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## 30 YEARS OF "ATLANTI": ARCHIVAL SCIENCE AT THE TOP LEVEL

It was back in 1989, during their yearly meeting, that the Members of the International Institute for Archival Science – IAS decided to print a publication devoted to the most relevant problems and questions in the field of archival science.

The very concept of this publication was to give voice to specialist and professionals in order to share their competences and their experience, and to create a sort of permanent round table dedicated to the improvement of the archival work, and also to the implementation of a permanent debate about the profession.

The first issue of "Atlanti" showed on the title page the icon of the publication, and of the Institute, an illustration taken from "Atlas Noveau", showing Atlas carrying on his powerful shoulder the terrestrial globe.

Let us read the presentation words of Dr. Leopold Auer, at that time editor in chief of the magazine:

*"We hope that the publication Atlanti will contribute at least to better understanding and to the broadening of the extent of professional technical questions, to be solved in archives, apart in which part of the world they appear.*

*When we made some critical judgements many years ago about buildings adapted for the needs of archives or about new archive buildings, we did it, because in both cases there were found not to be the best and optimal solutions. Sometimes in the case of adaptations this can be understandable and with better studies such problems will not arise.*

*We can not and we may not agree with fictitious solutions and with mistakes constructing new archives.*

*Atlanti completely meets the definition of the IAS: International Institute for Archival Science. International it is, as the seventeen authors in it represent ten different nations. Archival and scientific, too, as the matters which are treated in it concern one of the most important aspects of the preservation and management of the archival heritage, and touch not only on archivology, but also on chemistry, biology, architecture and engineering.*

*Atlanti is continuing its policy of publishing papers given at the annual meeting at Radenci which are accompanied by an appendix of selected bibliographical references to archival technical literature. They will also include publications of UNESCOI'sw Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP) to stress the journal's role in the exchange of professional information at an international level. Including those of the International Council on Archives, Atlanti has acquired its reputation and it unmistakable features by its focus on technical problems in archives. Moreover, by taking into account the importance of archival literature in Slavonic languages, the journal is called to act as an intermediary in the flow of professional information between western and eastern hemispheres, up to now [1996] a pressing need to which it may be sometimes difficult to respond.*

In six volumes of Atlanti treated different topics from the field of archival technique. All these topics summarise the results of the annual meeting of the IAS members in Radenci."

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The first six volumes of "Atlanti"

Dr. Auer's words were, and still are, really very interesting: in few paragraphs, he could condense both the goals and the prospects of the publication, and the perfect connection between the magazine and the Institute.

Dr. Auer was kind of prophetic, too, when writing about the intermediation that "Atlanti" was going to make between western and eastern hemispheres. Today, after thirty years have gone from the first issue, we can also say that this intermediation has increased and developed to finally include the whole world, since during the years we could benefit of the sharing of experience of colleagues coming from Northern and Southern America, from Australia, from Africa, and from Asia, testifying the situation of the archives in their own countries not only from a technical point of view, but also, which is maybe much more important, from the point of view of the archives as custodians of wrights and democracy.

For this reason, we really can proudly affirm that, starting from a publication devoted to an European area, "Atlanti" (and of course the Institute) have been constantly grown up raising to a global dimension, and this is one of the most important results achieved by both the magazine and the Institute.

Today, the International Institute for Archival Science – IIAS and "Atlanti" stand as one of the most important institutions in the field of archives, and have given shape to collateral but nonetheless very important and significant initiatives, i.e. for example the Autumn Archival School, The Online Dictionary of Archival Terminology, and the many memorandum of cooperation with similar institutions.

Unfortunately, such a magnificent and fruitful gathering and sharing of competences, this year could not take place, because of the dramatic pandemic that is raging all over our world. Anyway, the present number of "Atlanti" will be issued online, and so we all will be able to celebrate worthily this very important and professional publication.



No typology.

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