

BABIČKA, VÁCSLAV

(1949, ČÁSLAV, CZECHOSLOVAKIA – 2012, CZECH REPUBLIC)

NATIONALITY: CZECH

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: CZECH REPUBLIC

EDUCATION

- Charles University: Ph.D. in history, Czech language and literature, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1973
- Charles University: M. A. in theology, Prague, Czech Republic, 2010

AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION

Archival theory and methodology; archival classification; archival legislation; archival terminology.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD

Václav Babička was one of the most important Czech archivists and archival thinkers, both, in practical as well as theoretical terms. From 1992–2000 Václav Babička served as head of the Czech National Archives and then as director of the Department for Archives and Records Management at the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, which is the central authority for Czech archives and archival issues. His major contributions were helping to develop Czech archival sciences and, after the downfall of Communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989, in elaborating new archival legislation for the country. Babička published on methodologies of defining and delimiting archival fonds and Czech archival re-organization after 1989. Prior to 1989 Babička also contributed substantially to digital archiving and the registration of archival records (proposing new methods and procedures) among other archival topics. In 2007 Babička received the Medal of Merit for Czech archival sciences from the Secretary of the Interior.

CAREER HISTORY

- State Central Archives (since 2004 National Archives), 1972–2000 (since 1992 as director)
 - Director of the Department for Archives and Records Management at the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, 2000–2011
- External lecturer, Institute for Archival Sciences and History, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

Born in Čáslav in 1949, Václav Babička studied history as well as Czech language and literature at the

Faculty of Arts at the Charles University in Prague from 1964 to 1972. Upon graduating, he entered the Czech State Central Archives (Státní ústřední archive), which became the National Archives of the Czech Republic in 2004 and where he spent most of his professional career, first as archivist, then as head of the Department for Informatics, and finally as the overall director of the Czech State Central Archives from 1992 to 2000. From 2000–2011 he served as the director of the Department for Archives and Records Management at the Ministry of Interior, i.e. the head of Czech archival sciences.

Active in several archival areas, Babička helped write the new Czech archival law (2004), archival legislation being a particular interest of his. He was also an external lecturer at the Institute for Archival Sciences and History at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University, teaching archival theory and legislation.

Babička was one of the pioneers of digital archives in former Czechoslovakia and responsible for digital curation and electronic records at the Czech State Central Archives. He published extensively about history (especially church history) and archival matters and made significant contributions in general archival theory, and archival description and arrangement including new methodologies for defining and demarcating archival fonds and archival organization.

Babička also served as mayor of Nesvačily, and he was active in the Catholic Church. Towards the end of his life, he completed a degree in Catholic Theology at the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University and worked as deacon in the parish of Všeradice.

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES

Books

- Tezaurus pro popis archivních fondů zemědělsko-lesnického charakteru. Experimentální verze, Praha 1980 (coauthors: Tomáš Fiala, Ludmila Kubátová, Helena Sýkorová, Zdeněk Šamberger, Jaroslav Vrbata, Josef Žabka).
- Zásady nového archivního zákona. Sborník příspěvků 3. konference archivářů České republiky, Zpravodaj pobočky ČIS 40, Praha 1992 (editor).
- 40. výročí Státního ústředního archivu v Praze, Praha 1994 (coauthor: Jaroslava Hoffmannová).
- Státní ústřední archiv v Praze a jeho sídla. The Central State Archives in Prague and its Buildings, Praha 2001 (coauthors: Alena Pazderová, Tomáš Kalina).
- Archivy a veřejnost. Sborník příspěvků 4. konference archivářů České republiky, Zpravodaj pobočky ČIS 41, Praha 1993 (editor).

Articles

- “Provenienční a historický princip v archivnictví I. (Obecné pojetí provenienčního a historického principu), II. (Syntéza a nástin dalšího možného směru teoretického výkladu), III. (Aplikace v archivní praxi)”, in Archivní časopis 38, 1988, pp. 137–153 and 193–206, Archivní

- časopis 39, 1989, pp. 2–18 (coauthor: Tomáš Kalina)
- “Vymezení archivního fondu”, in Evidence jednotného archivního fondu (Archivní teorie, metodika a praxe 8), Praha 1994, pp. 41–47
 - “Hledá se nový Muller, Fruin a Feith. 100 let holandské archivní příručky”, in Archivní časopis 48, 1998, pp. 201–212
 - “Legislativní úprava archivnictví – východiska a cíle”, in Archivní časopis 54, 2004, pp. 1–21
 - “Druhy rejstříků”, in Archivní časopis 36, 1986, pp. 198–217

AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY/DATE OF SUBMISSION

Mikuláš Čtvrtník, Summer 2015

EDITOR/EDITING DATE

Susanne Belovari, Summer 2015