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THE FAMILY ARCHIVES IN THE AUSTRIAN STATE ARCHIVES
WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO THE FAMILY ARCHIVES
OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ARCHIVES
(ALLGEMEINES VERWALTUNGSARCHIV, AVA)

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Though it is primarily the task of Austria's provincial archives to take care of the records of their former territorial lords, the Austrian State Archives in Vienna also preserve several family and manorial archives in three different divisions. Beyond any doubt the Haus-, Hof- and Staatsarchiv (house-, court- and state archive) has to be mentioned first as it stores the archives of the house Habsburg-Lorraine, the Auersperg's central archive of Losensteinleithen, the Ratibor-Breuner's archive of Grafenegg, the Khevenhuller-Metsch's archive of Fronsburg, the manorial archives of Guntersdorf, Jaidhof and Walpersdorf, the castle archives of Rosenau, the Folliot-Crenneville's archive of Gmunden as well as the archives of the counts Stadion and the archives of the families of Asprenont-Lynden and Montjoye. The records of the economic administration of the sovereign's landed property are preserved in the Finanz – and Hofkammerarchiv (financial and court chamber archive). The third and last section of the Austrian state archives – the Allgemeines Verwaltungsarchiv (AVA, general administration archive) mainly consists of three bigger family archives (namely those of Harrach, Paar and Trauttmansdorff) and a number of smaller family archives. The fact that the archive dealing with the country's nobility has become part of today's AVA may have influenced the owners' decision to hand their private family papers to the AVA. Two of the more voluminous family archives, namely those of Harrach and Trauttmansdorff are still in private possession and have a different legal status among the other records. Thus, the respective owners of the papers have to be asked for permission if one wants to use them.

As far as the smaller archival records are concerned, their origin mainly lay with one person, who took a strong interest in collecting genealogical material concerning one's own family.

In some cases the following generations continued this process of collecting family papers which finally resulted in a fine and substantial collection of a private archive. The difference between the family archives and another group of archival records, the so-called bequests, is fluent. The bulk of family archives differs widely and ranges from one to fifty boxes.

The genesis of the larger family archives in the AVA is quite different. The basic records go back to the 16th century when by the way of the so-called feoffment a new concentration of territorial possessions among the nobility was established. These huge manorial lands therefore requested an extensive and wellorganized administration. The immense increase of records in the 18th and 19th centuries bears witness to the expanding administration in all fields of human life. If one compares the contents of the family archives we will find similar types of records.

1. Charters concerning the legal titles of the family (e.g. marriage contracts, purchase contracts, last wills etc.)
2. Private family affairs (e.g. birth-certificates)
3. Manorial records (records and registers concerning the administration of private property)
4. Correspondence
5. Maps and drawings as well as pictorial material.

As different members of the family often held high and highest positions in the Imperial Government, we may also trace private correspondence as well as official material and concepts of negotiations and drafts. If a manorial seat was sold, the papers usually changed hands as well.

If we now concentrate on the family archive of the Counts of Harrach, the whole archival deposit is subdivided into two sections: the family archive itself, consisting of different family correspondence, charters, contracts and other personal papers concerning the members of the family, and secondly the economic or manorial archive. The complete Harrach archive amounts to 800 linear meters of storage length. At the end of the 19th century the family archive was arranged and described for the first time by Ferdinand Mencik, librarian by profession and director of the archives.

At the beginning of the first division we find a chronological series of individual charters (approximately 1.000 pieces), which are covering the impressive period of more than 900 years. The oldest document is a notarial attestation, which was issued on 9 October 1009 in Correggio: Frogerius and Adalbertus donate some piece of land to the church of St. Michael in Correggio (county Reggio), «ubi dicitur Gurgnete Glandete». The lion's share of the first division, however, consists of documents concerning family affairs and the correspon-

dence of different family members. Comprising 141 members of the family, it is arranged alphabetically. Biographical notes (including the female representatives of the house of Harrach) are followed by the correspondence, which is again arranged alphabetically according to the names of the senders. The rest consists of some smaller collections, dealing with special subjects such as buildings, household, the arts and sciences, paintings and portraits, manuscripts, the library and the registry.

Though the Harrachs originated from Upper Austria, they succeeded in acquiring many estates throughout the Habsburg monarchy, mainly in Bohemia and Lower Austria. Some members of the family obtained high and highest positions in state and church. Thus, we find among them cardinals and archbishops as well as imperial ambassadors, governors and chamberers. I would like to concentrate on the careers of two members of the family, whose importance for Italy, and particularly for Naples, is most significant. The first was Count Ferdinand Bonaventura Harrach (1636-1706), the imperial ambassador in Spain, who was entrusted with a most difficult task: he was to induce King Charles II, the last male representative of the house of Habsburg on the Spanish throne, to secure the Spanish heritage for the Austrian branch of the House of Habsburg, an attempt which finally failed. The second was Count Aloys Thomas Harrach (1669-1742), who was viceroy in Naples for five years, after the town had become part of Austria as a result of the War of Spanish Succession. Similar to his father Count Aloys was fond of collecting paintings. Thus, the splendid gallery of paintings in Rohrau castle in Lower Austria houses one of the finest collections of Neapolitan and South-Italian baroque painting north of the Alps; the most famous painters were Francesco Solimena and his disciple Niccolò Rossi.

The second division of the archive, the economic or manorial archive, has partly arranged and indexed according to different subjects. Being presently in the state of rearrangement the whole division amounts to 155 linear meters storage length concerning the different volumes and 320 linear meters storage length of different records. In rearranging the documents one will follow the model of the territorial archive in Lower Austria. The formation of archival groups according to the principle of origin functions as the supreme category of classification. Next one follows the outer characteristics of the records; usually one distinguishes between 5 classes.

1. Charters, 2. Manuscripts, 3. Records, 4. Maps and plans, 5. Drawings, paintings and photos.

This classification is absolutely necessary as the five types of records will be stored in different ways. The charters will be wrapped up separately, the manu-

scripts will be stored in stacks, the records will be kept in cardboard boxes, and the maps and plans will be stored in special boxes. The charters are to be arranged in chronological order and each document should be listed in an inventory. The purpose of such a list is to make the most comprehensive calendars, which contain information of the date and place of issue, the digest of its contents, material and seal. The next step is the arrangement of the manuscripts, which are already inscribed and can easily be brought into a scheme of order. The manuscripts have to be separated according to their manorial origin and secondly according to its contents. Thus, we have to form groups of manuscripts with all land-registers and all property-registers (*Gewährbücher*), all journals of marriages and estates and all manuscripts dealing with guardianship and cellaroffice. Within these archival groups we have to establish chronological series. Manuscripts which cannot be classified within one group, have to be collected at the end and indexed under the heading of 'varia'.

The more substantial bulk of documents, however, contain records which have not yet been arranged. The economic or manorial records nearly cover all fields of the administration of properties: economic correspondence, personal records, accountancy, taxes and tithes, military affairs, church administration, poor relief, hospitals, orphanages, buildings, iron-works, linen- and sugar factories, glass-melting works, distilleries, breweries, mills, vineyards, agriculture, forestry, hunting as well as fishing etc. The Harrachs' estates extend from their manorial lands in Lower Austria (Prugg/Bruck a. Leitha and Rohrau) to Bohemia (Starkenbach-Brannà, Sadowa with the properties in Prim and Libcan, Strkov, and the glass-factory Neuwelt with the warehouses in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Prague, and Karlsbad). The records have been arranged similarly to the manuscripts, namely according to the administration of the manorial possessions. Within the archival groups we have to subdivide them according to subject matters and following the principle of chronological order. The problem is, how many subjects are to be established and how they are to be described and characterized. We thereby follow the system of the registries of local institutions. The first three groups consist of the manorial archive itself. They deal with subject matters which originated from the handling of magisterial jurisdiction over their subjects.

1. Feudal judgement: land registry, marriage contracts, contract of purchase, last wills etc.
2. Justice: affairs of district and civil courts, police affairs
3. Politica: demographic aspects (in particular: reception and dismissal of subjects), agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing, trade and business,

buildings and traffic, sanitary matters, taxes, tithes, military obligations, church and education, poor relief of the subjects.

4. Economic archive: staff, correspondence, castles and palaces, household
5. Accounting: balances of profit and loss
6. Varia
7. Laws ordinances and decrees

These seven main groups can be modified according to new subject matters or new subgroups just as circumstances may make it necessary.

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