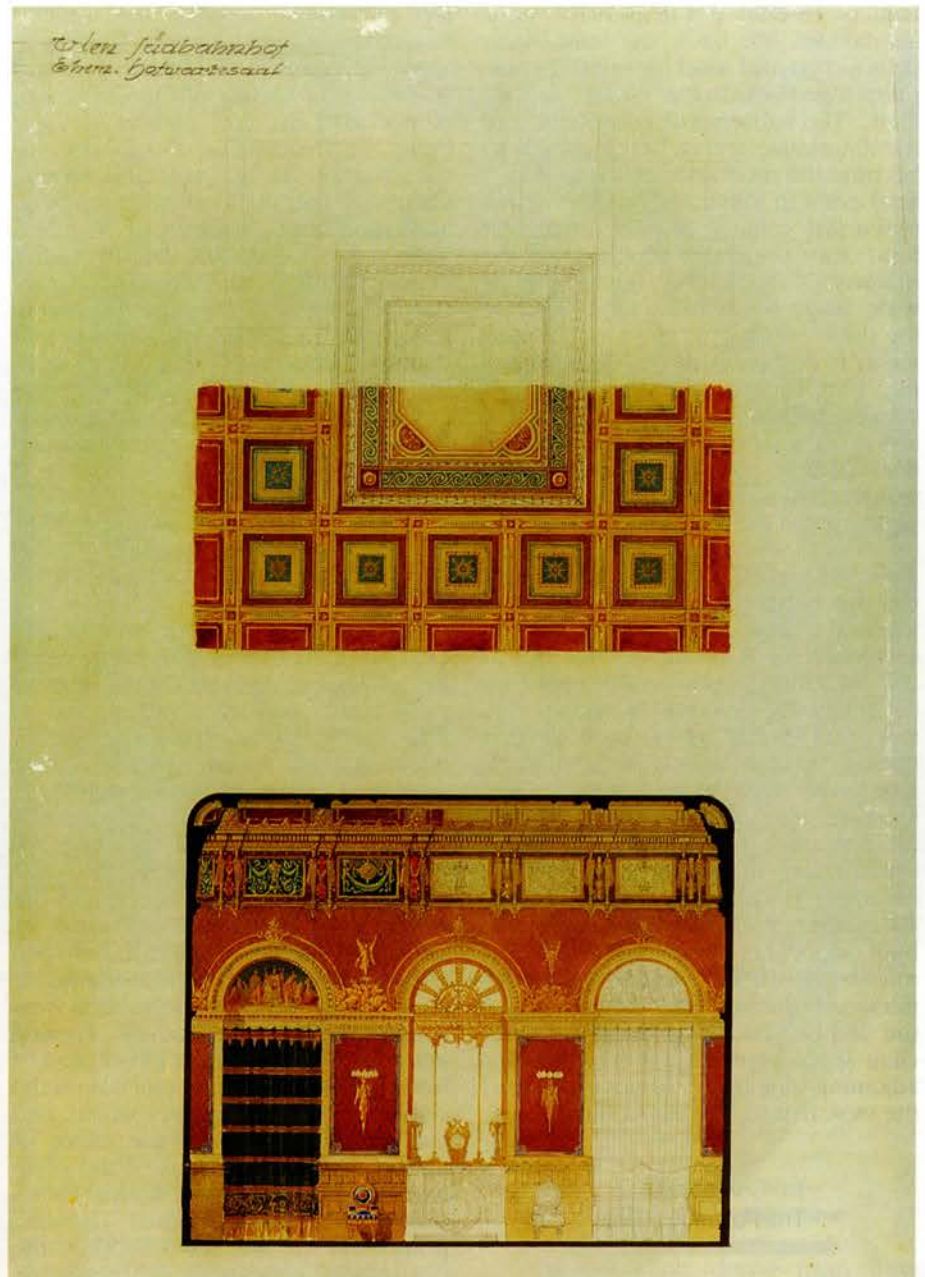


The Collections of the United Aulic Chancellery and the Ministry of the Interior

The state activities which are today collectively referred to as administrative work can be traced back to the end of the 15th century. It was Emperor Maximilian I. who first established a system of administrative bodies, amongst which the aulic chancellery, a "writing and copying room" in charge of issuing and distributing the orders of the monarch and his central offices. Both Emperors Ferdinand I. and Maximilian II. (1527–1576) further expanded the scope of activities of the aulic chancellery, with separate and independent Bohemian, Hungarian and Austrian departments slowly emerging. Just as the aulic chancellery was the central body for the Austrian lands above and below the Enns (Lower and Upper Austria), Inner Austria (Styria, Carinthia, Krain and the lands reaching as far south as the Adriatic) and the Tyrol and its forelands, the Bohemian aulic chancellery was in charge of the lands of the Bohemian crown (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia). Maria Theresia was responsible for amalgamating the two chancelleries and ruling both the Bohemian and the Austrian lands with the same principles. In 1762 the "*Directorium in publicis et cameralibus*", which had replaced the two chancelleries, became the "United Bohemian Austrian Aulic Chancellery". Until 1848 this chancellery, with its name and competences changing several times, was the centre of political administration for all lands except the Hungarian ones. Its agenda not only included those of a modern department dealing with domestic matters, but also agricultural matters, public health, trade and commerce, taxes and levies, legal authorities, legislation, civic-guards and others more. In 1848, the united aulic chancellery became the ministry of the interior with some of its original duties being assigned to other, recently established authorities such as the Ministries of Trade, Agriculture, Justice or Finance, respectively.

The Vienna City Expansion Fund

The Vienna city expansion fund was created in 1858, when Emperor



Interior decoration of the waiting room for members of the court at the old Südbahnhof (railway station for south-bound trains). The station was destroyed in the Second World War. Water colour over freehand drawing, ca. 1870.

Francis Joseph I. (1830–1916) gave instructions to have the city walls demolished and used for building purposes together with the “Glacis” beyond them. The subsequent construction of the Ringstrasse and its buildings was to become the most spectacular architectural event in Vienna in the second half of the 19th century. The city expansion fund was originally attached to the ministry of the interior but due to its wide range of activities soon outgrew the dimensions of a ministerial department. It was in charge of demolishing the fortifications, selling the newly created building land and the undeveloped land of the Glacis beyond the city walls. The proceeds of these sales were mainly used to finance the magnificent buildings of the Ringstrasse. Thus the records of the city expansion also document the architectural development of the area of the Vienna Ringstrasse over a period of more than five decades. The archives have lost none of their topicality, which is amply demonstrated by the following example. When in 1985 the Hotel Marriot was to be built on a hitherto undeveloped piece of land along the Ringstrasse, the building sponsors had to observe an easement on that land in favour of the Palais Coburg directly behind the lot. The easement documented in the records states that in the event of the land being built on “neither the palace nor its view must be obstructed”. The architect who personally looked into the records of the archive, had to provide for sufficient space between the hotel and the adjoining building so as not to obstruct the view from the Palais Coburg.

The Police Archives

The records of the police archive are a written documentation of the activities of the police and censorship offices at court and of the supreme police authorities. The police office at court was the last of the so-called “Hofstellen” or central authorities to be instituted. It was responsible for observing all police issues including censorship. The police organisation was also responsible, amongst other important tasks, for preparing “situation reports” on the state of security in the various crown lands. These reports provide an excellent source of information on the Italian uni-

tary movement (freedom and unitary movement in Italy following the Napoleonic wars; the movement was carried by the secret society of the Carbonari, named after the coal makers of Calabria), the freemasons, the Jacobins, the situation in Hungary, the Vienna Congress, the Viennese theatres (e.g. admission of performance of “Wilhelm Tell” by F. Schiller at the theatre “an der Wien”, ban on performance of “Agnes Bernauer” by Karl Giesecke) or drama in Austria. The police office at court was dissolved after the Revolution of 1848 and replaced in 1867 by the supreme police authority as the central administrative body of all police activities.

The Justice Archive

The justice archive was officially established in 1896 as part of the ministry of justice, replacing what was no more than a registry of old records. It was mainly responsible for collecting documents of the supreme office of justice founded in 1749. Although Maria Theresia’s reforms had proposed a separation of judicial powers and administration, a clear dividing line was not drawn until 1848, the year of the Revolution. The supreme office of justice did not yet distinguish between jurisdiction and legal administration. In March 1848 legal administration was integrated into the newly created ministry of justice, while jurisdiction of first instance became incumbent on the supreme court of justice which had evolved from the supreme office of justice. The consultations of the commission concerning the *Codex Theresianus* (the code of Maria Theresia, forerunner of the Civil Code), the *Constitutio Criminalis Theresianum* (Halsgerichtsordnung, a collection of codes of criminal law and criminal procedure), the Civil Code itself, legislation in general, Fideicommissum and legal provisions for estates in Lower Austria are all stored in the archives, thus providing an invaluable documentation of the history of Austrian law. The holdings of the archives are complemented by a collection of patents in two parts, the so-called “Old *Miscellanea*” (a mixed collection of privileges, both originals and copies), and the more recent collection of patents. They are filed both by subject and in chronologi-

cal order and contain patents, decrees issued by the aulic chancellery, circulars, privileges in their original or as copies, dating back as far as 1130 (privilege of the diocese of Olomouc). The records of the ministry of justice itself refer to all areas of the administration of justice, including prison matters, covering the period between 1848 and 1945.

The Nobility Archive (*Adelsarchiv*)

The imperial-royal archive dealing with the nobility, which continued to exist in a slightly different form even after 1918 was intended purely for the authorities. It had close links to the supreme office dealing with the nobility housed in the ministry of the interior, which was in charge of issuing diplomas and privileges. The records of the nobility in this section represent one of the most precious sources for the history of culture, including all the ennoblements, bestowals of coats-of-arms, and other acts of grace performed by the Habsburgs in their capacity as emperors and kings of the Holy Roman Empire and as sovereigns of the Austrian lands from the 16th century up to 1918. Both from a geographic and a legal point of view these documents reach far beyond the borders of modern Austria, including citizens from virtually all European countries, from Italy to Sweden, from Portugal to Russia, wishing to determine their status in society from these sources. The documents represent a wide range of different people, famous artists, scientists, politicians and economists as well as less well known members of the bourgeoisie. They include eminent poets like Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749–1832) or Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805), the painters Titian (Tiziano Vecellio, 1477 approx. – 1576), Arcimboldo (1527–1593) and Rudolf Alt (1812–1905), composers like Orlando Lassus (1532–1594) and Franz Liszt (1811–1886), the architects Nikolaus Pacassi (1716–1790), Johann Lukas Hildebrandt (1668–1745), Heinrich Ferstel (1828–1883), Theophil Hansen (1813–1891), Karl Hasenauer (1833–1894), general Wallenstein (1583–1634) and Theodor Körner (1828–1917, the father of the later president), to mention only a few.



View of the facade of the presbytery of the Votivkirche in Vienna with the two neighbouring buildings, signed "Ferstel, July 1877".

The Archive for Education and Church Affairs

The archive for education is as important for the history of the Austrian mind as it is for the history of religion. When it was founded in 1896 it was still linked to the library of the ministry of education. At that time, the holdings contained the old records of the department for education (court research commission up till 1848, department for culture between 1360 and 1848, and bookkeeping archive between 1760 and 1867). More recent documents, reaching up to 1940, were added later on. They all refer to the various stages of the education system, from primary

schools to universities in the Austrian half of the monarchy and provide a wide range of information on the introduction of compulsory education for all by Maria Theresia, the imperial act on elementary education of 1869, the foundation of the university of Czernowitz, the university reforms of the 18th century decreed by the emperor Joseph II or those decreed by Francis Joseph in the 19th century. The ecclesiastical records give an account of the relations between the state and the church: the abolition of monasteries, regulations for parishes, the "Toleranzpatent" (Toleration act) of 1781, the patent for Protestants of 1861, the concordat of 1855 are only some of the issues documented in this collection.

The Trade Archive

This collection draws from three large funds, the ministry of trade (1848–1918), the ministry for public affairs (1908–1918, and various postal and telecommunications offices (1829–1918). The manifold tasks of the ministry of trade, founded in 1848, evolved in various stages. Already then its main scope of duties concerned trade and commerce, industrial politics and the public building industry. With the development of foreign trade the affairs of the postal and telegraph services and sea and inland navigation also fell to the ministry of trade. This included the projects for and subsequent construction

of the ship-canals connecting the Danube and Oder, the Danube and the Moldavia, the Danube-Oder-Vistula canal and the Danube-Oder-Elbe canal towards the end of the 19th century. In addition the ministry of trade was also active in the field of education. The university of economics, the commercial schools and colleges for further training as we know them today were all initiated by that ministry. It also became involved in social politics, introducing the so-called industrial inspectors or dealing with issues of working hours and social insurance. The early days of the automobile, aviation and electricity generation are documented here too. The archives are a good source of information for developments in these areas and many more.

The Archives of the Department of Agriculture

The collections of this department are made up of resources from the ministry of agriculture (1868–1918), the mining authorities (1868–1923) and the various forestry authorities (1805–1930). The archives provide information on all spheres of agricultural production in the Austrian half of the Danubian monarchy, ranging from the cultivation of cereals, the rearing of silkworms, draining of bogs to combating the vine-louse and horse-rearing, which was of far greater importance than it is today. Forestry departments too constituted a major field of activity. Written documents of these offices give evidence of early types of environmental influences and look into the way torrent and avalanche protections were structured and coordinated.

The Railway Archives

When the ministry for railways was established in 1897 it was also provided with its own archives. These archives document the development of the Austrian railway system since the early days of horse-drawn carriages for the trans-

portation of salt from Linz to Budweis (1824). They include documents on the projects and construction of the rail network, construction of stations, and production of rolling stock such as engines and cars. The records are rounded off by a rich collection of pictures and plans.

Bequests and Family Archives

The collection of bequests was established with two things in mind: to secure the "office material" of high officials (heads of departments, ministers, etc.) of those ministries, the documents of which can also be found in the archives of general administration and to fill up the void left by the fire of the Palace of Justice.

The family archives are private archives of some of the great Austrian noble families such as the Harrach, Trauttmansdorff, Paar or Hohenwart. The collection is generally divided into two series, the archives of rule and dominion and the actual family archives. Also included is the official correspondence of individual family members in the services of the emperor or Austrian sovereign both at home and abroad.

The Harrach family have their roots in Upper Austria where they were first mentioned in 1195, but in due course they acquired possessions in all the hereditary lands of the monarchy, particularly in Bohemia and Lower Austria. Some family members attained high positions in the state and the church; they became cardinals and arch bishops, imperial chamberlains, governors, and ambassadors. Special mention must be given to Aloys Thomas Graf Harrach (1669–1742), the fruits of whose passion for collecting are still evident today. He was viceroy of Naples, which had become part of Austria in the course of the Spanish War of Succession. From his father he had inherited his passion for gathering paintings and it is thanks to him that the Harrach's gallery of paintings at their castle Rohrau (Lower Austria) today contains the largest collection of Neapolitan and Southern Italian

Baroque paintings to be found north of the Alps. It includes such famous painters as Francesco Solimena (1657–1747) and his pupil Nicola Maria Rossi (approx. 1690–1758). The importance of the archives can be seen from the family's many business enterprises, in particular the glass finishing plants in Bohemia. They also maintained warehouses in Vienna, Prague, Karlsbad as well as Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The Trauttmansdorff are of old Styrian nobility, a certain Herand of Trauttmansdorff first being mentioned between 1308 and 1325. Some of the most eminent members of the Trauttmansdorff family serving emperor and realm were the statesmen count Maximilian (1584–1650) and prince Ferdinand (1749–1827) and also the Reich marshal count Adam Matthias (1617–1684).

The Paar family are of Italian origin and are first mentioned in 1450. Members of that family have held positions as postmasters since 1520. They performed their duties in the hereditary lands until the postal offices were finally nationalized in 1813. Worth mentioning are the postmasters Karl count Paar († 1664) and Wenzel prince Paar (1719–1792), as well as members of the military Karl prince Paar (1772–1819) and Eduard count Paar (1873–1919), aide-camp to Emperor Francis Joseph I, both noted for their historical importance.

The Hohenwart are originally of old Bavarian nobility and as far back as the 16th century were widely dispersed throughout the German empire. One of the family's branches even settled in the duchy of Krain. Some of the best known family members recorded in the family archives are Sigmund Anton count Hohenwart, prince-archbishop of Vienna (1730–1820) and Carl count Hohenwart (1824–1899) who was prime minister under Emperor Francis Joseph I.

Collection of Plans and Maps

This collection essentially contains appendixes from all other collections of the general archives, which due to their size have to be kept in separate cabi-

nets. For the main part these are buildings commissioned by the state, including schools and universities, post offices, law courts, prisons, hospitals, but also churches and monasteries. The collection is further complemented by plans for bridges, road and river maps, and plans for exhibitions, thus providing a well-rounded range of themes.

Geographically all crown lands of the old Danubian monarchy are represented with varying contributions of plans and maps from the individual areas. The collection focuses, amongst others, on the buildings and streets of the city of Vienna, with special emphasis of the buildings of Vienna Ringstrasse. One of the many architects worth mention-

ing for his many original drawings is Heinrich Ferstel. His works include the university, the bank and stock exchange building located in Herrengasse, the Votive Church, the Maximilian Gymnasium (grammar school) in Wasagasse and drafts for the Parliament buildings which were never executed.



The Finance and Aulic Chamber Archive

Christian Sapper

A sight worth seeing in Vienna

The *Hofkammerarchiv* forms part of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Aus-

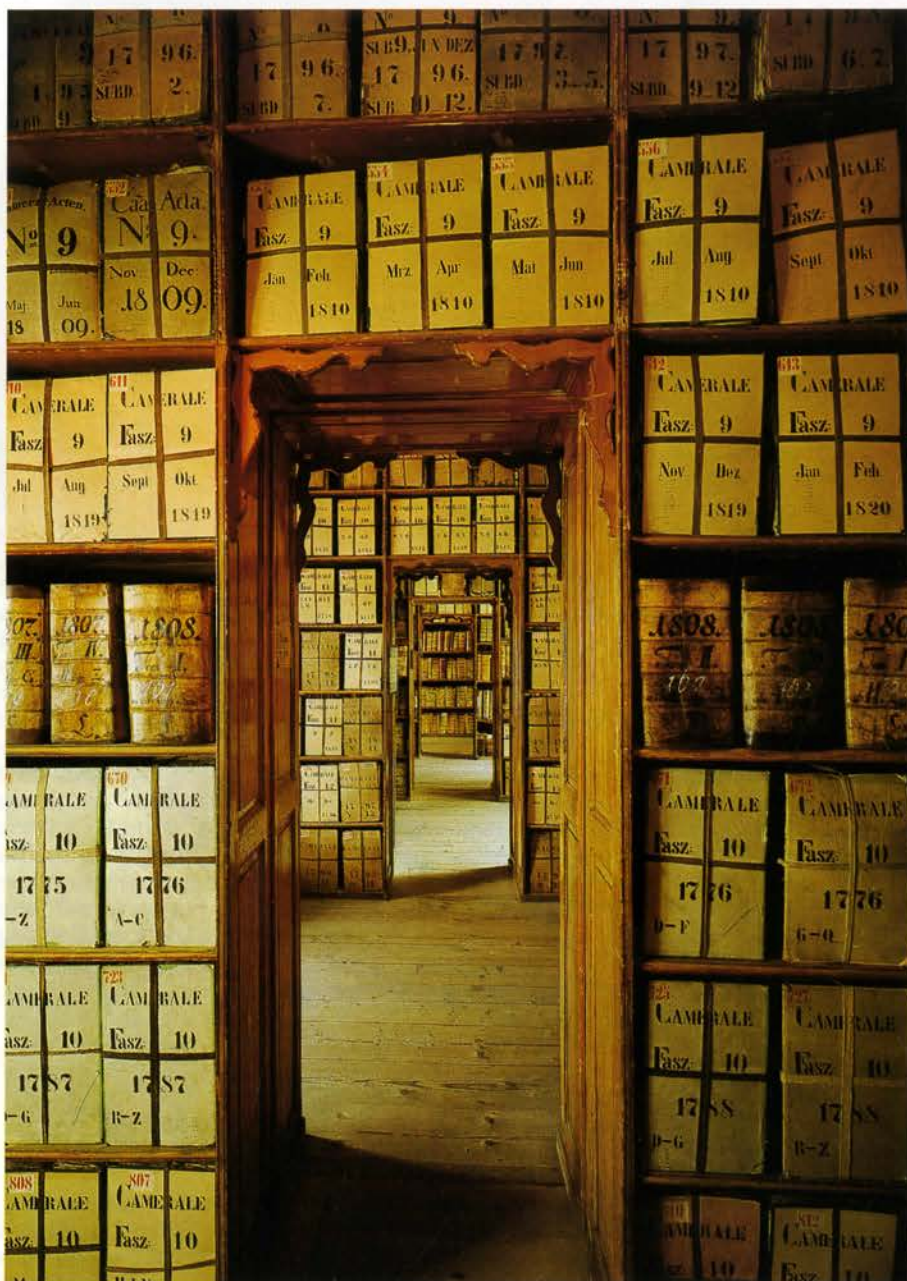
trian state archives) and is located in the building at Johannesgasse 6, in the first district of Vienna. The Viennese, when passing by, often ask themselves what may be hidden in the interesting build-

ing which bears the inscription “K.K. *Hofkammerarchiv*”. The facade with its clearly defined sections resembles a piece of Biedermeier furniture used for the storage of letters and documents. The building was designed by the famous architect Paul Sprenger (1798–1854). Not only is the building a gem of Biedermeier architecture, but it still functions perfectly in accordance with the purpose for which it was originally built in 1842.

The documents housed in the archive building, which has been classified as a historical monument, have been preserved in their entirety and cover a period of nearly five centuries. The archival material has merged into a historical ensemble with the archive’s furniture and building. In view of its historic significance, the *Hofkammerarchiv*, unlike other archives, was not moved to the new central archive in Erdberg, the third district of Vienna.

The archive is exceptional in a number of ways: the building was constructed specifically as an archive in the Biedermeier period and thus had not formerly been a barrack or a monastery no longer needed for its original purpose. The archive’s furnishings also date from the same period. Thus the *Hofkammerarchiv* is the oldest archive building in Central Europe to be preserved in its original form. Moreover, today it still serves its intended purpose in an exemplary manner. All visitors are filled with surprise and admiration at the sight of the high ceilings, as well as the painted and turned wooden shelves holding thousands of thick leather-bound folios, which with the beautifully inscribed folders containing bundles of records, are waiting to be used by interested researchers.

The archive was inaugurated in 1848, the year that went down in history as the “*Sturmjahr*” (“storm year”). At that time, and this is the second feature which makes the archive special, no less a person than Franz Grillparzer (1791–1872) was appointed director of the *Hofkammerarchiv*. His office on the second floor has been preserved



View of the stacks of the Hofkammerarchiv; the shelves are filled with fascicles and reference books bound in parchment.



Franz Grillparzer's office with its original furniture and fittings.

exactly as it was in 1856, when the poet relinquished his post. Even the high desk on which he wrote his dramas is still there. In all probability, this office is the only genuine Biedermeier room in Vienna to be kept in its original form. It can be visited free of charge.

The third distinctive feature of the archive is the building that preceded the *Hofkammerarchiv*: the *Mariazeller Hof*, on whose foundations the archive was constructed. A wonderful relief of the *Mariazeller Hof* has been preserved and can be seen above the entrance to the *Hofkammerarchiv*. The relief dates back to 1482 and shows the donation of the building complex located on the corner of Johannesgasse/Annagasse, to the convent of Kleinmariazell. The two-storey basement vaults of the original building which were constructed in

around 1400, were integrated into the new archive building. Mention should also be made of the fourth distinctive feature: the *Hofkammerarchiv* is the oldest of Vienna's archives. Its origins can be traced back to 1578: then it was, however, not yet located in Johannesgasse.

The Hofkammer and the history of its archival materials

The *Hofkammer*, whose documents, records, files and accounts are stored in the *Hofkammerarchiv*, was the central authority dealing with the financial and economic affairs of the Habsburg monarchy. In the beginning, it was primarily responsible for the administration of the sovereign's demesne lands, but

soon afterwards, it was entrusted with the task of raising the money required to maintain the court and to cover the expenses of the state and the army. Maximilian I, who was chronically short of cash, had obviously hoped that he would be able to come to grips with the desperate state of his finances by setting up a new authority for financial affairs. However, it was only much later, namely in 1527, that Archduke Ferdinand, who was later to become Emperor Ferdinand I, succeeded in transforming the *Hofkammer* into an authority which functioned well and continued in existence for several centuries. After the reforms carried out by Maria Theresa in 1762, the *Hofkammer* became the central financial authority of the patrimonial lands. Acting as a type of "megaministry" it was responsible for finances, trade, economics, mining and transport



Vertical section of a spherical clock for the Grand Vizier Mehmed Sokollu Pasha. It was commissioned in 1576 from a master clockmaker in Augsburg by the Imperial Envoy to Istanbul, David Ungnad.



Sectional drawing of a hauberk with gilt appliqué work and encrusted with gems and stars. It was made in Nürnberg in 1590 as a special gift – actually as a form of tribute – from Emperor Rudolf II to Sinan Pasha.

within the Habsburg empire. It was the great revolution of 1848 and the ensuing reorganization of the entire administration of the monarchy that put an end to the 300 years' history of the *Hofkammer*, whose functions were then assigned to several different ministries and authorities.

By 1578, sixty years after its foundation, many records had been accumulated in the building of the *Hofkammer*. In addition to these, old books, documents and land registers recording the possessions and revenues of the Habsburg family in the Middle Ages were also deposited there. Thus, storage space was needed for the enormous masses of paper and parchment and it was necessary that this space be located in the vicinity of both the *Hofkammer* and the Imperial Palace. It was found in the Kaiserspital (imperial hospital) where some rooms no longer used by the hospital were made available for housing the older documents that were only rarely consulted. Wilderich Weining (around 1568–1639 or 1640), a civil servant, was entrusted with the custody of these records, which were already historical documents, and with arranging new documents which periodically reached this repository. Thus Mr. Weining became the first archivist in Austria's first state archive. For many generations, the archive remained in the Kaiserspital, which stood on the site of the present modern administrative building on Minoritenplatz/Ballhausplatz. The archive survived numerous fires, the Thirty Years' War, the Turkish siege in 1683 and the two occupations of Vienna by Napoleon's armies.

The threat of dissolution

The greatest threat to the repository did not come from outside, but from the department to which it was directly responsible. In 1801, The Supreme Chancellor Prokop Count Lazansky (1771–1823) considered the *Hofkammerarchiv* to be superfluous. He insisted that the daily increasing amount of records should simply be destroyed "because otherwise separate buildings would have to be bought or constructed for the storage of these old documents". Emperor Franz I, who, at the age of 16, had visited the archive together with his father Emperor Leo-

pold II (1747–1792), ordered that the archive be dissolved, but that a detailed statement be made of the contents of every document that was to be destroyed. Compliance with this order would have meant a hundred years of work for the archivists. This was, however, no longer required when Karl Count Zichy (1753–1826), the new president of the *Hofkammer*, resolutely fought against the closing down of the archive, arguing that it held “all the important records from the time of Maximilian I onwards which described the particular practices, habits, customs and ceremonies of past days of potential interest to posterity, and contained not only useful data for historical research, chronology or for the illustration of the lives of renowned families, but which ... could also serve as evidence”. Emperor Francis I saw the sense of this and ordered that “the intended dissolution of the archive be abandoned. The staff of the archives is to be personally responsible for ensuring that documents of even minor importance or with even minor rarity value are not removed from the holdings”, even if their significance is merely historical.

The 19th century, in which the science of history was held in great esteem, upgraded the status of the *Hofkammerarchiv*. In 1816, when the post of director of the *Hofkammerarchiv* fell vacant, the then minister of finance wrote to the Emperor that the *Hofkammerarchiv* was “the repository of the most important older and more recent records... It is of great value to historians and constitutes both for the state and private individuals ...a vital source of information on older properties, pledges, ... and real estate”. Given the importance of the post of archive director, he continued, the education and personality of such a candidate were to be given priority over seniority and rank.

First-rate scientists as archivists

The candidate with the best academic qualifications was the Swabian Johann Georg Megerle von Mühlfeld (1780–1831) who, when he was still young, had acquired renown as a member of several scholarly societies. In his career as an archivist, he wrote a number of historical monographs on how



Salt production in the Salzkammergut: depiction from ca. 1656 of “Fuderhacken und Küferstossen”, showing how the blocks of salt were broken up and crushed and then put into wooden barrels for transportation.



Figura 1ta:
 Ein altes Bild, welches die Arbeit der Webstühle, und ferdoll-waig
 zeigt, und die Webstühle, und die Webstühle, und die Webstühle
 zeigt. Robert Pirib.

Textile industry in the Austrian forelands: depiction of hemp processing added as a supplement to a report by the government of the forelands of July 24, 1766.