

VRBATA, JAROSLAV

(*1931, KRUH, CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

NATIONALITY: CZECH

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: CZECH REPUBLIC

EDUCATION

- PhD., Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1967
- Charles University in Prague: history, philosophy, archivistics and auxiliary sciences of history, Czechoslovakia, 1955

AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION

Archival theory and methodology; appraisal; classification; archival organisation

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD

Jaroslav Vrbata directed the Czech Central Archives (today's National Archives) for twenty years from 1971–1991, published extensively in various field of archival theory (in particular archival appraisal) and contributed to the development of archival theory in the second half of the 20th century.

CAREER HISTORY

- Archivist, State Archives in Jablonec nad Nisou, 1956–1960
- Director's secretary, National Museum in Prague, 1960–1961
- Archivist, head of department; Director (from 1971–1991), State Central Archives, 1961–1993

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

Jaroslav Vrbata was born in 1931 in Kruh, North Bohemia. He studied history, philosophy and archivistics and the auxiliary sciences of history at the Faculty of Arts at the Charles University in Prague from 1950–1955. Upon graduation he briefly worked for the archives of the regional headquarters of the National Security Corps in Liberec and then worked as archivist at the State Archives in Jablonec nad Nisou, the regional archives in North Bohemia between 1956–1960. In 1961 he moved on to the State Central Archives in Czechoslovakia, first as archivist in 1962, then as head of the archives (related to 1848 to 1918), and finally as director of the overall archives from 1971 to 1991. Jaroslav Vrbata contributed significantly to the development of archival theory and methodology, in particular of archival appraisal in Czechoslovakia. He was an advocate of the conception of archivistics as an exact quantitative scientific discipline. In his view of archivistics Vrbata tried to apply quantitative methods usually used in natural sciences. In addition, he also focused extensively on archival appraisal. Vrbata developed a specific theory of archival appraisal, distinguished by its emphasis on objectivity, measurability, exactness and based on theoretical models. Vrbata's unique contribution was to also introduce this quantitative, almost mathematical approach to other areas of archival theory and archivistics.

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES

- Archivní příručka, Praha 1965 (coauthor).
- Mnichov a březnová tragédie, Praha 1979–1988 (coauthor).
- Sborník dokumentů k vnitřnímu vývoji v českých zemích za I. světové války, Praha 1993–1997 (coauthor).
- Naše národní minulost v dokumentech, Praha 1971 (coauthor).
- “Trvalá dokumentární hodnota”, in Zpravodaj ČsVTS SÚA 3, 1974, pp. 53–116.
- “K některým obecným otázkám výběru archiválií”, in Zpravodaj ČsVTS SÚA 14, 1979, pp. 12–67.
- “Úvahy o některých problémech současného archivnictví”, in Zpravodaj pobočky ČsVTS SÚA 5, 1975, pp. 21–77.
- “Pokus o kvantitativní vyjádření kvalitativních ukazatelů v archivistice”, in Zpravodaj pobočky ČsVTS SÚA 31, 1986, pp. 79–88.
- “Poznámky k některým otázkám teorie výběru archiválií”, in Zpravodaj pobočky ČIS SÚA 37, 1990, pp. 23–29.

AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY/DATE OF SUBMISSION

Mikuláš Čtvrtník, Mai 2015

SECONDARY SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY

Čtvrtník, Mikuláš – Kahuda, Jan. “Jaroslav Vrbata a teorie výběru/hodnocení dokumentů”, in Archivní časopis 63, 2013, Num. 2, pp. 197–213.

National Archives, archival fonds Archivní registratura (AR) 1991–1992, sign. 211.