Past Times*, 2003.
- *Modernism in Belgrade*, 2003.
- *Preserving the Book – old and rare books in the Historical Archives of Belgrade: XVI–XX century*, 2004.
- *20th Century – The Age of Wars, the Century of the Evil Ones*, 2004.
- *BITEF – Grand Prizes*, 2007.
- *Banjica Concentration Camp – Inmates*, 2009.

FONDS AND COLLECTIONS

The Historical Archives of Belgrade nowadays houses 2737 fonds and collections occupying 13 kilometers of repository space, comprising the period from 16th century to nowadays.

The most important fonds and collections are categorized into two groups of cultural assets: of extraordinary and of great importance. The most consulted fonds and collections are: Zemun Magistrate, Municipality of Belgrade, Belgrade City Administration, Assembly of Belgrade, The District Court for the City of Belgrade, Administrative Court in Zemun, fonds of craftsmanships, Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade, Collection of church registries of birth, marriage and death, Archivalia.

The oldest fond is Zemun Magistrate (1749-1934) which depicts the social and administrative life in Zemun and in Region from the very foundation of the Magistrate in 1749 when the Šenborn Family

*Belgrade streets competitiveness,
photograph by Mihailo S. Petrović*





Charter of Emperor Franz Joseph I
issued to Pavle Georgije Spirta, 1856 /detail/

bought the City of Zemun up and joined it to Military Border. The fond is rich with the data for the history of Belgrade and Serbia.

The oldest document that is preserved in the Archives is the Dialogue of the Turk and the Christian pertaining to the military-political situation, written in Turkish language. The document is undated, but according to the mentioned counsels given by the sultan Süleyman the Magnificent (1520–1566), it's almost certain that it was written after his death.

LEGACIES, FAMILY AND PERSONAL FONDS

Acquisition of archives by gift or purchase has been intensified in the last decade. Accordingly, the Archives has acquired a number of Family and Personal Fonds from the individuals who marked the political and cultural life of Belgrade during the 19th and 20th century.

The largest Family fond that is preserved in the Archives belong to the Glavinić Family. It is also worth mentioning some of the personal fonds: Vladimir Jovanović, Ivan S. Pavlović, Mihailo S. Petrović. The well known are the legacies of revolutionaries, statesmen and politicians , among them

we distinguish the legacies of Konstantin Koča Popović and Leposava Lepa Perović, Blagoje Nešković, Dragoslav Draža Marković, Vicko Krstulović, Kosta St. Pavlović and others. Very valuable are the legacies of distinguished social and cultural workers: Ivan Đurić, Miroljub Todorović, Novak Novaković, Jovan Ćirilov, Milorad Mišković, Jelena Šantić, Kragujević Family etc. Documents, photographs, postcards, unrealized designs, unpublished writings, digitized personal collections that belong to old Belgrade families enrich the repositories of the Archives as well.

ARCHIVES IN NUMBERS

Quantity	13 kilometers
Number of fonds and collections	2.737
Library units	31.120 (143 old and rare books)
Supervision of record management	1.656 creators and holders
Lists of fonds and collections	450
Summary inventory	232
Analitic cards	1.600.000
<i>Electronic catalogue „Janus“</i>	230.000 units of description
Microfilm	5.000.000 shots
Empoloyees	55
	Annually
Over 9.000	Citizens requests for documents
400	Registered researchers
Over 1.500	Visitors to the Gallery
10.000	Archival units researched
8.000	Restaurated documents
150	Binded damaged books and magazines
15	Restaurated old and rare books and magazines

LIBRARY

Library fond is complementary to the archival fond and satisfactory to the archivists and other users needs. Library fond is comprised by library exchange, purchase and buying up. Gifts in libraries and legacies make a considerable part of the library fond. 31.120 library units comprises the fond, among which a special place hold old and rare books and reference collection.



Planner George V. Staševski, Design of the new building of the German Evangelical Church Municipality, today the Bitez-Theater building, 1940

On an annual level, over 9000 citizens comes to the Archives for various needs, to do the research work for scientific purposes or to acquire copies of documents for their personal and administrative needs.

All users are welcome to use the archival material under the same conditions and Service Price List in the Research Room or the Citizen Service Room according to the proscribed procedure, or if they submit their request by post or e-mail on the following address arhivbeograda@sezampro.rs /subject: announcing of the coming/research/.

READING ROOM

In the Reading room the users consult the archival and library material for scientific, publishing, professional or studying purposes.

Working hours: Monday–Friday 8 AM to 4³⁰ PM

CITIZEN SERVICE ROOM

In this Service city administration units may consult the archival material for their purposes and needs, as well as citizens for their personal and administrative needs /issuing copies of documents for regulating their working, social, educational or property statuses/.

Working hours: Monday–Friday 8 AM to 1 PM

GALLERY

Working hours:

Monday–Saturday 10 AM to 8 PM

Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM

Free entrance.

Danica Tomić, the first female pilot, 1928

