

military offices as well as those of a large number of subordinated military authorities, commands and bodies. At the same time, the archive had to hand over a considerable amount of archival materials to the Successor States. As the provenance of documents was the basis for determining which documents were to be surrendered, the *Kriegsarchiv* succeeded in retaining all the archives of the central authorities.

At the end of the First World War, the *Kriegsarchiv* which had been a military institution from the time of its establishment, was transformed into a civilian institution. In August 1920, it was placed under the control of the Federal Chancellery. However, in 1938, after the "Anschluß" of Austria to the German Reich, it was again placed under military control and at the same time divided into four formally independent branches, i.e. the *Heeresarchiv* (army archive), the *Marinearchiv* (navy archive), the *Kriegswissenschaftliche Abteilung der Luftwaffe* (military science division of the air force), and the *Heeresbücherei* (military library). This rather unsatisfactory arrangement remained in effect until 1945.

Reorganisation of the holdings after the Second World War

Since the *Kriegsarchiv* was not greatly affected by bombing attacks and the displacement of archival material in the course of the Second World War, it was possible, in 1945, for it to be integrated as a uniform institute into the newly established Austrian State Archives where it formed a separate department. In the years after 1945, those personnel documents concerning Austria for the period from 1938 to 1945 were taken over from the German Army. The resulting administrative work proved a heavy burden for the *Kriegsarchiv* from 1958 onwards. The "*Österreichisches Staatsarchiv*" was reorganized in 1984, and a separate department, the *Archiv der Republik* (Archive of the Republic) was established for archival material from 1918 onwards. In the course of the move of the *Kriegsarchiv*, which began in 1987, these changes led to the removal of all documents concerning the Austrian Federal Army in the period from 1918 to 1938 and the German Army in the years 1938 to 1945. How-



Detail sheet from the land survey made between 1773 and 1781 under the rule of Joseph II; it shows Petronell on the river Danube.

ever, archival material of the liquidated Austro-Hungarian authorities remained in the *Kriegsarchiv*. The very extensive holdings of the archive's library were also removed from the *Kriegsarchiv* in 1990 and integrated into the newly established library of the Austrian state archives. A substantial addition to the holdings occurred, when, upon the entry into force of the new Civil Status Act on January 1, 1984, the *Kriegsarchiv* received the military records covering the period from the 17th century up to 1938 which had previously been stored in the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

As of the beginning of 1994, a separate archival group "Bequests and Collections" was set up within the Austrian state archive. It is directly responsible to the Director-General's Office of the archive, but its organization and personnel are closely linked to the *Kriegsarchiv*. Under this new arrangement, no additions to the holdings of the archive are to be expected, apart from a very few exceptions such as the map and photograph collections, although the aforementioned group for personal documents and private collections regularly takes over relevant materials.

In its capacity as a central military archive, it is the task of the *Kriegsarchiv*

to manage, make available and promote the wider use of archival material covering the history of the Austrian armed forces from the 16th century up to the end of the Second World War. With its wide variety of documents which are not restricted to reports on the history of wars and the military, the archive serves historic research both at home and abroad.

Survey of holdings

The central offices

Basically an archive is as old as the documents it contains. Hence the history of the *Kriegsarchiv* really began much earlier than described in this brief summary. The imperial aulic war council was set up in 1556 under the reign of Emperor Ferdinand I to serve as a central authority responsible for the administration of the army and its supreme command. An impressive stock of archival material on Austrian military history covering the period from 1556 to the end of the First World War are stored in this archive (roughly 180,000 boxes of files, 60,000 volumes of official journals, more than 416,000 maps and

other cartographic documents, as well as 300,000 paintings and engravings).

The authority of the institutions in which the archive materials originated extended far beyond the boundaries of the territory of present-day Austria. The archival material came from all over Central Europe but also concern other continents. It would go beyond the scope of this chapter to describe in detail all the records stored here which were produced by all of the major and minor military bodies and commands, but a few deserve special mention. The most important source of records was the Aulic War Council (1556–1848), which was the supreme administrative and command authority of the imperial (k.k. imperial-royal) army. Its records contain accounts of army organization, the provision of the troops with weapons, quarters, ammunition and uniforms as well as food. In many instances, they also deal with personnel matters. In addition, the Aulic War Council was also in charge of construction (fortifications, barracks, roads, and later railways) and the administration of the military borders for which it constituted the supreme authority. Researchers will find ample documentation in the archive no matter whether they have questions concerning the forming of regiments, the expansion of fortifications, or the recruitment of teachers, midwives or clock-winders. In 1848, the k.k., later designated as k.u.k. (imperial and royal), Ministry of War took over these functions from the aulic war council. From 1867/68, it acted as one of the joint ministries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which means that its authority extended over the entire Austro-Hungarian territory. The holdings of the *Kriegsarchiv* constitute a nearly inexhaustible mine of information on all aspects of military history up to the First World War. Not until 1931 did the *Militärliquidierungsamt* (the office for the liquidation of military matters) finish dealing with the material consequences of the disbanding of the old army.

The archives of the Aulic War Council and the Ministry of War constitute the most important part of the central offices' groups of records. The archives of other authorities housed by the central offices are, however, of particular significance for research on the history of the Austrian army. These are: the



Memorandum of association of the k.k. medizinisch-chirurgische Josephsakademie (Imperial-Royal Medico-Surgical Josephinian Academy) in Vienna, of April 5, 1786.

Militärkanzlei des Kaisers (Military Chancellery of the Emperor), 1848–1918, and that of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, 1898–1914, heir to the throne, the *k.k. Ministerium für Landesverteidigung* (Imperial and Royal Ministry for Home Defence), 1868–1921, the *Genie-Hauptamt* (Chief Military Engineering Office), 1756–1918, and the *Artillerie*

Hauptzeugamt (Chief Ordnance Department of the Artillery), 1772–1857, as well as the technische *Militärkomité* (Technical Military Committee), 1862–1918, with its large collection of plans and descriptions of weapons of all kinds, and finally the archives of various general commands. The archives of the military training and education institutions also deserve special mention as they contain detailed accounts of the training of the officers corps since the foundation of the *Theresianische Militärakademie* (Maria Theresian Military Academy) in Wiener Neustadt in 1752.

As regards most documents stored in these archives, users will be shown the registers and protocols available in the different offices and will have to look for the names or indexes relevant to their specific field of interest. This procedure is not always easy and often very time-consuming.

Personalakten (personnel records)

The personnel records are another frequently used group of documents of the *Kriegsarchiv*. In the conscription lists, rank tables, monthly schedules, and muster rolls of the individual regiments, they not only portray vividly the entire imperial-royal army in the period from 1740 to 1869, but also contain detailed accounts of the military careers and personal destinies of officers and troops. The registers kept by the military clergy to record baptisms, weddings and deaths contain a wealth of personal data. In addition, the conduct and qualification ratings of officers and military officials (1820–1918) give detailed descriptions of the duties and obligations for every category of military service. From the recorded place of birth it can be seen that troops and officers came from nearly all European countries. Moreover, these documents mention a female lieutenant as well as the wedding of the parents of Pope John Paul II. Innumerable human destinies are described in the sober language used in the officialese of past centuries. Millions of index cards covering the period of the First World War bear testimony to those who lost their lives in this war. Only an experienced archivist will be able to find the data he is looking for in these card catalogues, because, owing to the fact that eleven

different languages were spoken in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a complicated phonetic system had to be devised for arranging the index cards.

Feldakten (field records)

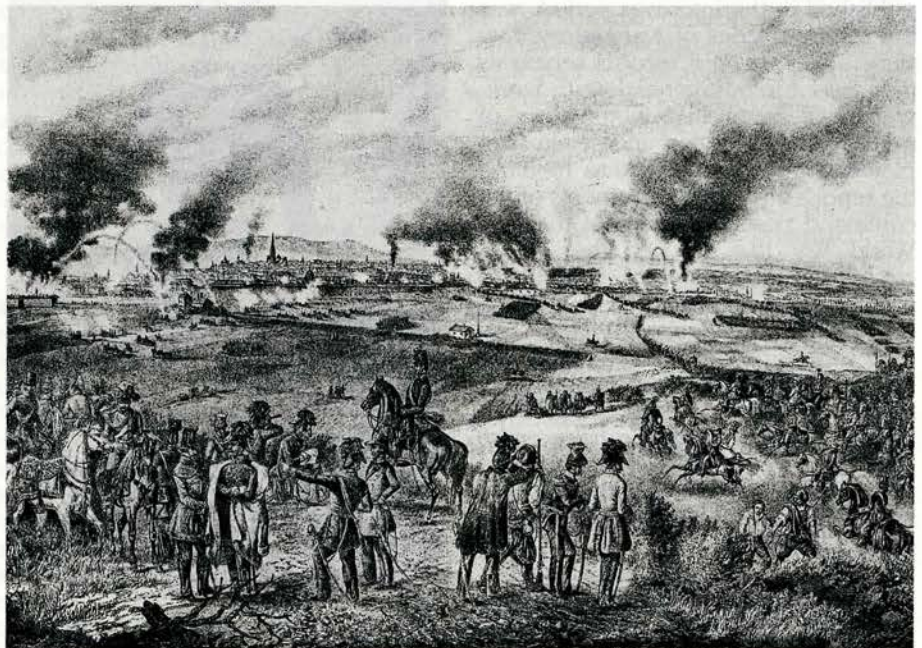
Research on military history concentrates mainly on the large group of old and new field records. The old field records, a few of which date back to the 15th century, contain complete archival materials on the history of the imperial army since the Thirty Years' War. From 1801 onwards, all documents were chronologically filed by campaigns, and subdivided into the individual theatres of military operations, thus reflecting the course of Austrian history as well as the battles fought by of the imperial army. A wealth of materials, such as battle orders, schedules of marches, reports on the size and strength of military units, lists of losses, and similar records contain invaluable data on the wars fought by Austria, such as the Turkish Wars, the Habsburg Wars of Succession against France and Prussia, the campaigns against the French Revolution and Napoleon I, as well as the armed conflicts in defence of the monarchy in the 19th century. Famous names, such as Luetzen (1632), St. Gotthard (1664), Vienna (1683), Höchstädt (1704), Belgrade (1717), Kolin ((1757), Arcole (1796), Austerlitz (1805), Aspern and Wagram (1809), Leipzig (1813), and the battles in the wars of 1848/49, 1859 and 1866 right up to the occupation campaign in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1878), to give but a few examples, can be found in these records. But almost every minor skirmish was recorded in these files, in many cases with sketches of plans. The archive of the *Chef des Generalstabes* (chief of the general staff, 1808–1918) who was responsible for working out campaign plans, forms part of the old field records and is accessible to the public.

Military historiography

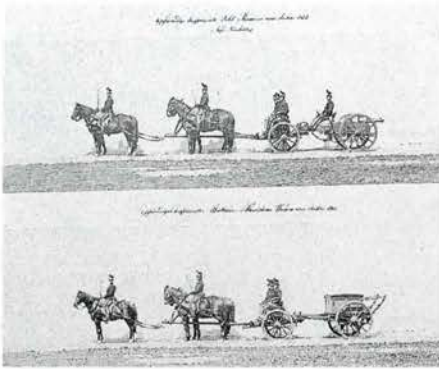
From 1801 onwards, the old field records constituted the basic material for the war historiography which Emperor Joseph II and subsequently Archduke Carl had considered desirable. Officers of the general staff scrupulously studied all the documents covering all of these campaigns "in



Plan of the lagoon of Venice (1809/10) from the holdings of the Genie- und Planarchiv.



Attack on Vienna from the Laa hill on October 28, 1848. Lithograph by Franz Kaliwoda



A four-pounder horse-drawn battery from 1863; an example of an artillery plan.

order to give the gifted and intelligent generals and officers who were eager to learn an opportunity to acquire knowledge that would prove useful in the future". Initially, these reports on history were hand-written: the manuscripts are still available in the collections today. After 1808, many such reports were printed in the "Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift", and from 1876 onwards, extensive printed contributions were published in "Kriege Österreichs". Altogether, some 200 historic works were published in the period preceding the First World War. The volume "Österreich-Ungarns letzter Krieg 1914-1918", which was published in the inter-war period, was the last in a series of war history dossiers. The new field records served as the basis for this general staff work, which was published in the form of seven volumes of text and seven supplements in the years 1930 to 1938. All the reports and other documents of the command posts and units of the First World War that reached the *Kriegsarchiv* constitute the very comprehensive body of archival material of the new field records (supreme command and subordinated commands of the army, troop bodies and institutions). Study of the new field records gives an insight into the build-up of the entire military force of Austria-Hungary, its deployment on all fronts and the exploitation of the last reserves of the empire for this war.

Mention should also be made of the records dealing with orders and decorations awarded to officers and troops. These records date back to the archive of the Military Order founded by Maria

Theresa in 1757 and cover the period up to the end of the First World War. These records not only contain a host of personnel data, but also important accounts of the course of wars and individual military exploits. The "Archiv der Truppenkörper" (archives of troop bodies) contain a substantial amount of organizational material as well as comprehensive data on military history. Of special interest is a small, but most revealing section of the old field records: the archive of the Austro-Belgian volunteer corps in Mexico, which fought in this Central American country in support of Emperor Maximilian (1832 to 1867) in the years from 1864 to 1868.

Archiv der österreichischen Kriegsmarine (Archive of the Austrian Navy)

The archival material of the Austrian navy also extends far beyond the territory of present-day Austria. From 1797 onwards, and from 1814/15 onwards, when Venetia was finally taken over by the Austrian Empire, ships under the red-white-red flag sailed not only in the Adriatic, but also over the oceans of the



Portrait of Feldzeugmeister (Artillery Commander) Ludwig Ritter von Benedek (1804-1881), commander of the Austrian troops at Königgrätz 1866.



Arthur Schnitzler's Commission as Reserve Head Surgeon of August 27, 1885. When he was deprived of the status of officer in 1901, the commission was invalidated by cutting it into pieces.

world. The image of the Austrian navy was shaped by the battle of Lissa (1866), the extension of the port of Pula, and the building of large battle-ships, such as the "Viribus Unitis". Numerous research expeditions undertaken by the navy, such as that of the "Novara" in 1857/59 have gone down in history. A large number of plans and paintings give testimony of every detail of the technical and constructional aspects of the navy. An interesting aside: whereas nearly all the records of the army were written in the German service and command language then used; until 1848/49, the navy used Italian in its official correspondence.

Archiv der österreichischen Luftfahrt (archive of Austrian Aviation)

The air force was a relatively recent branch of the royal and imperial army. Starting with balloons and airships, the aviation units were built up from the end of the 19th century onwards. Prior to, and during the First World War, aircraft were increasingly used. A separate collection dealing with this subject is devoted entirely to the period of the

First World War. Personnel records, technical plans and photographs as well as reports of the individual aviation companies provide significant information about the structure and operations of this special branch of the army. Of the many airforce officers who received a number of decorations, some deserve special mention: Gottfried Baron Banfield (1890–1986) in his capacity as commander of the marine air base in Trieste and as an intrepid naval aviator was awarded the Iron Cross of the Maria Theresian Military Order. Until his death in 1986, he was the last surviving knight of this order, which had been created by Maria Theresia in 1757.

Kartensammlung (Map Collection) and Special Collections

Maps have always been of particular importance for the preparation and waging of war. Therefore the drawing of good maps, their storage and updating were major concerns of military leaders. From 1764 onwards, the aulic war council archive had been collecting maps, which were often handed over to field staff for use in battle, but unfortunately these records were frequently lost. In the course of the land surveys initiated by Joseph II and Francis I, roughly 8,000 maps were drawn by the officers of the royal and imperial army because they could be of military significance. The originals of these maps, which were drawn to a scale of 1:28,000 and date back to the years 1763–1796 and 1807–1869, represent a genuine treasure of the map collection. The map collection also comprises maps produced by the *Militärgeographisches Institut* (department of military geography) in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as maps from a variety of different sources. The topographical descriptions of the general staff as well as plans of cities, military structures, and fortifications that had originally been held by the General Engineering and Planning Archive have been preserved to date along with numerous maps and plans made for military campaigns, individual battles, military action, and manoeuvres. There is hardly any part of the world for which no maps are available in the *Kriegsarchiv*. However, users must be familiar with the political boundaries that existed in 1914, because the maps, of which there are



This map of the Asian part of Turkey forms part of the map collection. It is a freehand drawing on silk made in Istanbul in 1726.

more than 400,000, are arranged according to these.

The photograph collection, which illustrates the archival material in the *Kriegsarchiv*, consists of portraits, photographs of military events (especially during the First World War), numerous pictures of landscapes and buildings as well as of uniforms, and thus documents virtually all aspects of army life, also in the time of the First Republic. In contrast to the other, afore-described collections of the *Kriegsarchiv*, the map and photograph collections continue to expand.

Another group to which additions are constantly made is part of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) but affiliated to the *Kriegsarchiv*. It bears the title "*Nachlässe und Sammlungen*" (bequests and collections). After the Second World War, a special collection of bequests was started, in which important personal documents of deceased officers and other interesting figures in Austrian history were filed. Names, such as Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf (1882–1925), chief of the general staff, or Friedrich Count Beck-Rzikowsky (1830–1920) or Alexander Brosch von Aarenau (1870–1914), the head of the military office of

Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and many others are found in the records. The documents are normally private in nature. Letters, diaries, memoirs complement official records and sometimes give background information on decisions which these individuals had to take in their official capacities. Owing to intensive collecting efforts, especially in the past few decades, much valuable material reached the archive, and is thus now available for scientific research.

This section of the Austrian state archive, which was re-organized in January 1994, continues to extend its holdings even further: personal documents and donations of politically active personalities of the past and the present are always welcome as an addition to the archive's holdings. A series of manuscript collections on the history of war and the armed forces, on the fortifications of the Empire and on the navy, are also linked to this section and contains various unpublished analyses. Often these collections house data that were collected in painstaking studies in the *Kriegsarchiv* and in other archives. A collection of newspaper clippings and brochures also forms part of this series. A microfilm archive is currently being built up.

The history of the Archives of the Republic began just over ten years ago, in September 1983, when Kurt Peball, who later became general director of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives), was appointed to set up and subsequently manage archives for contemporary history. It was no coincidence that the archives were founded at a time when the new construction of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) in Erdberg was about to be realized.

Years of planning and preparation had preceded this final and concrete stage. Shortly after the Second World War a handful of historians and archivists – amongst them Rudolf Neck, who later became general director of the state archives – already recognized that historical research would increasingly have to focus on so-called contemporary history. Neck began by publishing large-scale reviews of literature on contemporary history in the *„Mitteilungen des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs“* (newsletter of the Austrian State Archives), and succeeded in drawing archivists' and university researchers' attention to this field of research and to the many treasures the archives housed for this sector. A second generation of historians demanded access to the Archives of the First Republic ever more emphatically. Subsequently, in the late sixties, this led to a relaxation of the restrictions on access to the archives. Intensive research of contemporary history began in the early seventies and was widely supported by all the political powers of the country. Thus Rudolf Neck's proposal to create an archive of the republic for all records of contemporary history was met with enthusiasm by the then Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

An article published in the *„Wiener Zeitung“* of December 25, 1982, with the title *„State Archives are given their own home“* clearly explained why the foundation of the Archives of the Republic was so closely linked with the new building for the central archives: According to this article Chancellor Kreisky, in response to a parliamentary request, replied that there were no plans for a separate building for the archives, as this would result in an increase in staff and would also run counter to the idea of centralization. The plans for the new central archives would, however, take into consideration the setting up of the Archives of the Republic. Records and services would first and foremost be at the disposal of these archives.

Several years were to pass from the day that article was published until the central archives were finally moved into their new building in September 1987. They were years of construction and intensive planning and work. The history of the Archives of the Republic may well be brief compared with that of other archives of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives), however, its many stages, from a plan on a piece of paper to a fully functioning large-scale archive, are still worth recording.

The Stage of Foundation and Orientation

Let us go back once more to the year 1983, when Kurt Peball was appointed manager of the archives of the republic. Their structure was based on two clearly defined premises, the two pillars of the organization as it were: As the

records of the First and Second Republic of all the other archives of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) were about to be brought together under one organization, it was clear that the staff for the new archives would have to be drawn from members of all those archives. And secondly, the Archives of the Republic would be the first archives to be moved into the new building in Erdberg expected to be completed by 1985.

Seven months passed and on May 2, 1984 the first group, consisting of five persons, took up its work. By adapting an old factory at Andreasgasse 7 in the 7th district, the archives were given a temporary home until the completion of the new building for the Austrian State Archives.

On the four different floors of the building, where enormous sewing machines had once stood, shelves were now installed to store the records coming in from the federal ministries. The other archives of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) no longer had sufficient space to store these records and the registries of the various departments were also bursting at the seams. However, it was impossible for the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) to take over all the extensive stock of records from the Second Republic which it was offered. At the same time the risks of the large-scale and possibly uncontrollable removal of material by the *„producers of records“* were becoming a serious threat to historical research, a fact of which not only the archivists were aware but to which researchers of contemporary history also frequently referred.

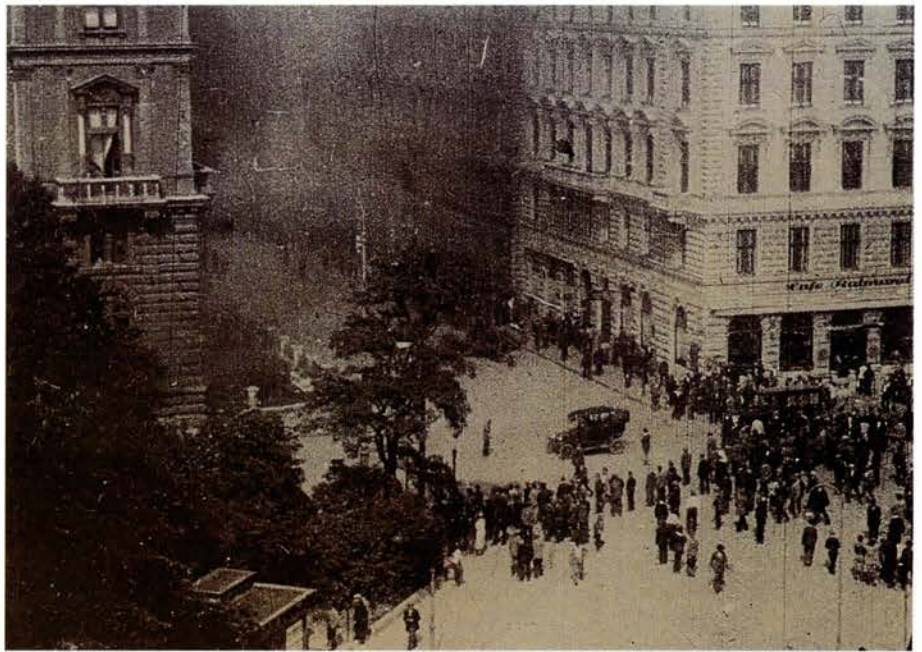
During the first year, important records of the Second Republic, such as the extensive records of the Federal Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence, noteworthy for their historical significance, were taken over, filed, registered and thus made accessible to historical research for the very first time.

The commitment and creativity of the staff of the archives, coupled with a fair measure of outside support, made the smooth set-up of the archives possible. Exchange of information as well as personal contacts with the offices producing records were increased significantly during that first phase. The support of the high-ranking officials who, at the request of the *Bundeskanzleramt* (Federal Chancellery), had been appointed to deal with the issues of the individual departments and the active assistance of ministerial offices set a climate favourable for future co-operation between archives and administration. Right from the start clarity, simplicity, flexibility, openness, transparency as well as knowledge of the needs of the public were regarded as cornerstones for the Archives of the Republic.

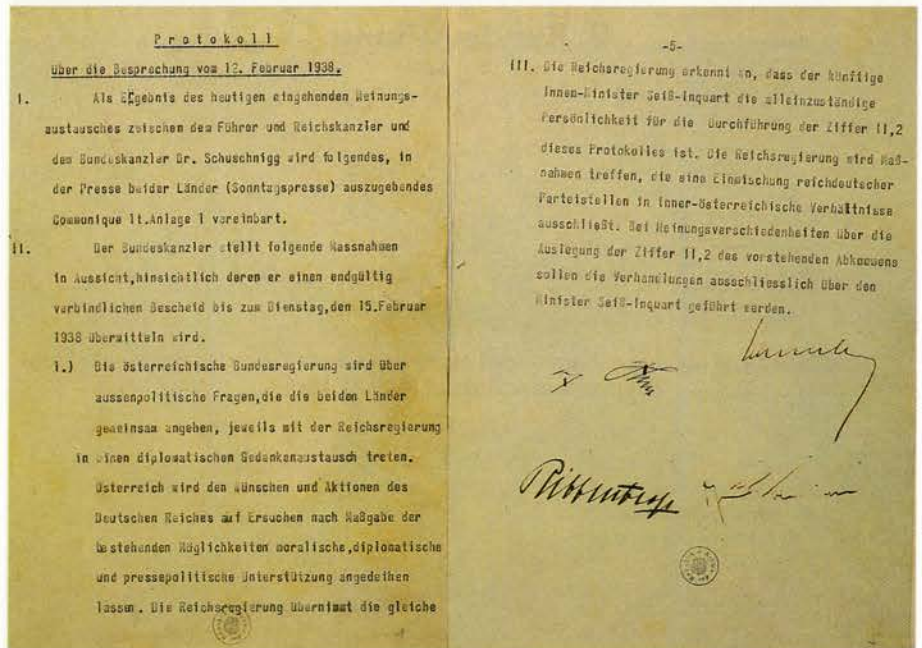
These ideals were to be integrated into all important decisions concerning essential elements of the archives and their structure. The advantages and disadvantages of the different models were analysed and compared on the "board". It must be remembered here that, during the first few years, the larger part of the records of the First and Second Republic were still housed in other departments of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) and were only brought together after the completion of the new building. The planning and structuring of the stock were only made possible with the assistance of staff members who knew about the range and nature of the innumerable records of the Republic.

Moving the Archives of the Republic to the new building

Moving to a new building is an adventure at the best of times. Bringing along a "field pack" of endless records



The fire at the Palace of Justice on July 15, 1927. A black day in the history of the Republic and in the history of the Austrian archives. Invaluable archival material was destroyed.



Minutes of a meeting between the Austrian Federal Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg and Adolf Hitler at the Berghof on the Obersalzberg near Berchtesgaden on February 12, 1938.

I. Proklamation

Angesichts der Tatsache,

daß der Anschluß des Jahres 1938 nicht wie dies zwischen zwei souveränen Staaten selbstverständlich ist, zur Wahrung aller Interessen durch Verhandlungen von Staat zu Staat vereinbart und durch Staatsverträge abgeschlossen,

sondern durch militärische Bedrohung von außen und den hochverräterischen Terror einer nazifaschistischen Minderheit eingeleitet, einer wehrlosen Staatseinheit abgepreßt und abgepreßt,

endlich durch militärische kriegsmäßige Besetzung des Landes dem hilflos gewordenen Volke Österreichs aufzugesunden worden ist,

angesichts der weiteren Tatsache,

daß die so vollzogene Annexion des Landes sofort mißbraucht worden ist,

alle zentralen staatlichen Einrichtungen der ehemaligen Bundesrepublik Österreich, seine Ministerien und sonstigen Regierungseinrichtungen zu beseitigen und deren Bestände nach Berlin wegzuführen, so den historisch gewordenen einheitlichen Bestand Österreichs autöfölen und vollkommen zu zerstören,

Österreichs Hauptstadt Wien, die vielhundertjährige glörende Residenzstadt, zu einer Provinzstadt zu degradieren, die Bundesländer aller ihrer geschichtlichen Selbstregierungsrechte zu berauben und zu willkürlichen Verwaltungstrümpeln umzuwandeln und dem Volke unverantwortlicher Statthalter zu machen,

und darüber hinaus angesichts der

Tatsache, daß diese politische Annexion Österreichs zur wirtschaftlichen und kulturellen Beraubung Wiens und der österreichischen Bundesländer ausgenutzt und mißbraucht worden ist,

die österreichische Nationalbank aufzubrechen und ihren Goldschatz nach Berlin zu entführen, alle großen Unternehmen Österreichs reichsdeutschen Firmen einzuverleiben

und so das österreichische Volk aller selbständigen Verfügung über die natürlichen Quellen seines Wohlstandes zu berauben;

daß dieser Mißbrauch endlich dem österreichischen Volke auch seine geistigen und kulturellen Hülfquellen verkümmert hat, indem er die unermesslichen Kunst- und Kulturschätze des Landes, welche selbst der harte Friede von Saint-Germain durch ein 20jähriges Verbot vor jeder Veräußerung geschützt hat, der Verschleppung außer Landes preisgegeben hat,

und endlich angesichts der Tatsache,

daß die nationalsozialistische Reichsregierung Adolf Hitlers kraft dieser völligen politischen, wirtschaftlichen und kulturellen Annexion des Landes

das macht- und willenlos gemachte Volk Österreichs in einen sinn- und aussichtslosen Eroberungskrieg geführt hat, den kein Österreicher jemals gewollt hat, jemals voraussehen oder gutzuheißen in stand gesetzt war, zur Bekriegung von Völkern, gegen die kein wahrer Österreicher jemals Gefühle der Feindschaft oder des Hasses hegt hat,

in einen Eroberungskrieg, der von den Eisfeldern des hohen Nordens bis zu den Sandwüsten Afrikas, von der stürmischen Küste des Atlantik bis zu den Felsen des Kaukasus viele Hunderttausende der Söhne unseres Landes, beinahe die ganze Jugend- und Mannekraft unseres Volkes, bedenkenlos hingeopfert hat,

um zum Schluß noch unsere heimatischen Berge als letzte Zuflucht gescheiterter Katastrophopolitiker zu benutzen und kriegerischer Zerstörung und Verwüstung preiszugeben,

angesichts dieser Tatsache und in Hinblick

darauf,

daß durch die drei Weltmächte in wiederholten feierlichen Deklarationen,

insbesondere in der Deklaration der Krimkonferenz und in der Konferenz der Außenminister Hull, Eden und Molotow zu Moskau Oktober 1943 festgelegt worden ist:

„Die Regierungen Großbritanniens, der Sowjetunion und der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika kamen überein, daß Österreich, das erste freie Land, das der Hitlerischen Aggression zum Opfer gefallen ist, von der deutschen Herrschaft befreit werden muß.“

Sie betrachten den Anschluß der Österreich am 15. März 1938 von Deutschland aufzugesunden worden ist, als null und nichtig.

Sie geben ihrem Wunsche Ausdruck, ein freies und wiederhergestelltes Österreich zu sehen und dadurch dem österreichischen Volke selbst, ebenso wie anderen benachteiligten Staaten, vor denen ähnliche Probleme stehen werden, die Möglichkeit zu geben, diejenige politische und wirtschaftliche Sicherheit zu finden, die die einzige Grundlage eines dauerhaften Friedens ist.“

Angesichts der angeführten Tatsache und in Hinblick auf die feierlichen Erklärungen der drei Weltmächte, denen sich inzwischen beinahe alle Regierungen des Abendlandes angeschlossen haben, erlassen die unterzeichneten Vertreter aller antifaschistischen Parteien Österreichs sunstimmlos die nachstehende

Unabhängigkeitserklärung.

Art. I: Die demokratische Republik Österreich ist wiederhergestellt und im Geiste der Verfassung von 1920 einzurichten.

Art. II: Der im Jahre 1938 dem österreichischen Volke aufzugesundene Anschluß ist null und nichtig.

Art. III: Zur Durchführung dieser Erklärung wird unter Teilnahme aller antifaschistischen Parteierrichtungen eine Provisorische Staatsregierung eingesetzt und vorbehaltlich der Rechte der besetzenden Mächte mit der vollen Gesetzgebungs- und Vollzugs Gewalt betraut.

Art. IV: Vom Tage der Kundmachung dieser Unabhängigkeitserklärung sind alle von Österreichern dem Deutschen Reiche und seiner Führung geleisteten militärischen, dienstlichen oder persönlichen Gelöbnisse nichtig und unverbindlich.

Art. V: Von diesem Tage an stehen alle Österreicher wieder im staatsbürgerlichen Pflicht- und Treueverhältnis zur Republik Österreich.

In pflichtgemäßer Erwägung des Nachsatzes der erwähnten Moskauer Konferenz, der lautet:

„Jedoch wird Österreich darauf aufmerksam gemacht, daß es für die Beteiligung am Kriege auf seinen Hitlerdeutschlands Verantwortung trägt, der es nicht entgehen kann, und daß bei der endgültigen Regelung unvermeidlich sein eigener Beitrag zu seiner Befreiung berücksichtigt werden wird.“

wird die einzusetzende Staatsregierung ohne Verzögung die Maßregeln ergreifen, um jeden ihr möglichen Beitrag zu seiner Befreiung zu leisten, sieht sich jedoch genötigt, festzustellen, daß dieser Beitrag angesichts der Entkräftung unseres Volkes und Entpöpfung unseres Landes zu ihrem Bedauern nur bescheiden sein kann.

Wien, den 27. April 1945.

Urkund dessen die eigenhändigen Unterschriften der Vorstände der politischen Parteien Österreichs:

Für den Vorstand der österreichischen Sozialdemokratie, nunmehr Sozialistische Partei Österreichs (Sozialdemokraten und Revolutionäre Sozialisten):

Dr. Karl Renner m. p.

Dr. Adolf Schörl m. p.

Für den Vorstand der Christlichsozialen Volkspartei bzw. nunmehr Österreichische Volkspartei:

Leopold Kunschak m. p.

Für die Kommunistische Partei Österreichs:

J. Koplenig m. p.

II. Kundmachung

Im Einvernehmen sunstimmlos aller antifaschistischen Parteien Österreichs und damit im Sinn und Willen der großen Mehrheit des österreichischen Volkes und in Übereinstimmung mit der Deklaration der Moskauer Konferenz

„Die Regierungen Großbritanniens, der Sowjetunion und der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika geben ihrem Wunsche Ausdruck, ein freies und unabhängiges Österreich wiederhergestellt zu sehen.“

wird mit der Aufgabe, die selbständige und unabhängige Republik Österreich auf den Trümmern des Hitlerregimes wieder aufzurichten, die nachfolgende Provisorische Regierung eingesetzt:

1. Staatskanzlei (Präsidium, auswärtige Angelegenheiten, Heerwesen):

Staatskanzler: Dr. Karl Renner S. D.

Politischer Beirat des Staatskanzlers:

Staatssekretäre ohne Portefeuille:

Dr. Adolf Schörl S. D.

Leopold Kunschak C. S.

Johann Koplenig K. P.

eine Stelle offen L. B.

Unterstaatssekretär für Heerwesen:

Oberstleutnant Dr. Franz Winterer

2. Staatsamt für Inneres:

Staatssekretär: Franz Honner K. P.

Unterstaatssekretäre: Oskar Helmer S. D.

eine Stelle offen C. S.

3. Staatsamt für Volksaufklärung, für Unterricht und Erziehung, und für Kultusangelegenheiten:

Staatssekretär: Ernst Fischer K. P.

Unterstaatssekretäre: Dr. Karl Lugmayer C. S.

Josef Einslein S. D.

Unterstaatssekretär für Kultus:

Ministerialrat a. D. Ernst Hefel C. S.

4. Staatsamt für Justiz:

Staatssekretär: Dr. Josef Gerö partiellos

Unterstaatssekretäre: Dr. Altmann K. P.

Dr. Max Scheffenecker S. D.

Dr. Nagl C. S.

5. Staatsamt für Finanzen:

Staatssekretär: Ministerialrat a. D. Dr. Georg Zimmermann partiellos

Unterstaatssekretäre: drei Stellen offen für partiellose Fachleute

6. Staatsamt für Ackerbau und Forstwirtschaft:

Staatssekretär: Rudolf Buchinger C. S.

Unterstaatssekretäre: Alois Mentastl S. D.

Laurenz Genner K. P.

eine Stelle offen L. B.

is even more of an adventure. During the summer of 1987, all the records from 1918 onwards were removed from the departments of the *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives) and moved to the new building. These records, together with those taken over by the Archives of the Republic at Andreasgasse between 1984 and 1986, which were now also moved to Erdberg, made up the stock of the "Archives of the Republic". Within four months, almost everything had been moved, and, by September 1987, all the records were in place.

The Archives of the Republic were made up of more than 130,000 cartons or fascicles of records and almost a mile of books (protocols, indexes, elenchi) and search aids which had been moved to the new building. The small team of members from different archives who had up to then taken care of the records from 1918 onwards was now also increased to its intended size. Thus the completion of the move also marks the beginning of a new stage in the development of the Archives of the Republic. The main emphasis from that point on was to administrate the records and to streamline the structure and staff of the archives.

The consolidating stage

Between 1987 and 1992, a number of newspaper articles reported on the interest of the public in the services of the new building and the new Archives of the Republic. Months before the official opening of the new building on April 28, 1988 and even more so in the following four years, visits, guided tours and other events were organized almost daily. The efficiency of the new building and of the new Archives of the Republic, in particular, were put to the test.

The Archives of the Republic held three "information days" for the public from September 11 to 13, 1989. On the first day, an exhibition was opened, entitled "National Socialism in Austria – Documents of the Economy 1938–1945". The open house on September 12 was a further attempt to raise people's awareness and understanding of

Proclamation and public announcement of the Provisional State Government of the Republic of Austria of April 27, 1945.