

*State Archives in Timisoara as Source for Serbian History*

*Summary*

Tamis district service of the National Archives of Romania preserves valuable archival material created in the work of regional institutions operating in the field of politics, administration and public affairs, administration of justice, religious life, education, agriculture as well as numerous personal fonds and collections of prominent persons in the region of Banat. This archival material being witness of mutual history deals to a great extent with both history of Serbian people and present territory of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, respectfully Republic of Serbia. From the very beginning the Archives have been working hard to make accessible their fonds to the public by creating scientific and informative finding aids especially analytic inventory that conveys content of every subject and provides much easier access to the old documents written in archaic languages. Regarding type of archival holdings part of the fonds is not suitable for more detailed finding aids so it remains at general level. Tremendous work in written descriptions in Romanian language wasn't published but those descriptions were only internally used. But lately, important improvements regarding accessibility of archival material on internet became obvious. Following the work of old colleagues who checked the Romanian Archives, the research work in Timisoara is continued.

Checked contents covered respectable number of smaller and bigger archival fonds and collections (180), before all those containing archival material created up to 1918 while in some fonds period covered twenties of the XX century, respectfully final splitting of Banat after the First World War. After that period the archival material is not significantly dealing with studied topics. After establishing register elements of fonds and finding aid, archival material mentioning places from the territory that belongs nowadays to our country as well as subjects that are in some other way important for Serbian national history was noted. Details came from research work as well as adapted and published reports. Survey of great number of finding aids and profoundness of access allow that one may competently talk about authenticity, character, and possibility of use and research of fundus of this institution.

Group of fonds (district, administration, personal and family fonds, municipalities and cities, collections of documents) have substantial and structural peculiarities. Large fond *Banat General Command* with plenty of data regarding Serbian history requires special attention. Fonds of wider Banat character are more than humble during big mutual state. Other administrative fonds every one of them in its own domain could be used both to create general picture and to research certain topics. Inheritance of well-known individuals from Banat as well as well-known families with its number and significance complement the past with social, natural and biographic data. Offices of other local authorities, places where marked my Serbs left archival material at the high level of generality. Archival collections are of historiographic significance, visual expressivity and shape, witnessing of both important historic events and demographic circumstances(registries). The purpose of this paper is additionally to point the way, advice and help all those that want to research Serbian past using fonds of Romanian archives.