

WELCOME SPEECH AT THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF IIAS

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Dear ladies and gentlemen, respected high representatives of the political, economic and cultural life, dear colleagues and friends

Dr. Ugo Cova will speak about the 20 years of development, successes and failures, results, mistakes, positive and negative experiences of the activities of the IIAS. I would just like to point out, that the IIAS has been established as the ARCHIVE CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS on behalf of many archivists from Slovenia, former Yugoslav countries and other European countries. We all wanted to raise the archival theory and praxis to a higher level, especially in the field of professional and technical solutions.

I am not going to evaluate our work – I will let others to do so – but I have to say that in these 20 years of the Institute activities (former Centre), a lot of work has been done. Results are evident in many scientific papers which have been published in eighteen issues of *Modern archives* (altogether there were 25) and fifteen issues of the official publication of the Institute *Atlanti* and in many others.

The officially appointed members of the Institute and correspondents of the Archive centre made an enormous contribution with their research work. The published papers provide quality solutions for further research in many fields of archival professional work.

The IIAS has published a few books, it implemented the summer school (ISFABUS in 1996) and with lectures it contributed to the numerous national and international meetings.

In the last 20 years we have made a lot of dear friendships, exchanged professional experiences and literature and spent many joyful hours together. I am sorry to see that a lot of colleagues are not among us anymore. We shall pay tribute to them! Many colleagues have retired and are enjoying their “autumn of life”, not being related to archival work anymore. But, there are also a lot of colleagues who despite their age are here with us today.

The IIAS proudly remembers all honourable members: Charles Kecskemeti, Michel Duchein, Gerhard Pferschy and Hermann Rumschöttl. There are also some correspondents who helped from the beginning (Ress from Hungary, Lihua from China, Maršal from the Czech Republic, Fracki from Poland, Bubulescu from Romania, Brachman from the former GDR and others).

I am happy to see that also my dear colleague and friend, the first officially appointed correspondent, member of the Centre/Institute from 1985, Prof. Dr. Ugo Cova is here. It was he, who from the beginning influenced the work of the Centre, today's

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Institute, and made an enormous contribution to the archival theory and praxis. Dear Ugo, thank you very much.

It seems I am the only active member of the so called “old generation”, which gathered in 1985 within the Archive centre, today’s Institute. But I am happy that in the last years the number of new, younger members is increasing – and I am sure, they will continue the activities of the IIAS, regardless of its location.

To date, the IIAS consists of the following, officially appointed members, who are actively contributing to the field of archivistics: TATÒ (Italy), DELMAS (France), LUPRIAN (Germany), AGUADO (Spain), LARIN (Russia), HASPEL (Israel), HANUS (Slovakia), KLASINC (Slovenia), SCHOEGEL-ERNST(Austria), PEJOVIĆ (Srbia and Montenegro), KOŽAR (Bosnia in Herzegovina), BARANOVA (Lithuania), MAROSZ (Poland), MUŠNJAK (Croatia), HALL (United Kingdom), BUBULESCU (Romania), LIHUA (China), HAGSTEDT (Sweden), PIRILA (Finland), RESS (Hungary), MATIASZ (Ukraine). President of the assembly of members: Leopold AUER (Austria).

In 2004-2005 the IIAS implemented its regular activities, it organised the “International Archival Day” and assembly of members, published the publication ATLANTI 2004, it managed the Institute and provided data on books and gathered information units, it implemented international correspondence (mostly with Italy) and prepared some interesting lectures in Slovenia and abroad (The International Congress Of Archives In Vienna, Schlaininger talks in Austria, Archival Society of Croatia and the like).

Allow me to conclude my thoughts on IIAS at its 20th anniversary with the Latin saying FINIS CORONAT OPUS = THE END CROWNS THE WORK. But here the end shall be the beginning of a new era.

To everybody, who in any possible way has helped with the development of the Centre, the today’s Institute, and is today in this hall, or might hear from this conference in any other way: THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP! Unfortunately, I cannot list all of you, it would last way to long and I might forget someone.

Special thanks go to the Directorate General of the Italian archives, to director general Mr. Salvatore Italia and his colleague Mezzabotta and to our friend and member of the IIAS Grazia Tatò for all the provided care and help with the organisation of the 20th conference of members, as well as the implementation of the International Archival Day and publishing of the ATLANTI 2005 publication.

I would like to thank all lecturers for the prepared papers and I wish all participants many professional successes in the future.