

satisfactions des résultats des sciences historiques et de notre destin, si nous ne conquérons pas les institutions contemporaines, ceux qui dirigent nos pays, nous ne réussirons jamais à accomplir notre devoir fondamental, celui des conservateurs et gardiens de la mémoire nationale.

Je dirai même qu'aujourd'hui, à cet admirable débat, le "patron" des archives s'est présenté devant nous seulement avec les archives, en oubliant le trésor, dans le sens que seulement les bénéficiaires de notre activité sont présents à notre célébration, les intellectuels et les historiens, et non pas ceux qui sont eux aussi bénéficiaires, mais qui sont en même temps nos patrons financiers.

Voilà, donc, que c'est un problème qui n'est pas seulement le nôtre. Certes, nous avons en Roumanie – c'est le cas en général en Europe de l'Est – le besoin d'adéquation à la société démocratique, avec tous ses problèmes. De plus, il y a cette maladie que j'appelle congénitale, qui ne peut être traitée qu'à l'aide de ... l'efficacité. C'est l'efficacité qui doit être la qualité suprême des institutions d'Archives chez nous ou ailleurs. Et l'efficacité offre la vraie mesure de l'excellence permanente, non seulement une excellence d'instant et de surface de l'institution des Archives en Roumanie et partout au monde. Merci.

CARMEN DOBROTA

President of the Romanian Archivists Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear guests and colleagues,

Your presence here today at the National Archives of Romania represents a moment of joy for us. This manifestation represents devoid of suspicions the most important moment of the year, for the N.A.R. and for the profession of archivist.

Today we're celebrating more than one and a half century from the establishing of N.A.R., a period of time in which our institution was entrusted to carry out a vital mission for a nation aiming for its independence and sovereignty – the role of setting up the national archivist funds and preserving the living memory of Romanian people. Through the archivists' efforts and their care for each and every testimony of our past, we all, specialists and simple passionate for history, have the chance to study and revive our history, under the principle of historical truth. This is also the reason for which this celebration of N.A.R. couldn't have been conceived as a closed one, but it had to include all of the attendants at this manifestation and also all the specialists in other areas of

research for whom the archival document is a source of interest for their work. It is a celebration both for you and for us, as the archives main role is to create a binding between the institution and the people interested in studying and understanding their past.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The National Archives are in the first place the memory of a nation. In the archives stocks we administer, all the official documents issued or adopted by our state can be found. Constitutions, treaties, laws, decrees, agreements and statements, all the official acts representing the political, social and economical history of our state are located in the archive holdings of N.A.R. In addition to that – private papers, personal archive stocks belonging to prominent figures of the social, cultural and political life. Individuals' memoirs and the history of private life assist the completion of the collective history, our history as a state, as a nation.

Besides the attributes of depositing, collecting and classifying this inheritance – the word engraved on different physical supports – the Archives have also the role of reflecting the society's evolution. In regard to this pre-existing conditions and taking into account their primary goals, the N.A.R. holdings are including as well photographic documents, movies and audio recordings. The last member of this family is the electronic document.

Moreover, the impact of the IT era on the profession of archivist and the Archives institution is reflected in our efforts of implementing a computerized system in N.A.R. and developing a digital database accessible for the public.

As you can see, our current efforts for modernization are a part of a more complex process. By the nature of the documents preserved, the N.A.R. covers three eras of Romanian history – the middle ege, the modern period and the contemporary age.

Besides this perpetual interest for old documents, the tumultuous history of the last 50 years is generating a growing social attention. During this process of transformation and resettlement, the Romanian society's interest for finding its beginnings and knowing its past is adjoining to the archivist's interest for processing the evidences and testimonies of an era that became history. In this equation the archivist finds himself in the place of one who is inheriting and preserving the memory of our past, but also in the teacher's place, for he has the role of adding an ethical and pedagogical value to the past's testimonies, supporting the victims of this past in their reparatory approaches for moral or material indemnifications.

Distinguished audience,

If the archivist profession was associated in the past with the person that was writing down and preserving the documents issued by the ruler of a state,

today, ongoing with the modernization process of the society and the establishment of the N.A.R. institution, it acquired new connotations. From the specific cognizance of administration, preservation and interpretation of historical documents, such as diplomatic, sigillography, paleography, heraldry etc., this profession evolved to superior specificity, in preserving and storing the documents. While the archivist of the 19th century was working only with very old documents, which were interesting just for a narrow part of the public, the nowadays archivist is implicated in the administrative, institutional and legislative area, being entrusted with important attributions with no equivalent in the timid early stages of this profession. Our presence in the life of our society and our activity's permanent connection with the social evolutions, in accordance with the society's needs are the defining coordinates of our profession.

Far from presenting a shapeless or an ordered heap of dusty papers, witnesses of the past, the archives represent a precious instrument of work for an effective and modern administration. The N.A.R. activity in the service of the citizens from 1989 till nowadays is a proof for the previous allegation. The restoring on new bases of the Romanian society, the reforms and the reorganization, as well as the reparatory process wouldn't have been possible without full cooperation of the N.A.R. and the understanding and assumption of the role of living memory and viable institution of the present.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Memory has no borders. Our memory as a nation is preserved in N.A.R. holdings, as a part of the universal memory, representing more than an arithmetic sum of the national archives stocks. Our existence and development as a national institution, and also of the similar institution in other countries is conditioned by the need of communication, by the solidarity and transparency on both social and supranational level. International collaboration and cooperation, along with the gearing and involvement of the society are in our opinion the keys for developing the living memory of nations.

In this spirit of cooperation and professional solidarity, in the name of Romanian Archivists Federation, we salute the presence of our colleagues from other countries and from Romania at this important event for our branch and we wish you all two days of resultful debates and convivial meetings.