

ARCHIVAL STUDIES IN THE WORLD

The Role of the Archives in the Commemoration of the First World War in Croatia

Archival service in Croatia consists of state archives, other heritage institutions (libraries, museums, institutes, documentation centres and other institutions) in which archival material is kept (which can be considered as “archives outside state archives system”), creators and owners of the archival records and archival service management. Through the state archives’ network, consisting of the Croatian State Archives and 18 regional state archives, the archival service takes care of national archival heritage and ensures its protection and information integrity.

The Croatian State Archives in Zagreb (CSA) is national archive and performs archival services related to archival and current records created by state bodies, state and public institutions and enterprises, by corporate bodies, and by families and individuals whose activity covers the whole or a greater part of Croatia, or is of national interest. Its beginnings are symbolically linked to year 1643, when, according to a decision made by the Croatian parliament, state treasurer Ivan Zakmardi de Diankovec ordered the making of a special Chest of Privileges of the Kingdom for keeping the state’s charters, privileges and legal regulations. The tasks of the Croatian State Archives (CSA) as the central archival institution include planning of archival activities, coordination of the professional work of the archives and managing archival records information-documentation service on national level.



Figure1. Public Archives Network in Croatia

In accordance with a number of national and international initiatives dedicated to the celebration of the centenary of the First World War, the institution of Croatian State Archives is also actively involved in various activities and programs related to research, processing, digitization and presentation of archival sources about the Great War at the level of institutions, archival service and national and international projects. International cooperation across national borders is also an important factor for the remembrance of the First World War, as well as professional activities of the archives, representation of the common European values as well as their acquirement and synergic usage based on the past.

In collaboration with various institutions and associations, in the last two years CSA has published a variety of sources, organized lectures and exhibitions on this topic and prepared a program of appropriate activities in the period 2014-2018; within the archive service CSA coordinates the activities of the network of state archives, and is also one of the main holders of the national project "Centenary of the Great War", which is led by Commission for the Coordination of marking the centenary of First World War and Ministry of Culture of Republic of Croatia.

All planned activities of CSA and other Croatian archives aim to facilitate the availability of so far unknown sources from that time, to promote the importance of historical sources for the study and understanding of history as well as their use in the educational process. Most attractive for general population are the exhibitions, since they provoke people's interest in archival institutions and historical documents. In order to provide elaborated micro & macro viewpoints on the First World War, the exhibitions of archival holdings are prepared, through individual, personal stories and objects as to make the extension of the horrors of war graspable and mirror a larger picture. All exhibitions are planned to be also available through the websites.

Regarding this, following is the list of some of Croatian archives activities related to the First World War, organized in 2014-2015:

- Exhibitions *Field Marshall Svetozar Borojević & Sarajevo Assassination in 1914 and the First World War in the Documents of Monastery in Fojnica Archives* (CSA);
- Exhibition *Bjelovar's Hospitals in the Great War 1914-1918* (State Archives in Bjelovar);
- Exhibition on the reflections of the war in Korčula district, entitled *Disremembered War* (State Archives in Dubrovnik);
- Exhibitions *General Milan Emil Uzelac «father» of the Air Force of the Austro-Hungarian Empire & In the wake of the First World War* (State Archives in Dubrovnik);
- Exhibitions *Međimurje in the First World War" & The First World War in the Archival Material of the District Court of Maribor / Military Stories from the Court Archives"* (State Archives for Dubrovnik);
- Exhibition *Lika in the Great War* (State Archives in Gospić);

- Exhibition *Šibenik in the First World War & Project Šibenik Harbour in the First World War* (State Archives in Šibenik);
- Exhibition *Margraviate Istria in the Great War* (State Archives in Pazin and State Archives in Rijeka);
- Exhibition *Brod na Savi and the First World War* (State Archives in Slavonski Brod);
- Exhibition *The Lion of Soča* about field marshal Svetozar Boroević (State Archives in Sisak);
- Exhibition *Tracing the Forgotten War through Virovitica 1914-1918* (State Archives in Virovitica);
- Exhibition *A.D. 1914. Records of War* (State Archives in Varaždin);
- Exhibition of photographic and documentary material *WORLD WAR - from the Assassination in Sarajevo until the Entrance of Italian Army in Zadar* (State Archives in Zadar);
- Exhibition of war postcards *Boys, go ahead!!Vorwärts Croatische Brüder!* from the legacy of Ivan Medved & Project *Croatian generals in Austro-Hungarian Army* (State Archives in Osijek);
- Exhibition *Zagreb and Zagreb People in the First World War. The Situation, Events, Reflections* (State Archives in Zagreb)

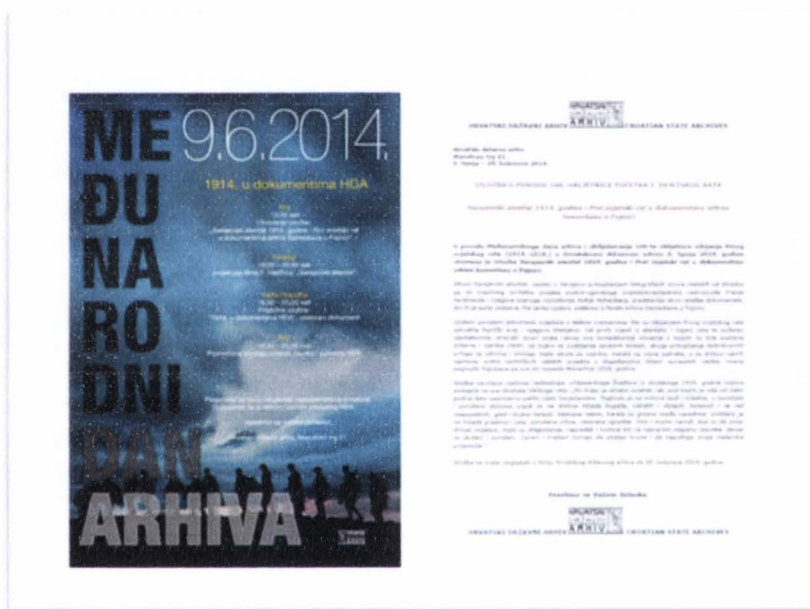


Figure 2. CSA posters and invitations for International Archival Day 2014 dedicated to the theme *The First World War in Croatian Archives*

Among its regular tasks and activities in the period 2014-2018, CSA is engaged in two major programs dedicated to the First World War: *Marking the Centennial of the First World War* and *Digitalization of Archival Sources from the First World War*, planned to achieve following results:

- Register of casualties' of soldiers and officers from the Croatian territories in World War – creation of the database of casualties from original lists and other available sources from Croatia and other countries, production of a review of war path of military formations in connections with records and database, enabling users to add data and to research available digitized records;
- Digital collections & web portal *Centenary of the First World War - the view from the archive* - digitization of CSA and other archives material, description of holdings and documents and their availability of Internet and on thematic portals on the Great War (Europeana, CENDARI et al.);
- Exhibitions - preparation of exhibitions dedicated to the Great War and everyday life during the war, and traveling exhibition that will mean traveling in other public places;
- Educational material - making of educational material for the use of general and local history teaching in public and high schools;
- Scientific contribution - participation in the organization of scientific and professional meetings and by collecting, processing and publishing of new resources contribute to the scientific research of the First World War.

In the framework of Ministry of Culture's national project *Centenary of the Great War*, CSA hosted in May 2014 the EUNIC-CROATIA international symposium *Commemorating 1914-Exploring the War's Legacy* that brought together historians across Europe and was the central place of Central National Commemoration of the First World War Centenary for which the booklet *First World War – A Hundred Years Later* is prepared to comprise a historical overview and list of various programs commemorating the First World War centenary supported by Ministry of Culture, which can also be found at the Ministry's website.

With other cultural institutions CSA also participated in the project *Europeana 1914-1918* by organizing *Days of collecting memorabilia*, on which occasion citizens brought they family memories from the First World War to the Archives in order to be digitized and described under the instructions of archivists and historians and posted on the website of the project *Europeana 1914-1918*.

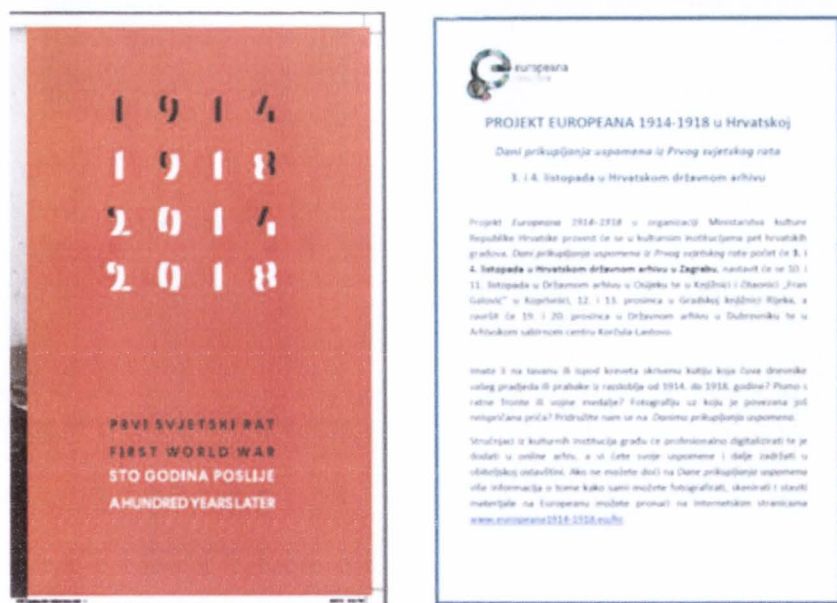


Figure 3. Ministry of Culture material & Europeana activities

In June 2014, in the framework of EU project ENArC (European Network on Archival Cooperation) CSA in cooperation with Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized in Sarajevo the international archival conference *WWI: Reflections from Behind the Frontlines*, as well as started to participate in project CENDARI (Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure) by publishing material from Stjepan Sertić's Photo album from Italian battlefield in their First World War Digital Collection.

Until now, CSA also published several books, papers and electronic publications related to the First World War sources and organized various thematic lectures and presentations. Among other activities, CSA supported the Austrian Cultural Forum project *The First World War: Traces in my Surroundings*, in which interested students of gymnasium researched historical clues to their families in times of war in CSA holdings, explored the theme *War and the Media* and prepared its own exhibition and film material.

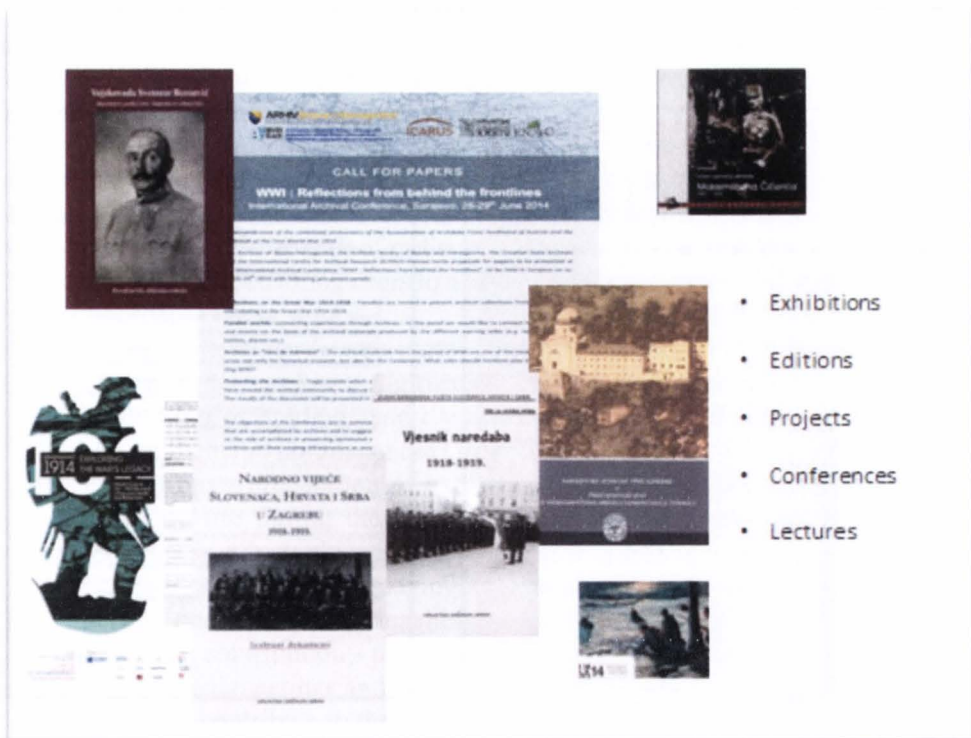


Figure 4. Overview of some CSA activities related to the First World War

In correspondence with other scheduled activities, CSA regularly participates at national and international conferences dedicated to the commemoration of the First World War in order to present activities and holdings of the Croatian archives. At international event *Documents of the First World War Centenary* organized in Istanbul in March 2015 by the General Directorate of State Archives of the Republic of Turkey, beside scientific conference, an international exhibition presenting selected archival materials from each participating country was organized, which included Croatia. CSA also participated to the international conferences about First World War organized by Archives of Vojvodina started from 2014 and to the 1st International Conference of State Archives from Slavic countries in Ljubljana: *World War I*.



Figure 5. Representation from Croatian State Archives holdings

CSA holds more than 2,100 fonds and collections, or more than 25,000 shelf meters of records, created since the 10th century, mostly records of central state authorities, various public and other institutions of national importance, as well as records created by distinguished individuals, families and private organizations that were of significance in particular periods of time and events in public life. Archival material related to the First World War is preserved in various fonds and collections organized in:

- Archival Division for Documents until 1945 from the period 1914-1918 - cca. 215,000 documents (records and books, maps, cartographic material, posters, reports, maps, etc.);
- Archival Division for Contemporary Family and Personal Records relevant for the First World War - cca. 17,500 documents (handwritten diaries, studies, papers, applications, reports, official records, maps, notebooks, personal documents, cartographic material, prints, clippings, notes, memoirs, commands, correspondence, letters, handwritten articles, flyers drawings, transcripts, telegrams, postcards, etc);

- Archival Division for Old and Military Records - cca. 12,000 documents (records and books, maps, cartographic material, applications, reports, maps, personal documents, cartographic material, prints, clippings, notes, commands, correspondence, letters, etc.);
- Archival Division for Records of Political Parties and Organizations - cca. 2,000 documents (records and books, elaborates, files, reports, etc.).

CSA also administers the largest Photograph collections from the First World War in Croatia – cca. 5,000 photos and CSA Library keeps bulletins, newspapers, journals, official gazettes and other published official publications and reports from the period 1914-1918 relevant for the First World War - approximately 250,000 pages. Among the most important material are records of State Government Presidency and Offices, records of National Council of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs, records of historical counties and regions, personal legacies of generals and politicians like Stjepan Sarkotić, Maksimilijan Čičerić, Ivan Urlik Salis-Seewis, Vladimir Maruševski, August Marić, and various military units like Vojni građevinski odsjek 16. zbor (K.k. Militärbauabtheilung des 16. Korpscommandos, Belag und Ubikationsübersicht für das militär Objekte), Gericht des Militärkommandos Mostar. Expositur in Sebenico), Marine-Gericht Sebenico, Gericht des Künstenabschnittskommando in Spalato, 5. Arméecommando, Feldpost 305, K.u.k. Militärkommando in Zagreb, Feldpost 68 and 365 and many others.

Besides various thematic exhibitions which presented some of this material to public, in 2016 a large exhibition *Croatia in the First World War through fonds and CSA collection* was organized in CSA and the catalogue was published in Croatian and English languages.

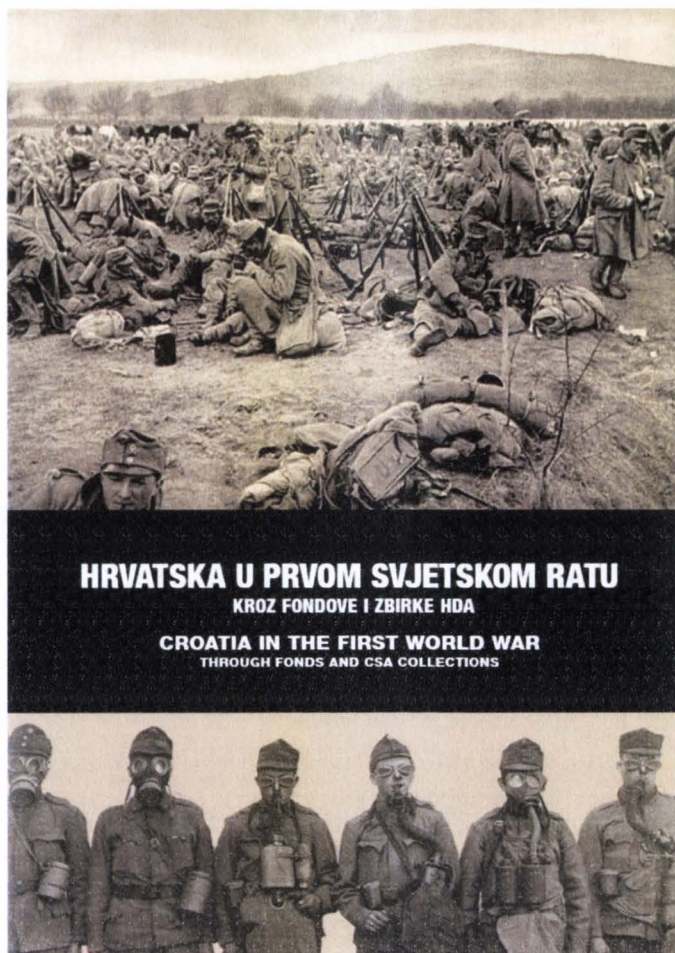


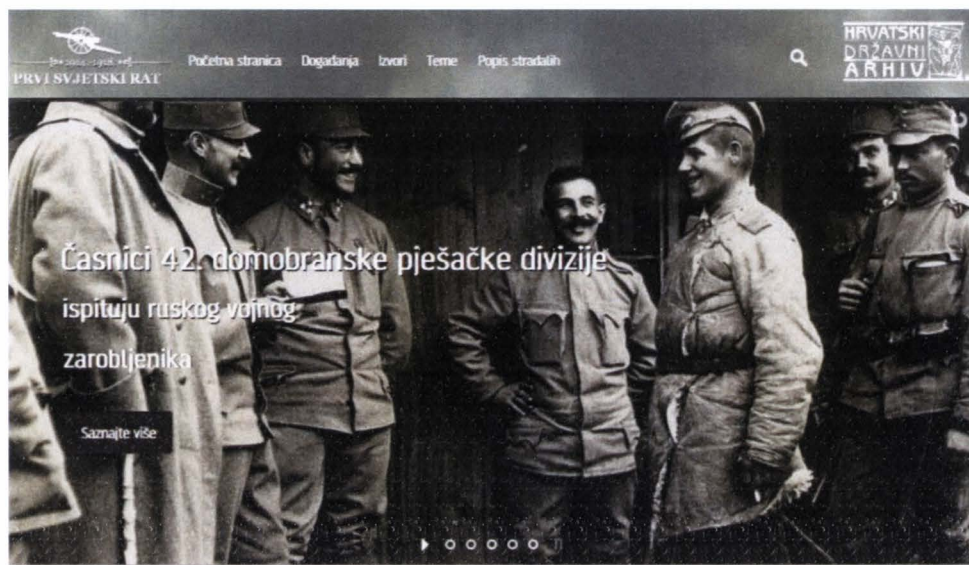
Figure 6. Poster and catalogue of CSA WWI holdings

This exhibition was prepared as introduction to thematic archival guide *The First World War in CSA fonds and collections*, which is planned to be published by the end of 2016. Activities in the framework of preparing CSA guide on WWI holdings are also associated with Forum of Slavic Countries activities presented at 1st and 2nd International Conferences on State Archives from Slavic Countries held in Ljubljana and Dubrovnik. Complementary to other various initiatives dedicated to the celebration of the centenary of the WWI, Slavic archives in Ljubljana presented their holdings, as well as their activities and programs related to research, processing, digitization and presentation of archival sources about the Great War. Current joint work on this subject is focused on making joint thematic Archival Guide to Archival Records on World War I. of

national archives of Slavic countries and accompanying traveling exhibition that was presented and discussed in Dubrovnik meeting.

In order to additionally promote variety and scope of archival sources regarding The First World War to public and to encourage its research, CSA, in cooperation with State Archives in Osijek, published calendar *Croatian Officers in Great War* for 2016, which was distributed to cultural, scientific and educational institutions.

As planned in the framework of two programs dedicated to the First World War, CSA regarding to publishing WWI holding on the web portals, CSA launched the web portal *The First World War 1914-1918 – A View from the Archives*, available at <http://prvisvjetskirat.arhiv.hr/>.



Prvi svjetski rat 1914.-1918. – pogled iz arhiva

Otkrivali na web stranici Hrvatskoga državnog arhiva posebne obilježavaju stogodišnjice Velikog rata. Cilj je ove stranice predstaviti javnosti raznovrsno digitalizirano arhivsko gradivo o Prvom svjetskom ratu te uputi na brojne mogućnosti istraživanja ovog povijesnog razdoblja kroz pojedinačne teme. Sadržaj stranice će se kontinuirano nadopunjavati, a gradivo će se pripremati i za objavu na portalu *Europeana 1914-1918, Archives Portal Europe* i *CENIAR*.

SUDIJE LITE I VI

Figure 7. CSA WWI portal

The portal was designed as a modern tool for searching and viewing digitized content – articles, event announcements, casualty reports, and, particularly, archival sources on World War I. It features sections: “Events”,

“Sources”, “Casualty Reports”, “Topics”, “Chronology of War” and “Publications”. The most important section is “Sources”, which so far enable access to more than 35,000 digitized images of original archival documents and its metadata. “Topics” section presents various topics on the Great War in the form of articles that are based on bibliography and archival documents in order to present less known facts about the War. “Casualty Reports” section is the starting page for researching database on war casualties – The Vienna War Ministry’s List of Losses (*Verlustliste*), which also includes dead soldiers from Croatian territory who were members of Austrian-Hungarian army. “Events” section publishes news on World War I commemorations in heritage and scientific institutions, and “Publications” section features printed material (exhibition catalogues, etc.) commemorating World War I published by archives, libraries, museums, scientific institutions and others. “Topics”, “Events”, “Sources” and “Publications” sections are being continually updated with new content.

All above mentioned activities will be continued through the next years with the aim of contribute to public’s awareness about the War’s impact on Croatian and European history and to present the work and importance of archives for keeping and researching our past to the public.

*Vlatka Lemić**

Slovak National Archives

Legal predecessors of the Slovak National Archives until 1952

The organisation of archives, as we know it today, began to be set up only in the 1950s. Slovakia was not a sovereign state or independent administrative unit within the Kingdom of Hungary until the beginning of the 20th century, so this was also the reason why any kind of central or national archive did not exist. Certainly, various municipal and church archives were created on Slovak territory a long time ago. Significant changes in the organisation of archiving in Slovakia did not occur during the first decade of existence of the Czechoslovak republic, although immediately after the establishment of the new republic there were proposals for the establishment of a kind of central archive in Slovakia. Jan Bedřich Novák, director of the Czech Land Archive, was the first to make a proposal in November 1918 and, according to him, a general state archive for Slovakia should have been established. Its task was to receive documents related to Slovakia from the central archives and offices from Budapest. The second proposal was drawn up in February 1919 by the Director of the Archives of the Ministry of Interior, Ladislav Klicman. He talked about the establishment of a Slovak archive in Bratislava,

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