

he wished to transform the archive into a centre of historical research "because it is a genuine treasury where records are not merely kept in custody and made available upon request, but where all documents should be scientifically explored and exploited to the greatest possible extent". He died in 1831, not quite 51 years old, as one of the first victims of a cholera epidemic raging in Vienna. His name is inseparably linked to the history of Vienna in the period from 1815 to the March Revolution of 1848 in Germany, when he made himself a name as the assiduous editor of the periodical "*Archiv für Geschichte, Statistik, Literatur und Kunst*" (Archive for History, Statistics, Literature and the Arts).

After his death, 13 persons submitted their applications for the position of director in the archive. One of these candidates, Franz Grillparzer, in his application pointed out that he had a command of six foreign languages, and that his "knowledge of Latin is not of the type you acquire in minor schools and subsequently forget. Rather it is the knowledge which one acquires and retains through the constant study of antiquity". Grillparzer was appointed to the post of director at the age of 41 and now had under his charge eight civil servants, one male domestic servant and a "washerwoman". He devoted part of his time in the archive to his literary work, while at the same time performing his official obligations most meticulously. Grillparzer achieved his masterpiece as an archivist in the rapid and smooth move of the *Hofkammerarchiv* to the new building in Johannesgasse and the successful arrangement of its holdings.

After 270 years, during which the stock of records constantly grew, the rooms in the *Kaiserspital* had become too small. The management of the building demanded a new building "in which the archive would have light, fire-resistant rooms ... where all current and future holdings can be safely held in custody ... and which would be located at a shorter distance from the ... court office". The new building in Johannesgasse was completed in 1848; in the weeks from June 26 to August 19, 1848, the entire archive, comprising 20,000 fascicles, 7,000 books, a collection of documents, calendars, mining maps and files, were moved to their

new destination. Grillparzer's successor in office, Johann Otto Prechtler (1813–1881) was not only a personal friend of the poet's, but also a literary figure. Although he is hardly known today, he was famous in his days for numerous stage plays and opera libretti, and for the lyric poetry that was held in esteem by his contemporaries. He was awarded the Gold Medal for the Arts and Sciences.

His successor in office, Karl Oberleitner (1811–1898), who was a renowned historical writer, was appointed director in 1865. However, he held this position for merely one year, for he inherited a large fortune and was able to relinquish his official functions at the age of 56 to devote the rest of his life as a private person to the muse of literature. In 1873 Franz Kürschner (1840–1882) was appointed to the post. He was the first director of the archive to have graduated from the Institute for Historical Research that had been founded 20 years earlier. The appointment of a specialized historian to this post was in keeping with the new focus of work in the archive: historical research. The next director was Karl Edler von Hofer (1824–1887). His most excellent qualification seems to have been his family background: He was "the oldest grandson of Andreas Hofer and as such the representative of the hero's descendants". Because of his family's status, he was given the honorary citizenship by numerous communities and was awarded the Iron Cross of the Francis-Joseph Order for "patriotic service and loyal self-sacrifice".

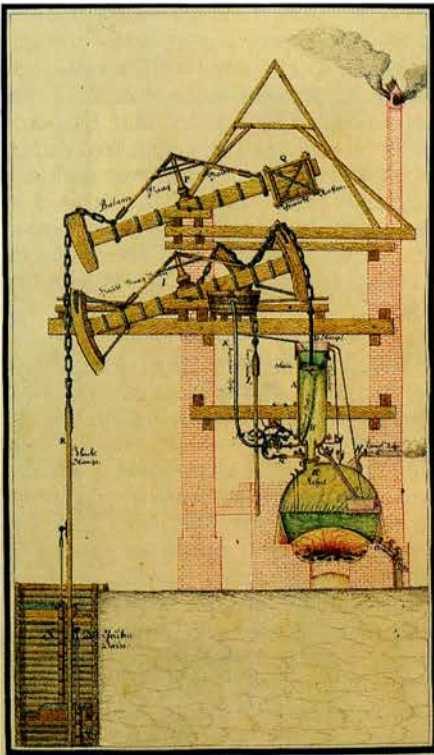
In 1865, Ludwig von Thallóczy (1857–1916) succeeded him as archivist, a position which he held for 30 years. In 1900, this "homo politicus" acquired the title "*wirklicher Hofrat*" (aulic councillor), and in 1913 became the head of the "Bosnian Department of the Joint Ministry of Finance". This department dealt with all the public affairs of this crown land and had more power than many a ministry. It reported directly to the Joint Ministry of Finance because Austria and Hungary failed to agree on the question as to which half of the empire Bosnia should belong. In 1916, Thallóczy became the governor of Serbia, which was then occupied by the royal and imperial armed forces. In this capacity he attended the funeral of Emperor Francis Joseph I on December

2, 1916. On the journey back to his office in Belgrade, he was killed in a railway accident near Budapest. He remained in office until his death and, of all the directors, he had the most outstanding career.

After the First World War, the *Hofkammerarchiv* became ever more popular with foreign and Austrian researchers. In 1937, in order to accommodate to their needs, the records stored on the fourth floor of the archive were removed to make space for a large research room and offices for the staff. This change in the function of the light fourth floor had become possible after a lift had been installed in the building. In 1950/51 the loft of the *Hofkammerarchiv* was converted to create two floors for the storage of archival material. Thus it was possible to take over the records of the years 1821–1848, which had hitherto been housed in the *Finanzarchiv*, where conditions were very crowded. The conversion of the basement in 1983/84 was another measure through which further space was created. After the revitalization of the entire building in the years 1980 to 1984, and the installation of a small restorers' workshop and several additional handling rooms in 1986/87, the time-honoured *Hofkammerarchiv* is today in an excellent state of repair.

The name of the archive is retained

Even after the establishment of the Ministry of Finance in 1848, the *Hofkammerarchiv* retained its original name, although it was subordinated to the Ministry of Finance. After the Austro-Hungarian compromise, the *Hofkammerarchiv* was officially renamed "*Archiv des Gemeinsamen Reichsfinanzministeriums*" (archive of the joint ministry of finance of the empire) and was placed under the control of this ministry. The name *Hofkammerarchiv*, however, continued to be commonly used, if for no other reason than to avoid any confusion with the *Finanzarchiv* founded in 1892 and subordinated to the Austrian Ministry of Finance. After the First World War, the archive was officially renamed, being given its original name *Hofkammerarchiv*. Despite intensive efforts on the part of the Ministry of Finance, the archive did not remain under its control. In connec-



Cross section of a water raising machine (for a mine adit), used in 1764 in the mining area of Schemnitz.

tion with the austerity measures initiated by the Geneva Protocols of October 1922 and the merger of ministries, the archive was put under the control of the Federal Chancellery. After the Second World War, the Hofkammerarchiv, which in 1945 was merged with the Finanzarchiv, became the Third Section of the Austrian state archives and was officially designated as "Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv".

The documents of the Hofkammerarchiv

The Hofkammerarchiv houses invaluable treasures. Its holdings comprise more than 30 million files, over 11,000 thick volumes of protocols and indexes, approx. 12,000 maps and plans, as well as valuable old documents. The oldest of these, a charter issued by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa (about 1125–1190) to the monastery of St. Paul in Carinthia dates back to 1170. Decisions that shaped the economic development of Central Europe are embodied in the documents collected from 1500

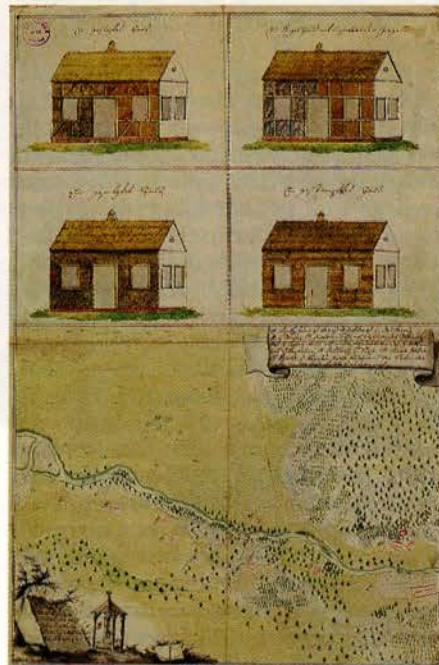
onwards. Amongst thousands of volumes we find one thick tome containing meticulously drawn and painted maps bearing testimony to the first road which the Austrians built through the Dalmatian coastland. Another thick volume contains a complete set of patterns of the Bohemian lace and embroidery manufacturers, which had been collected and glued into the book by one of Maria Theresa's civil servants. The Hofkammerarchiv holds records of very important decisions on war or peace, of family affairs of the "supreme imperial house" but also of matters concerning the lowest-ranking employees of the postal service, matters of artistic and cultural interest, and even of a most peculiar nature. One such curiosity is the report on a medical investigation, signed by four witnesses, which dates back to 1732. It reads as follows:

"After it had been reported that, in the village of Medwett, so-called vampires had killed 17 persons by sucking their blood, we were ordered by the honourable high command to go there in order to carry out a thorough investigation of this matter. The villagers unanimously agreed that Arnont Pavle, who had broken his neck when



Depiction of the thermal bath of Mehadia in the Banat, 1767.

he had fallen off a hay cart, had eaten earth from a vampire's grave in his lifetime, and besmirched himself with the blood of that vampire. Therefore, they argued he had become a vampire himself after his death and had killed four persons. In order to eradicate this evil, we went to the cemetery and had the graves of suspected vampires dug up. The corpse of Pavle was exhumed and it was found that it showed no signs of putrefaction and that fresh blood oozed out of his eyes, nose, mouth and ears, and that new nails had grown on his hands and feet. As the villagers concluded from these signs that the corpse was that of a genuine vampire, they drove a stake through his heart, upon which the corpse croaked. So they cut off his head and burnt it together with the body. Then they proceeded in the same way with all other corpses which they believed were vampires. The other exhumed corpses which had decayed as 'decent' corpses do, were replaced in their graves."



Depiction of colonists' houses – prototypes which were built in the Banat region between Arad and Lippa.

As regards the other 81 collections, four holdings dating back to 1749 and four covering the period after 1762 deserve special mention. In the years 1749 to 1762, the Hofkammerarchiv de facto did not exist. In general, it can be said that after the reopening of the Hofkammer in 1762, the flow of records reaching the archive began to follow a more systematic and regular pattern. Sections with clearly defined tasks started to take shape, whereas previously records had been arranged in a somewhat higgledy-piggledy fashion.

The Herrschaftsakten (the demesne records) deal with the sovereigns' pri-

vate property, their towns and market towns, fiefs, domains, the confiscated property of unruly nobles (so-called "property of rebels"), monasteries and convents under the protection and jurisdiction of the sovereigns' landvogts, and authorities. These comprised, for example, the *Vizedomamt* (exchequer of the Habsburg family) in Austria below the Enns which was responsible for the administration of the sovereigns' estates in Lower Austria, and the *Kremscher Schlüsselamt* (the "key" office), a subordinated authority in charge of all matters concerning the district of the Lower Austrian town Krems. The majority of demesne records cover the 16th and 17th century, but some of them date back to much earlier periods. The Leoben demesne records, for example, cover the period from 1313 to 1728. The demesne lands not only constituted a major source of income for the sovereigns, but also served as an important basis for their credit operations (through mortgaging or sale), which made regular assessments of the value of the lands necessary. The civil servants were entrusted with the writing of the so-called *urbare*, i.e. registers showing the revenues from demesne lands, and of bills, tax and tithe lists, boundary descriptions and inventories of castles. The demesne records constitute a very rich mine of information on the country's economic, social and local history, the development of settlements, agriculture and families.

The *Reichsakten* (imperial records), the majority of which came into existence in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, primarily deal with the tasks and duties of the Habsburg sovereigns as rulers of the Holy Roman Empire. They treat an incredibly large variety of subjects, giving account of matters relating to feudal tenure, war expenditure, diplomatic expenses, including the costs incurred for formal entertaining and festivities and for the travels of the sovereigns' envoys. The records contain detailed lists of the amounts of money and accurate descriptions of all the artistic utensils, such as clocks, goblets, weapons and mechanical toys given as presents to influential officers in Turkey and of the enormous sums spent on banquets for the Turkish legation, whose members not only enjoyed the pleasures of the table but were also only too eager to forget that they were

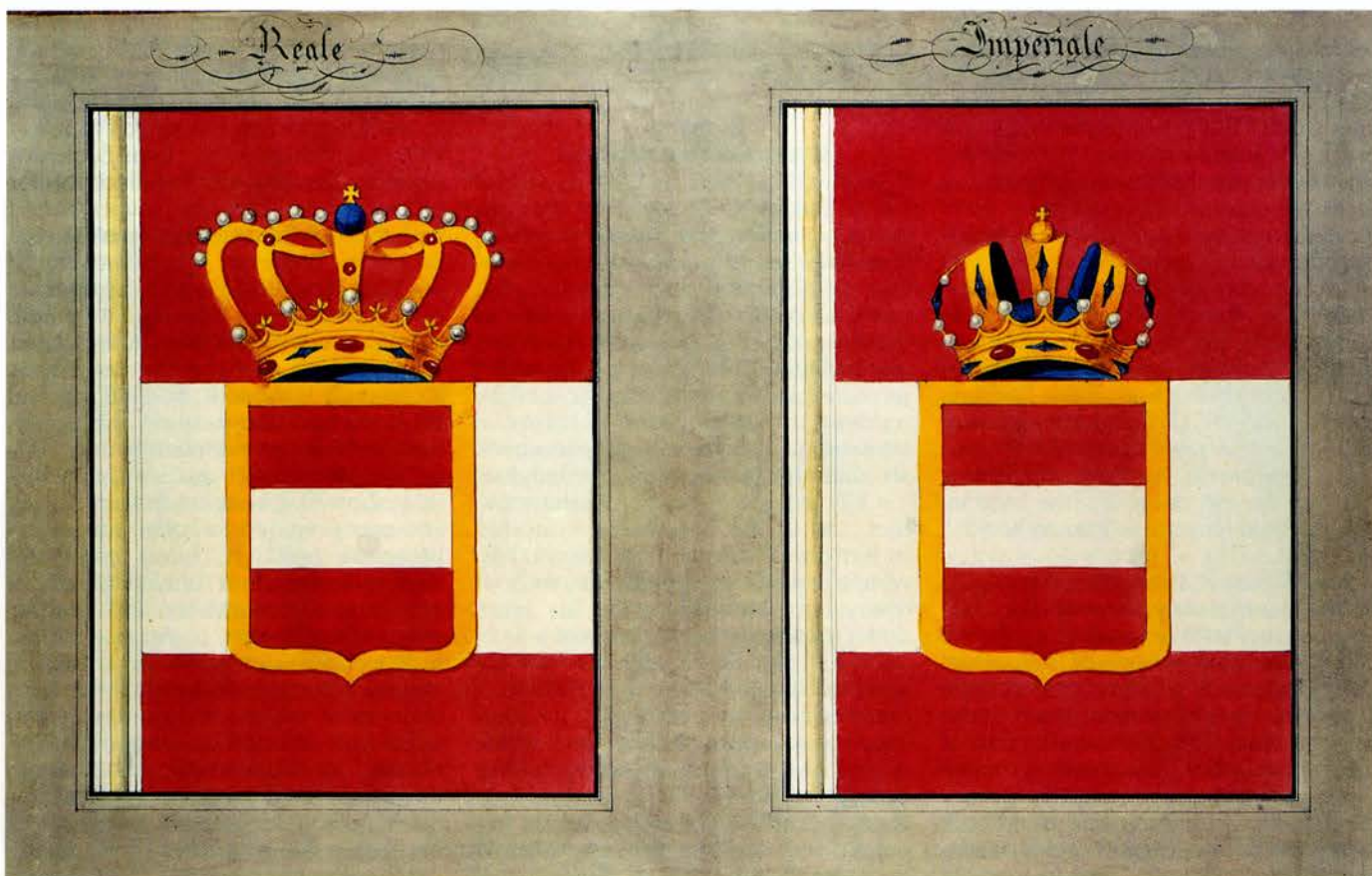
not allowed to drink alcohol. The sets of documents "*Geldhandlungen im Reich*" (money transactions in the empire), "*Reichspfennigmeisteramt*" (office of the master of the imperial pfennig), "*Gemeiner Pfennig*" (common pfennig) from 1495 onwards, and "*Fugger und andere Geldgeber*" (the Fuggers and other creditors) reveal how money was raised to finance the wars against the Turks and the peasants as well as the war of 1544, which the Austrian emperor fought against the Protestants in Germany, the so-called "Smalcaldian Uprising" as it was referred to in Vienna. The costs incurred in connection with sending legations to Moscow (1561) and to Persia (1599) to build alliances against the Turkish threat, were as painstakingly recorded as the money paid for the maintenance of the sixteen illegitimate sons of Maximilian I. "*Bergwerke im Reich*" (mines in the empire), "*Münzordnungen*" (minting regulations), "*Religionskolloquium in Speyer 1545*" (the Religious Colloquium at Speyer in 1545), "*Herren, Vasallen und Communen in Italien*" (sovereigns, vassals and communes in Italy), "*Kaiserliche Hochzeiten, Leichenbegängnisse und Krönungen*" (imperial weddings, funerals and coronations) from 1493 onwards, contain a wealth of interesting data. It is especially the last holding that attracts numerous researchers to the *Hofkammerarchiv*.

The group of documents dealing with aulic finances comprises the records of the financial administration of the empire in the widest sense of the term, as well as material on the expenses of the royal household, including costs of festivities and entertainment. The journals of the *Hofzählamt* (aulic payments office) deal with similar matters. As the sovereigns always acted as patrons of the arts and as promoters of culture, the *Hofkammerarchiv* constitutes a rich source of information for cultural historians. Craftsmen and artists, poets and philosophers, but also alchemists and astrologers rendered their services for money, but many an eloquent petition had to be addressed to the *Hofkammer* before it would finally pay up. Famous artists, such as Albrecht Dürer, Tiziano Vecellio, known as Tizian, Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach (1656–1723), Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714–1787) or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–

1791), to name but a few, were not in a much better position than the lowest-ranking "*Kuchlmensch*", the unskilled female help in the kitchen of the royal household. The guildler that Emperor Maximilian, the Last Knight, had ordered to be handed over to "two maidens who had sung for him" is recorded in these documents as are the horrendous sums spent on the enchanting decor and spectacular staging of 18th century operas.

The records show the expenditure for the buildings in Vienna as well as the purchasing prices of goldfish for the pond of Innsbruck castle. Side by side with the record of expenditure, we also find information on Austria's diplomatic representatives. We learn how the Austrians tried to outdo in splendour the envoys of other powers, and we read about the gifts offered to the diplomats of Turkey, to the Tartar princes in Russia or the Maharadshas to make them favourably disposed towards Austria. When studying these records we understand how difficult it was to mobilise an army; so every lost battle was as much of a headache for the director of the *Hofkammer* as for the general in command.

Amongst the more recent holdings, mention should first be made of the mint and mining collection, which with its more than 6,000 fascicles is a very comprehensive one. The sovereigns' mines, such as the rich quicksilver mines in Idrija in the duchy of Carniola, the Erzberg (ore mountain) in Styria, the silver mines in Bohemia, the gold, silver and copper mines in Hungary, as well as the numerous saltworks were a vital source of income for the state, especially as no licences had to be obtained from the relevant crafts. Direct revenues from the mines were, however, only second in importance as the mines mainly served as a security for state loans. The expected revenues were pledged as collateral. These mining and minting records not only refer to matters of administration and personnel matters, but also contain a wealth of other documents, such as maps, plans of mines, production tables, drawings of technical equipment, drafts of coin designs and even some samples of metals and ores. Technology or the "arts" as it was referred to in the past, developed through mining and the collection of maps and plans of



Draft designs for the flags of the Austrian navy, "Reale" for royal – "Imperiale" for imperial.

the archive offers researchers a wealth of materials on its history.

The *Kreditakten* (credit records) illustrate that it was necessary to win the support of domestic and foreign creditors at almost any cost in order to be able to finance urgent investments and expenses. They also demonstrate how in times of crisis, the credit system and the currency became increasingly eroded and how, after inflation and state bankruptcy, all efforts had to be devoted to the creation of a sound economic basis. The credit records give evidence of the state budgets, the state debts, and the state deficits. When studying these records we also learn that Maria Theresa ordered the introduction of paper money already in peace-time so that future wars could be financed more easily. This collection also includes documents which are of great significance for the history of money, such as banknotes, anticipation certificates, a type of provisional paper money, and

the drafts of the designs for the national banknotes. The comprehensive collection of securities covering the period from Maria Theresa's reign up to the First Republic also forms a noteworthy part of the archive.

The *Kommerzakten* (commercial records) give a survey of the economic policy and promotion measures through which the requirements of the economy as a whole and its individual branches were met. Comprehensive files on toll and customs posts provide information on the types of merchandise traded and on the volume, origin, trade routes and destination of goods. They also throw light on state interventions that burdened and influenced the country's economy, trade, crafts, agriculture and industries. We get a clear idea of how the state sought to play an active role in economic life by managing numerous mining enterprises, the postal, salt and tobacco monopolies, the major state domains, the national

factories and last, but not least, the court theatres. The state was involved in the running of all conceivable spheres of the economy of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. One of the five country sections of the commercial records, the Littoral section (i.e. on the Adriatic coastland) is subdivided into no less than 180 subsections. To illustrate the great diversity of these archival materials, a few examples can be given: the draining of the marshlands near Aquileia, the Academy of flower painting, the Capitano di Porto of Trieste, diamond cutting, inventions, dyeing herbs, bell-founding, commercial journeys and discoveries, intelligence and reconnoitring papers, village fairs, consular matters, trade with the Levant, manufacture, nautical studies, ox trading, porcelain factories, quick-silver trading, bark tannery, ocean navigation, the thaler "negotium", i.e. income from trade in Maria Theresa thalers, clock-making, inspection of foreign ships, making of coats of

arms, and sugar production. The records not only document implemented projects, such as the building of canals and the widening of the Arlberg pass road, but also throw light on proposals that were never carried out, such as the plan of 1792 suggesting that Austria should use its good relations to the Sublime Porte to further the building of a canal from Suez to Port Said so as to gain control over a part of world trade. The famous Suez Canal was finally built 80 years later, with no Austrian interests involved in the project. It is also worth noting that Karl von Drajs (1785–1851) failed to obtain a licence for the production of the “running machine” he had invented, because his invention, i.e. the bicycle, was deemed harmful to human health.

The *Banater Akten* (Banat records) demonstrate clearly how in the 18th century the state imposed regulatory restrictions on all spheres of human life. With promises of all kinds, settlers from all over the world were attracted to the newly acquired territories in the East of the empire where they were to make the soil arable. The records give a description of how the goal of an economic, technological and organizational transformation of a barren, sparsely populated area into a flourishing province was reached. Prisoners were settled in the extremely unhealthy regions of the Banat, and for reasons of state, were ordered to marry the “loose women” who had been arrested in Vienna and deported to the Banat, a practice referred to as the “downstream Danube mail”. Puritanical Maria Theresa hoped that in this way it would be possible to purge Austria of suspect individuals and, at the same time, to force these “profligate women to do something useful for the country”, i.e. to increase the population with their offspring and thus to contribute to raising the number of new tax payers and soldiers. Even today, more than 200 years after Maria Theresa’s reign, many great-grand-children of Hungarian and Banat colonists, who emigrated to all parts of the world after the two World Wars, come to the *Hofkammerarchiv* in order to find out about their ancestors in the old country - and sometimes they

use a form of somewhat antiquated German with an American accent.

Research

The majority of visitors, however, are not genealogists, but historians specialized in different fields, university professors, local history experts, etc. Renowned historians of the past were able to use the archive provided they had time and patience. Grillparzer, whose works were frequently banned by censorship, reported in 1836, what caution he intended to exercise in order to check an entirely unsuspecting researcher. “...Only indexes are to be handed out to him, and of the documents requested by him only those are to be given to him which could be published without reservation. He must write his notes down in exercise books, each of which, once full, would be submitted for inspection (by archivists) and, in case of doubt, would be submitted to the Hofkammer for approval.” As late as 1848, the archive was made accessible for “literary research”. Thereupon, researchers consulted the archive more frequently, but not until 1873 was it found necessary to introduce a “visitors’ register”. In 1873/74, 106 researchers came to the *Hofkammerarchiv*. Renowned historians, such as Alfred von Arneth (1791–1863), Friedrich Hurter (1787–1865), Anton Gindely (1829–1892), Theodor von Karajan (1810–1877), Josef Hammer-Purgstall (1774–1856), the music historian Ludwig von Köchel (1800–1877), theatre director Heinrich Laube (1808–1879) and gallery-owner Eduard von Engerth (1791–1871) were among the regular users of the archive. Today, the archive is open to the interested public free of charge – it acts as a scientific service of the Federal Chancellery.

The Finanzarchiv (finance archive)

At the end of the 19th century the registry office of the Austrian Reichsfinanzministerium (Imperial-royal ministry of finance) was bursting at the

seams. The mountains of files deposited there, some of which dated from the 18th century, could no longer be safely stored and so could hardly be used. Professor Alexander Budinszky (1844–1900), a graduate of the Paris Ecole des Chartes, the famous Paris school for archivists and historians, was entrusted with the task of arranging this material properly. Professor Budinszky hired Michael Mayr (1864–1922), a graduate of the Institute for Historical Research, to help him with this task, but the latter left very soon afterwards to embark on a career in Innsbruck. In 1920 Michael Mayr held the top position in the Austrian Federal Government.

The Ministry of Finance, which at that time showed a keen interest in history and was prepared to spend money on historical research, hired additional staff including four university graduates, and converted the old registry office of the Ministry of Finance into an independent archive in 1892, the *Finanzarchiv*. The records of the Ministry were screened, arranged, and deposited in various rooms of the Ministry. At the time of its foundation, the young archive contained two to three million records and a library of roughly 50,000 signatures. The opening hours of the new archive are interesting for us today: on working days they were from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., and on Sundays and bank holidays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The archive remained closed on Easter Sunday, White Sunday and Christmas Day. After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the archive remained affiliated with the Ministry of Finance, not being merged with the *Hofkammerarchiv* until 1945. Its holdings include the records of the Ministry of Finance of the monarchy from 1848 to 1918 and the documents of the Joint Ministry of Finance from 1867 to 1918.

The newly set up *Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv*, which, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1995, like the Austrian state archives has its own staff but is not a building of its own for the rooms for researchers and the deposit areas are accommodated elsewhere – they are located both in Himmelpfortgasse in the building of the Ministry of Finance, and in Johannesgasse.

The establishment of a central military archive

The origins of the *Kriegsarchiv* date back to 1711, when the *Hofkriegsrätliche Kanzleiarchiv* (the aulic war council chancellery archive) was founded on the initiative of Prince Eugene of Savoy, the then president of the aulic war council. In line with practices in the other court offices, this archive was to preserve all the documents accumulated by the aulic war council since its foundation in 1556. In instructions dated April 4, 1711, Bernhard Rosenbaum († 1729), the first archivist of the newly established repository, was entrusted with arranging in an orderly manner all the documentary materials so far accumulated. At the same time, he was instructed to draw up lists of all the important documents in the archive so that he could “stanta pede”, i. e. readily, provide information on military events and matters concerning the organization of the armed forces. Thus, right from the outset, the staff of the archive was assigned the very significant task of collecting and making available to the army information about past military experiences. Little is known about Rosenbaum’s activities. The first few accounts concerning the development of the archive go back no farther than the period between 1729 and 1760, when Rosenbaum’s successor, Joseph Schöttel headed the archive. From these accounts we learn that, by 1748, the archive had taken over from the aulic war council all the documents for the period from 1556 to 1736. In addition, it had, by then, acquired the records of various field staffs and military offices that had been disbanded. In 1750, it had taken over, for example, the records of the Inner Austrian War Council and bequests of high-ranking military officers, which had previously been stored in the Chancellery archive. Thus the Aulic War Council Chancellery Archive became a central military archive, and established itself as such when, in 1764, upon a proposal made by General Moritz Count Lacy, the staff of the archive was instructed to collect maps, copies of which could be made

for use by the field staffs in the case of war. In 1774, the archive which had previously been located in the *Hofburg* (the imperial castle) and the *Schlosserhof* on Seilerstätte in Vienna, was moved to the aulic war council building on the square Am Hof, the former house of the professed monks of the Society of Jesus. On this occasion, in order to save space, the number of documents was drastically reduced by the removal of papers considered to be unimportant.

Reorganization of the Chancellery Archive

In 1776, Field Marshal Andreas Count Hadik (1711–1790) reorganized the chancellery archive and assigned entirely new functions to it. At the beginning of the year, the *Geniearchiv* (military engineering archive) with its large collections of maps, plans and books, was incorporated into the chancellery archive. However, the new instruction of December 21, 1776 departed from the principle previously adhered to by the central military archive as it provided for the creation of a selective archive: important official documents, contracts and treaties, deeds, etc. of the aulic war council and other military offices were to be arranged according

to subject matter; special emphasis was to be laid on cartographic material, and, for the first time, mention was made of an archival library. However, the annual sets of protocols and documents of the aulic war council previously taken over by the archive were returned to the records office of the war council, whereas the field records of various military campaigns remained as integral holdings in the chancellery archive. In addition, material records, such as seals were to be collected. In 1779, Emperor Joseph II ordered that accounts be written on all military campaigns since 1740, on the basis of official and private documents in the chancellery archive, as well as on materials available from other court offices and from family archives. These analyses, which were intended to serve the evaluation of past military experiences rather than academic purposes, are still available in manuscript form. They are the first in a long series of studies on military history which were carried out subsequently.

Establishment of the “Kriegsarchiv” (war archive)

In 1793, the *Hofkriegsrätliche Kanzleiarchive* (the aulic war council chancellery archive) was united with the



Paetrum. ex. op. D. S. Boon. Mart. Am. A. de Stadt Pres-Burgh. B. de Collegiale. Kercke van S. Martinus. C. Clariffon. Clooster. D. Franciscaner. Clooster. E. Gasthof. F. den Doriansen.

View of the city of Pressburg from an album of views from the time of the Turkish wars between 1683 and 1699.

newly created military deposits administration. This change, which imposed a heavy burden of non-archival work on the archive staff, proved extremely harmful to the further development of the archive. This administrative change together with the great demands made on the imperial army by the wars against France, led to the reorganization of the military archives in the Habsburg lands. On March 23, 1801, Emperor Francis II, acting on the recommendation of Field Marshal Archduke Charles (1771–1847), approved the establishment of a “war archive”, which was to be entirely independent of the chancellery archive and which was to be placed under the supervision of the staff of the general quartermaster; its personnel was to consist of (general staff) officers. The “Kanzleiarchiv” continued to exist as a separate institution until 1846, when its holdings were merged with those of the aulic war council (designated as Ministry of War after 1848). Finally, in 1889, its holdings, as well as other collections of the aulic war council, were taken over by the *Kriegsarchiv*.

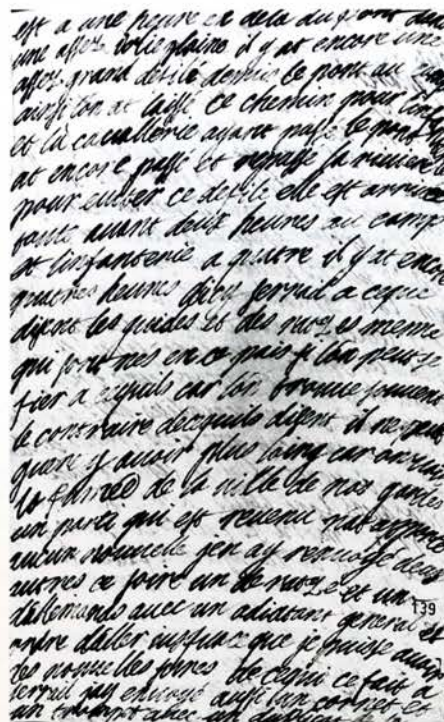
Thus, in the first half of the nineteenth century there were three different military archives in Vienna:

- ◆ the *hofkriegsrätliche Registratur*, or *Registratur des Kriegsministeriums*, as it was called after 1848, which contained the records of the aulic war council after 1556;
- ◆ the *Kanzleiarchiv*, which was united with the military deposits administration; and
- ◆ the *Kriegsarchiv*.

The rest of this chapter will be devoted to the *Kriegsarchiv* which, in the course of the next century, was to become the only central military archive in Austria.

Tasks of the War Archive

From the beginning, the main function of the *Kriegsarchiv* was to collect material on military history which would allow military leaders to gain experience in warfare and army organization. For this purpose, in the following years, documents were taken from the records of aulic military and administrative offices and combined with the already existing or newly accruing documents of the operating



One page from the war diary of Eugene Prince of Savoy, which he wrote in French about his military expedition to Bosnia from October 18 to November 8, 1697.

commands in the *Alte Feldakten* (old field records) where they were filed according to subject matter. Thus, a selective archive was created to serve very specific purposes.

The archive was subdivided into three groups:

- ◆ the manuscripts section which was responsible for the administration of the field records,
- ◆ the topographical section with the library (which became an independent institution in 1806); and
- ◆ the section for military history, which was entrusted with the exploitation of the archive’s holdings. In 1818, the work delegated to the third section of the *Kriegsarchiv* was entrusted to a special department of the staff of general quartermaster, later called the *Generalstabsbüro für Kriegsgeschichte*, the general staff bureau for military history.

As a result of this measure, the role of the archive was restricted to the collection of materials, to which the staff of the archive devoted all their energy.

However, it was not until 1876, after the aforementioned “general staff bureau” had been integrated into the *Kriegsarchiv*, that a series of studies on wars waged by Austria was started with the publication of a 20 volume work on the military campaigns of Prince Eugene of Savoy. Unfortunately, this project has still not been completed. Also in 1876, the first issue of the “*Mitteilungen des K.K. (from 1889 onwards k.u.k.) Kriegsarchiv*” appeared in print and continued to be published until 1914. While much historical material drawn mainly from the *Kriegsarchiv* had, since 1801, previously been published in the “*Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift*” the “*Mitteilungen*” was the first journal to be published by the *Kriegsarchiv*. At that time, the holdings of the *Kriegsarchiv* were limited to the aforementioned “old field records”. However, when, in 1889, the major portion of the holdings of the aulic war council archive were placed under the administration of the *Kriegsarchiv*, a first step was taken towards its expansion into a genuine central military archive. In the years that followed, further holdings of the aulic war council archive and documents stored in the offices of military authorities were also transferred to the *Kriegsarchiv*. In 1905, the *Kriegsarchiv* moved into a building of its own, the academy section of the Vienna *Stiftskaserne* (“Stift barracks”) which had been built in the years 1746 to 1750. The archive remained there until 1991/93, then, in the period from June 1991 to June 1993, it was moved to the newly built Austrian State Archives in the third district of Vienna. It took 800 lorry trips to transport the holdings of the *Kriegsarchiv* to their new destination.

Turning point: the First World War

The First World War, which led to the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1918, marked a major turning point in the gradual transformation of the *Kriegsarchiv* into a central archive. Whereas, in the course of the war, major parts of the field records collections had been sent to the *Kriegsarchiv*, the collapse of the Monarchy and the liquidation of the old army resulted in the transfer of an enormous mass of documents to the *Kriegsarchiv*. Within a few years, the *Kriegsarchiv* had to take over the archives of all the central