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*Criminal and Legal Protection of the Archival Material in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia
1918-1941*

Summary

The work describes the criminal and legal protection defined by the regulations that refer to the archival activities and archival institutions and regulations defined by the general criminal and legal provisions in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. No rules intended to regulate the archival activities in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia were adopted, except for a single Law which regulated the management of the diplomatic archival materials, and a single criminal and legal responsibility aimed at the protection of those archives. One cannot speak of any significant criminal and legal protection applied, based on the legal regulations. In this sense, the territories that entered the new State formally applied the regulations adopted prior to the unification. Consequently they applied criminal and legal provisions concerning the protection of the archival material, providing the regulations contained them.

On the basis of the available resources, one can easily study and present the criminal and legal provisions on the protection of the archival materials as outlined in the general regulations on the criminal responsibility since the foundation of the Yugoslav State, from 1918 until 1930, mostly reviewing the situation in the territory of the former Kingdom of Serbia. Similarly to the archival regulations, the criminal and legal regulations were formally applied in the territory where they were adopted prior to the unification. In the period 1930-1941 there was a general criminal and legal regulation applied to the whole territory. For the first time, in 1929 a single Criminal Law was passed and applied to the whole territory of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Analyses of all cited criminal and legal regulations show that those regulations mostly protected the archival materials in an indirect way. Just a few provisions were directly related to the protection of the archival material. Having this in mind, the protection was neither sufficient nor adequate.