Romania

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The peoples of Transylvania have retained their identity in large part because of the special institutions—autonomous political administration, guilds, landed property, churches, schools, and associations—that they successfully defended for their kinsmen or nation. The documentation of one’s claims was a time-honored Transylvanian tradition, and it required the maintenance of archives. Despite major losses in the Tatar and Turkish incursions, the civil war of 1848-49, two world wars, and the suppression of institutions by the Communist authorities, this documentation has survived in almost bewildering profusion. Of course, it is linguistically diverse. Latin was the official language of Transylvania until the 19th century, but German and Hungarian made increasing inroads beginning with the Reformation. Romanian manuscripts, available since the beginning of the 17th century, made use of these languages or of Romanian, at first with the Cyrillic alphabet but, especially among the Greek Catholics, in the Latin alphabet from the mid-19th century on.

The formerly Habsburg territories of Romania have experienced various administrative changes over the past two centuries that make it challenging to locate the archives produced by institutions and individuals. Surviving records of local institutions are likely to be found not far from their place of creation, but the location of personal papers and of provincial governmental bodies is less predictable.
Adding to the development of archival documentation, Habsburg monarchies noted the importance of maintaining administrative control over the provinces, particularly in the eastern territories subject to the Treaty of 1888. Since the recollection of historical records, the northern half of the Chernivtsi region, formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and the northern part of Transylvania, registered under Soviet administration in Chernivtsi, have been subject to intensive research. Records pertaining to these provinces, however, are not those found in the archives of the Chernivtsi region, although Hungarian administrative archives of these provinces before the end of the Dualist period, 1435–1699, the last decades before the partition of the Hungarian Nation, have been preserved. These records are not accessible to research due to inaccessibility.

Systematic research on Hungarian archival records facilitates research on the Hungarian administrative archives since 1920. In many cases, the registration impedes easy identification of another matter, and as a result, it is not possible to obtain standard request for charest, and research on these archives or whose content is unattainable.

Adding to the complexity is the contrasting application of replevin—the movement of archives following territorial changes—in the Treaties of Trianon and Saint-Germain. Roughly one-third of Romania's territory in 1920 had been part of the Habsburg monarchy: Bukovina and Transylvania in their entirety, and parts of the former eastern Hungary known in Romanian as Maramureș, Țiriacă, and Banat. Since the redrawing of the border with Ukraine at the end of World War II, the northern half of Bukovina—with its capital, Chernivtsi (Cernăuți, Czernowitz)—is in Ukraine. While the Treaty of Trianon essentially left the archives where they were, the Treaty of Saint-Germain specified that all central government records dating from 1888 on that pertained to the ceded territories should be detached from their archival context in Vienna and turned over to the successor states. Thus, central administrative records pertaining to Bukovina may be found in the Romanian National Archives, but not those for the former Hungarian lands.

Researchers interested in the formerly Habsburg territories must sometimes consult the archives of the imperial and royal governments in Vienna (especially for the central military administration and foreign affairs) and Budapest (especially for the Dualist period, 1867–1918), as do many Romanian citizens. However, some archives of the provincial Habsburg authorities that one would expect to find in Romania are also in neighboring countries. The most important of these are for Bukovina and Transylvania. The records of the military (1775–86) and civilian (1786–1919) administration of Bukovina and of the Orthodox metropolitanate passed from Romanian to Soviet control, and they remain today in the State Archives of Chernivtsi Oblast in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.1 The provincial archives for Transylvania are found in Budapest, although all of Transylvania is in Romania, because they were moved to the Hungarian National Archives after its creation in 1875. The largest components of these provincial archives are the Transylvanian Court Chancery, 1686–1867; the Gubernium, 1435–1870s; the Treasury, 1527–1870s; and the administrative records for the last decades before unification with Hungary, 1849–72. The papers of some Transylvanian Hungarian families (notably the Counts Teleki) may also be found in the Hungarian National Archives, as well as microfilm of many of the records referred to in this article.

Systematic record keeping and archives in this area date from the Middle Ages. As in the rest of the monarchy, government and ecclesiastical offices introduced the registry system for the numbering of correspondence between 1760 and 1790, which facilitates research in records that are not cared for by an archivist. Transylvanian Hungarian and Saxon archivists of the 19th century prepared inventories and abstracts that are still our most complete information on some collections.

In many cases the contemporary registers, protocol books, and indexes make it easy to identify the documents needed, but gaining physical access to them may be another matter. According to the director of the State Archives (called National Archives since 1996) in Cluj, access to documents requires written identification and a standard request form. Foreign citizens need approval from the main office in Bucharest, and research is forbidden in any holdings that are unorganized, deteriorated, or whose content may compromise individuals' rights or national security. This regulation impedes access to many records that are not yet inventoried, especially in the

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Cluj branch, although their contemporary finding aids would provide adequate access in many cases. A retired archivist, András Kiss, reported in 1993 that if the material is not sufficiently organized, the archives will, if requested, place the organization and inventory of the material on the agenda and declare it open to research upon completion. Thus, one should coordinate research plans with the state archives in advance and only count on being able to begin if a corresponding permission for research has been granted.

The State Archives has been subordinated to the Ministry of the Interior since 1951, and research access was strictly controlled under the Communists. From 1956 to 1991 security officers supervised all state archives and their correspondence. Restrictions have been considerably relaxed since 1990, although talk of ending subordination to the Ministry of Interior has not yet borne fruit. It is also still necessary to address applications for research in any county branch to the main branch in the capital: Direcția Arhivelor Naționale București. In interviews with researchers, state archivists have in the past sometimes been suspicious and reluctant to share information. The Archives Law of 1996 states that documents pertaining to "national security and territorial inviolability" (which theoretically might cover many Transylvanian records) need not be released until 100 years after their creation. Recent reports indicate the use of laptops in the National Archives is now permitted. National Archives branches are typically open from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. Monday through Friday, with Friday closing times frequently earlier. In Cluj, research access may be prolonged by request until 8 P.M. Monday through Thursday, or through 4 P.M. on Friday. Photocopying and microfilming are possible in the National Archives, at 25 cents per exposure.

Despite limitations in its access policy, the State Archives has seen the dissemination of information about holdings as one of its principal charges. These publications appeared in a restricted number of copies, but most may be found in libraries outside of Romania, including these categories of finding aids: Întrumător în Arhivele Statului județ . . . (detailed guides to the holdings of individual branches), Filiala Arhivelor Statului județ . . . (brief guides), and Inventar, Repertoriu, or Catalog (abstracts of all individual documents in a collection). The State Archives has also sponsored excellent multivolume collections of documents on Transylvanian history in the original languages, which ease the researcher's task: concerning Michael the Brave (the Habsburgs' erstwhile ally at the end of the 16th century), the Horea uprising of 1784, George Bariv and the Romanian national movement, and the events of 1848 and 1918. Since the Cluj State Archives house more of this material than any other repository, it has been the principal source for Romanian research and documentary publications on Transylvanian history.

Until recently foreign researchers were well advised to begin their research in Budapest because it is relatively easy to learn about the collections and gain access to them. The holdings of the Hungarian National Archives remain indispensable for the historian of Transylvania. But the possibilities for research within Romania itself now appear to be better than they have been for several decades. Reprographic and computer facilities have been far behind western standards. Photocopying has been expensive and inconvenient, and no archives provide any automated, public access to holdings information. But most, if not all, of the political obstacles to research access have eased.

The most notable improvement in archival conditions is the greater openness exhibited by the archival profession. The armed guards in front of the National Archives have not disappeared, but it is easier to get past them, and then one finds archivists who travel to conferences, who are interested in the advice of their foreign colleagues,
and who debate the implications for the archives of privatization of the Romanian economy. In the four years after 1990 the number of researchers in the Cluj National Archives more than tripled, but at 223 in 1994 (for the third largest archives in the country!), it was still modest by Western standards. Since 1992 professional archival education has been resurrected, archival periodicals have emerged that disseminate relevant legislation and statutes, and organizations of professional archivists have emerged. The principal difficulties of private archives today are economic rather than political. Many private archives struggle with a lack of research facilities or archival personnel. One may hope that publicity about their research materials will open the possibility for foreign grants of assistance.

General Information:


Selected Source Publications:


Central Archives (Bucharest)

By far most of the archives of interest to Habsburg scholars are in the areas formerly under Habsburg rule, which will be described in the following sections. But there are several reasons to begin a research trip to Romania with a layover in Bucharest. Permission to conduct research in a branch of the National Archives must be obtained from the main branch. Application should be made before arrival, but it is wise to make a personal appearance rather than assume that the response will come by return mail. The Bucharest connection can be important for many research libraries as well: local branches of the Romanian Academy’s library are subordinated to its main branch, and documentary libraries such as the Batthyaneum of Alba Iulia and the Brukenthal in Sibiu are subordinated to the National Library, also known as the Central State Library: Biblioteca Națională, Str. Ion Ghica 4, Bucharest; tel: (40-1) 615

Unless otherwise specified, the place of publication for books is Bucharest. Several publishers’ names have been abbreviated as follows: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România (EARS), Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică (ESE), and Direcția Generală a Arhivelor Statului (DGAS). DGAS publishes a series called Îndrumătoare Arhivistice, abbreviated IA.
Explicit permission from headquarters may no longer be necessary after 1990, but it is wise to reconnoiter in the capital city.

Direcția Arhivei Naționale Istorice Centrale (DANIC) (Main Office of the Central National Archives). Bulevardul M. Kogălniceanu 29, Sector 1, 70602 Bucharest. Tel: (40-1) 615 25 03. Fax: (40-1) 312 58 41.

A second reason to stop in Bucharest is the holdings of Romania’s central state archives. The main branch of the National Archives holds Austrian government records for Bukovina for 1888-1918 or earlier (including Hofkriegsrat documents pertaining to the original occupation of Bukovina) that were “repatriated” in accord with the Treaty of Saint-Germain. DANIC also holds the archives of the Romanian Royal Chancery (Casa Regală) and the prime minister’s office, as well as assorted documents of private provenance that are identified by a card catalog on the premises. The archives of two other central units relevant for Habsburg history, the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff, may be consulted only up to the turn of the century. For the later period, it is necessary to apply to the Ministry of Defense for research at the military archives (Arhiva Militară) located at the field headquarters of the General Staff in Pitești. Diplomatic archives are exclusively under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Researchers report that it was especially difficult to gain access to these archives before 1989, but it has become much easier since then. They are housed in special facilities of the Foreign Ministry. There are no published guides to the archives still under the control of the ministries.

Biblioteca Academiei Române (Library of the Romanian Academy). Calea Victoriei 125, RO-71102 Bucharest. Tel: (40-1) 650 30 43.

There is a large manuscript collection in the Library of the Romanian Academy. The manuscripts of the Central University Library were damaged in the street fighting at the end of 1989. The statute of the academy, which was founded in 1866, stipulated that it should collect manuscripts pertaining to the Romanians wherever they lived. The most important personal collection for the history of the Romanian national movement is here, the bound manuscripts of George Barță (1812-93), in 52 volumes consisting of correspondence and original or transcribed documents. The library also houses the papers of the Transylvanian Romanian historian Nicolae Densusianu, the journalist-politician Alexandru Roman, and the cleric-politician Moise Nicoara of the Banat.


Church Archives

Our discussion of archives outside Bucharest must begin with an understanding of their evolution. After examining the church archives, because they are sui generis and their records may now be found in archives under either ecclesiastic or state administration, we will move on to the county branches of the state archives and then selected libraries that hold primary materials.

Immediately after Transylvania’s annexation, Romanians demanded a central repository for all its archives. For many years after opening in 1923, the Romanian State Archives in Cluj would fill this role, although its limited facilities meant it was only able to acquire some of the most important archival series that city and county offices
still held. Additional branches of the state archives opened between 1936 and 1938 in Timișoara, Năsăud, and Brașov. Socialist legislation in 1951, 1957, and 1974 ordained progressively greater control over archival collections not yet in the hands of the state, and made possible the expansion of archival facilities. On the positive side, these changes favored the preservation and processing of many endangered archives, but they sometimes resulted in the confiscation or restriction of research access to the national heritage of the Saxons and Hungarians. Since the administrative reorganization of the country in 1969, there is a branch of the state archives in every county (judet), including 16 on former Habsburg territory. Information about the location of research materials published before these changes is often unreliable. Material formerly found in libraries must often be sought in state archives, but there has been inconsistency in the expropriation, or continued independence, of ecclesiastical archives and of manuscript collections in research libraries. The administrative records of nationalized church schools will generally be found in the closest state archives today, and their manuscript collections in some research library.

The Roman Catholic (mostly Hungarian) and Reformed (Hungarian) dioceses, and to a lesser extent the Romanian Greek Catholic and German Lutheran dioceses, were major landowners in the lands ruled by Hungary, and all churches (the Romanian Orthodox were most numerous of all) played a vital role in the cultural life of ethnic communities. With the suppression of the Greek Catholic church in 1948, almost all its archives came under state control. The Communist authorities nationalized all church-run schools and took over their records. They sought, with less complete success, to acquire the archives of the Hungarian and German dioceses, as well. Parish archives may be found today in the parish rectories, in the diocesan archives, or in the state archives.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

A Gyulafehervári Érsekség Levéltára
(Archives of the Archdiocese of Alba Iulia). Str. Mihai Viteazul 21, RO-2500 Alba Iulia. Tel: (40-58) 811689. Fax: (40-58) 811454.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Alba Iulia (archdiocese since 1993) is one of the original Hungarian bishoprics founded by Saint Stephen in the early 11th century. The tower of the venerable cathedral of Alba Iulia was the repository for the archives of the diocesan chancery, cathedral chapter (which served a public notary function for several centuries), and also many political records of medieval and early modern Transylvania that are now in Budapest. Part of the chapter's archives is now in Alba Iulia's Batthyaneum Library. It was principally due to the courageous resistance of Bishop Aron Marton (1896–1980) that the archdiocese retains today the largest church archives in Romania still under church control. The largest series form the major part (480 feet, 1218–1940) of the chapter archives, still in the cathedral tower where they have been kept for centuries, the bishop's chancery (1720), and a series of records of varied provenance (1663–1944). Protocol books and registers facilitate research in the chancery records, which for over a century have been kept according to the same subject categories, which are still displayed above the secretary's desk. The repository has several feet of canonical visitations (1711–1875) for parishes in the diocese, which in territorial extent was the largest of historic Hungary. The archdiocese possesses neither archival personnel nor special work space for visitors, but may be willing to consider a request for research access.

Temesvarer Römisch-Katolisches Bistum (Roman Catholic Diocese of Timișoara).
Str. Rodnei nr. 4, RO-1900 Timișoara. Tel: (40-56) 190081. Fax: (40-56) 197201.

The archives of the Roman Catholic diocese of Timișoara, roughly 300 feet, moved into renovated quarters in 1994. The most valuable material is organized into bound volumes: the bishops' correspondence (Protocollum corresponsitarium Csanadiensis, 1770-1902), the registers for the cathedral chapter (1754–1949), pastoral letters (Protocollum circularium Csanadiensis, 1777–1948), and the 9 volumes of visitation reports compiled by Bishop József Lonovics (1834–51), who had a strong interest in religious ethnography. The diocese's archival premises were renovated through the support of the Austrian and German Bishops' Conferences.

Római Katolikus Szent Mihály Plébániá (Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Michael).
RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca.

Hungarian parishes and congregations have tended to maintain administration of their own archives to a greater extent than have the Romanian churches. Each Catholic parish keeps a chronicle of events in the life of the parish, Historia Domus, which is often illuminating for local history. Access to these archives is at the discretion of the pastor, but it is prudent to get the approval of the respective bishop. The archives of the Catholic parish of Saint Michael (Szent Mihály), in the tower of the church on the central square of Cluj, is uniquely rich. It holds the bound minutes of two commissions of the provincial government that administered endowments of ecclesiastical provenance: the Protocollum in obiectis literaribus (1789–1847) and the Protocollum in publico ecclesiasticis (1787–1865), known to historians as the Commissio catholica, as well as the records of this commission's successor, the Status catholicus (1873–1940s). The facilities are extremely congested, with no space for research, but researchers may inquire with the parish priest or the archbishop in Alba Iulia about the possibility of gaining access to the material.

ORTHODOX ARCHIVES

Mitropolia Ardealului (Metropolitanate of Transylvania). Str. Mitropoliei 24, RO-2400 Sibiu. Tel: (40-69) 412867.

The Archives of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitanate of Transylvania are in Sibiu and are under church administration. Older church archives were destroyed during the military occupation of Sibiu in 1849, but holdings are substantially complete beginning with this date. Contemporary register books provide the best point of access to the diocesan records; until late in the 19th century, the registers and much of the correspondence are in Romanian Cyrillic. The Metropolitanate also has a library, which is the best collection of early Romanian religious publications and contains the papers of Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna (1809–73), who was extremely important in political as well as ecclesiastical life; historian Ioan Lupșa (1880–1967); and other bishops and leading figures of the Dualist period.


Arhiva Bisericii Sfintul Nicolae in Șchei Brașovului (Archives of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Șchei Brașovului). RO-2200 Brașov.

This is a cultural center of long standing that still maintains its archives. There are two publications of its correspondence documenting the support of local merchants for Romanian schools, relations with the Danubian Principalities, and the transition
from Greek to Romanian culture in the Orthodox community. An in-house inventory lists 4,040 documents for 1594-1882.


Mitropolia Banatului (Metropolitanate of the Banat). Bd. Constantin Diaconovici Loga 7. Tel: (40-56) 190960.

The Orthodox Metropolitanate of the Banat was a Serbian-led diocese until 1918. Its archives in Timișoara reflect the multiethnic character of the diocese. Inquire here, too, about the archives of the Orthodox dioceses of Arad (Serbian-dominated until 1918) and Caransebeș, established in 1864, and the monastery of Hodoș-Bodrog. Both the archives of the diocese of Arad and of the nearby Orthodox monastery of Hodoș-Bodrog contain the minutes of consistory sessions, economic documents, and religious manuscripts since the late 18th century. It is unclear, based on a description of the State Archives in 1991, whether the archives of the diocese and the monastery remain under their own administration, as was the case in 1980, or have been taken over by the State Archives.


GREEK CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

With one exception all the archives of the Greek Catholics are under state control.

Episcopia Română Unită Lugojului (Romanian Uniate Diocese of Lugoj). Str. I.P. Bănățeanu 10, RO-1800 Lugoj. Tel: (40-056) 313597. Fax: (50-56) 311457.

In 1994 the Metropolitanate of the Banat returned to the Greek Catholic Church fragmentary remains of the archives of the Greek Catholic diocese of Lugoj (1857-1948) that had been in its possession, and occasionally made available for research, during the preceding decades. At the time of writing, these fragments (50 feet, 1765-1948) were in a private residence, organized into packets labeled by date but with no overall organization. Much of the material has to do with expansion of the church into this primarily Orthodox region and with the church’s relations with the Serbs, but some of the earliest documents pertain to Oradea and the Greek Catholic diocese established there in 1777.

PROTESTANT ARCHIVES

Az Erdélyi Református Egyházközségi Központi Gyűjtemény (Central Collecting Archives of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District). Str. M. Kogalniceanu 16/A, RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca. Tel: (40-64) 5 112453, ext. 23.

The church tower of the Reformed church at the end of Strada Kogalniceanu, known to Hungarians as the Farkas utcai templom, houses the Central Archives of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District. According to its archivist, for the last few decades it has been the Transylvanian Hungarians’ only public archives not owned by the state, and anyone may conduct research there. Its location is not marked by a
The bulk of the collection consists of the records of the Church Administrative Council (1700–1965). The records of the bishops are relatively incomplete, but the historical archives of seven deaneries and the congregation of Cluj are here. Personal papers include those of Márton Czelder, a missionary in the Danubian Principalities in the 1860s.


Unitárius Püspökség Levéltára (Archives of the Unitarian Bishopric). Str. 22. Decembrie 9, RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca. Tel: (40-64) 195927. Fax: (40-64) 195927.

The Transylvanian Hungarian Unitarians' bishopric and archives are also in Cluj, in the Brassai High School (Liceu Brassai). When I conducted research there in 1984 (under politically sensitive conditions), the 19th-century records of the Church Representative Council and their well-preserved protocol books appeared to be complete, but I was unable to determine the whereabouts of the bishops’ papers.

Archiv der Evangelischen Landeskirche A.B. in Rumanien (Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania). Str. General Magheru 4, RO-2400 Sibiu. Tel/Fax: (40-69) 217864.

The bulk of the historical collections of the Saxon Lutheran Church are in the National Archives, but there are smaller holdings at the Archiv-Büro der Evangelischen Kirche A.B., located at the bishop’s seat in Sibiu. The current director of this office is working to locate and assemble in one place the archives of the individual Saxon parishes, many of which are now abandoned because of the wave of emigration that has reduced the Saxon population of Transylvania to less than 20,000.

County Branches of the National Archives

The core material of the county archives resembles that of the county archives in Hungary: the protocols and administrative records of the county assemblies of the nobility, comparable records for the municipalities, and the records of educational institutions. Distinctive in the Romanian county archives is the large number of government, diocesan, and association archives, as well as personal papers and collections, that are of regional or even national significance.

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Cluj (Cluj County Branch of the National Archives). Str. M. Kogălniceanu 10, RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca.

The branch in Cluj-Napoca is the most important repository for Habsburg studies in all Romania. Both a detailed guide in two volumes and a brief guide have been published. There are six archival groups with regional significance: the mining treasury (Thesauriatus in Montanistis et Monetarius, 1698–1848); the mining office (Officium Supremum Montanum Zalathnense, 1729–87); their successor, the mining directory (Bergdirection, 1849–1917); the finance directorate (Directoratus Regio Fiscalis, 1722–1918); the imperial finance office during the Rakóczi uprising (Supremus Commissariatus Provincialis Transylvanicus, 1706–11); and fragments of the papers of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior (1876–1919) and Romanian provisional government of Transylvania (Consiliul Dirigent, 1918–24).
Like all the county branches, Cluj holds numerous county or Szekler and Saxon district archives, important for the documentation of the political activity of the nobility, with dates ranging for the most part from the 17th century: Kolozs, Szatmár, Felső Fehér, Kraszna, Doboka, Belső Szolnok, Torda, Aranyos, Udvarhély, and Lesch-kirch. There are archives of nine major cities beginning in the Middle Ages, including not only Cluj but also the Saxon town of Bistrița (Bistritz) and the originally Armenian town of Gherla. Judicial records include those of the infamous Memorandum Trial in Cluj against Romanian activists in 1894. Other holdings include guilds, secondary schools, and the complete archives of the Hungarian Ferenc József University of Cluj, 1872-1919, the antecedent of the current Romanian university.

Of extraordinary value for the history of the Romanian national movement, culture, and education are the records of the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church. After the church was forcefully united with the Orthodox Church in 1948, its archives were abandoned and much was lost. For the most part they came eventually into the State Archives. The archives of the diocese of Cluj-Gherla are in Cluj (1834-1948), with their contemporary registers and protocol books, but there are some gaps in the holdings. This branch also possesses the voluminous personal papers of Uniate canon Timotei Cipariu (1805-87), the greatest Romanian linguist of the last century; of ethnographer canon Ioan Micu Moldovan (1850-1915); and of other church leaders. Like other branches of the National Archives, this one contains the records of many Orthodox or Uniate deaneries and parishes from the surrounding area.

A major component of this repository’s holdings is the archives of the Transylvanian Hungarian Museum Society, Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület. The oldest collections in the archives are the medieval documents assembled by József and Samuel Kemeny. Archives for the following major noble families can be found here, too: Count Banffy, Beldi, Count Bethlen, Baron Bornemissza, Count Haller, Count Kemeny, Counts Mikó and Rhédey, four branches of the Count Teleki family, and three branches of the Count Wesselenyi family. Cultural archives found in this record group include the provincial censorship commission (1770-1848), the Museum Society itself (1841-1948), and the old Hungarian theater of Cluj (1802-1942).


Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Alba (Alba County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Mihai Viteazul 29, RO-2500 Alba Iulia. Tel: (40-968) 21996.

The Alba County Branch of the National Archives contains two county archives (Fehér and Küküllő) and various administrative archives of more local significance. The records of greatest interest come from Blaj, the seat of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church between 1738 and its suppression in 1948, and once again since its revival in 1990. The archives of the schools of Blaj (1758-1948), and especially of the diocesan administration (1701-1948), are of central importance for the political and cultural history of Transylvanian Romanians. The bishops’ papers are divided into the series Cabinetul Mitropolitanului, consisting of correspondence treated separately by the bishop because of its special importance, and general correspondence, Fondul General. Contemporary finding aids are available for the latter, and in-house inventories
are available for both. Other large series are the financial section (Exactoratul, 1778-1948), the consistory (Consistoriu, 1779-1942), and the archdiocesan attorney (Avo­catul Arhidiecezei, 1868-1948), an office headed for many years before 1918 by the well-known politician Iuliu Maniu. There are large gaps in the holdings because of the negligence of the authorities during the 1950s, so that the contemporary finding aids must be supplemented by in-house inventories.

Finding Aids: Îndrumător în Arhivele Statului judeţului Alba, IA, no. 24 (DGAS, 1989); and Filiala Archivelor Statului judeţul Alba (DGAS, 1982).

Filiala Archivelor Naționale județului Bihor (Bihor County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Ioan de Hunedoară, RO-3700 Oradea. Tel: (40-59) 13866.

The Bihor County Branch of the National Archives holds the Bihor County archives and those of the city of Nagyvárad (Oradea, Grosswardein). Like the Alba County Branch, it is remarkable for the church archives it possesses. The brief guide for the branch notes that “the application of Decree number 472/1971 on the National Archival Patrimony permitted, alongside the existing holdings of the branch, the accession of numerous religious archives.” These are the Roman Catholic diocese of Ora­dea (2500 feet, 1336-1959), the Roman Catholic cathedral chapter of Oradea (1318-1951), the Romanian Orthodox diocese of Oradea (450 feet, 1780-1953), the Greek Catholic diocese of Oradea (1721-1949), five deaneries (three of them Hungarian Reformed), 88 Orthodox parishes, 33 Greek Catholic parishes, and 77 Reformed congregations.

The Roman Catholic diocese and chapter were among the wealthiest of old Hungary, with archives rich in medieval and early modern economic records. Because of the extensive diocesan revenue, many leading Hungarian cultural figures were also canons in Oradea, from the 15th-century poet Janus Pannonius to the 18th- and 19th-century historians György Pray and Ferenc Floris Römer. The agricultural records are valuable for social and cultural history. The Greek Catholic diocese was the best­endowed Romanian institution, and supported the Uniate secondary school at Beiuș, whose archives are also here (1828-1948). The branch also contains collections of medieval and early modern documents and family archives. There are reports that some of the documents referred to may not presently be at this location.


Filiala Archivelor Naționale județului Sibiu (Sibiu County Branch of the National Archives). RO-2400 Sibiu.

The former archives of the Transylvanian Saxons form the core of the holdings of the Sibiu County Branch of the National Archives. There are several large collections of medieval and early modern documents, the largest of which is known simply as the Medieval Documents Collection (1282-1894); the collection of guild documents (1367-1700) and of bound manuscripts are also of varied provenance. The major institutional archives are those of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (1231–20th c.), the Sibiu city council and district (from 1292), and the representative body of the Saxon community, the Nationsuniversität. There are records of the Transylvanian provincial treasury (1690–1867), in two sections: in Cameralibus and in Monetae et mon­tanistice; for the Transylvanian Armeooberkommando (1703–1865); and for the Trans­ylvanian Saxon Lutheran Church (1203–1937). The Brukenthal Collection was assembled by Baron Brukenthal, a Saxon who became governor of Transylvania under Maria Theresa, and the Eugen von Friedenfels Collection (1296–1885) was assembled by a Saxon who became a leading Austrian official in the era of neoabsolutism.
The papers of prominent Saxon scholars are here, most notably Georg Daniel and Friedrich Teutsch (1091–1932) and Benigni von Mildenberg (1390–1878), all containing medieval documents as well as correspondence from their own lifetimes. The papers of the leading cultural associations of the Transylvanian Saxons and Romanians are here: the Verein für Siebenbürgerische Landeskunde (1840–1947) and ASTRA (1861–1948). Finally, this branch preserves the archives of the Romanian Hurmuzaki family from Bukovina (1789–1932). One part of the papers of politician Alexandru Vaida-Voevod (a member of Archduke Francis Ferdinand’s circle) is here, and the other is at the main branch in Bucharest.


**Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Timiș** (Timiș County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Andrei Mocioni 10, RO-1900 Timișoara. Tel: (40-56) 15527.

The Timiș County Branch of the National Archives is the central repository documenting the resettlement of the Banat after the expulsion of the Turks from this area at the beginning of the 18th century. The archives of the General Commando for the Banat (*Arhiva militară*, 1716–1918) reflect the Commando’s unification of civil as well as military functions up until 1752, then again in 1850–60, when its authority was extended to the Voivodina (*Militär- und Civil-Gouvernement für das Banat und die serbische Woiwodschaft*). Records for the three Banat border regiments (1764–1872) are also here. The county archives for Timiș and Severin (1778–1949) document the transition to civilian administration. The branch also preserves various municipal and factory archives, as well as collections that include documents for the Turkish period but that are especially instructive for the history of colonization and the border regiments.


**Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Arad** (Arad County Branch of the National Archives). RO-2900 Arad.

The National Archives in Arad County possesses county and municipal records, dating from the mid-18th century, that document problems similar to those in Timiș County, and also similar kinds of collections.

**Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Brașov** (Brașov County Branch of the National Archives). RO-2200 Brașov.

Brașov, in the southeastern corner of Transylvania and today its second-largest city, was both a historical rival of Sibiu and a center for Romanian as well as Saxon merchants and cultural leaders. As in Sibiu, the National Archives’ oldest holdings came intact from the Saxon archives: the cities of Brașov (1333–1950) and Sighișoara (1407–1900), three major collections of documents (1353–1953), and a large number of tariff registers and other economic records.

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Satu Mare (Satu Mare County Branch of the National Archives). Str. 1 Decembrie 1918 nr. 13, RO-3900 Satu Mare. Tel: (40-61) 711102.

The National Archives for Satu Mare County possesses the archives of the county, the town, and various schools and courts in the region. Most notably, it holds a small part of the archives of the Roman Catholic diocese of Satu Mare that has survived (30 feet, 1736–1954). Most of these concern the administration of diocesan property and church schools. There may also be remnants of these diocesan archives, from the 18th and 19th centuries, in the Cluj branch of the National Archives.

Finding Aid: Filiala Arhivelor Statului județul Satu Mare (DGAS, 1984).

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Mureș (Mureș County Branch of the National Archives). RO-4300 Târgu Mureș.

Târgu Mureș (Marosvásárhely, Neumarkt) is the historical center of the Szekler region of Transylvania. The most important holdings of the Mureș County Branch of the National Archives are the archives of Mureș District and County (1610–1949) and the city (1470–1968), the Roman Catholic high school (1752–1948), and the smaller, local branch of the Count Teleki family (1223–1879).


Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Harghita (Harghita County Branch of the National Archives). Str. T. Vladimirescu 34, RO-4100 Miercurea Ciuc. Tel: (40-66) 112598.

Harghita County is also in the former Szekler District. The National Archives for the county, in Miercurea Ciuc, holds extensive administrative records, including those for the Csik District (1563–1876), the Udvarhely District (1755–1873; the larger part is in the Cluj branch), and the two counties that succeeded them in 1876. The city archives of Gherla (Gyergyoszentmiklos, 1693–1948, with a smaller, 19th-century part in the Cluj branch), like that of Gherla in Cluj, are important for the early history of the Armenian minority in Transylvania. There are several school archives ranging back to the end of the 17th century, as well as the archives of the two Szekler border regiments (1770–1852).


Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Bistrița-Năsăud (Bistrița-Năsăud County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Garii 1, RO-4400 Bistrița. Tel: (40–63) 211143.

The National Archives branch for Bistrița-Năsăud County is in Bistrița, a former Saxon town. As in other Saxon towns, local archivists astutely organized holdings reaching back to the Middle Ages; the administration of these holdings was simply transferred to the Romanians. However, the core of these, the Bistrița city archives (1291–1898), is now in Cluj. This branch does possess the archives of the Romanian
border regiment of Năsăud (1762–1852), which was of major importance for Romanian cultural history, and of the Bistrița district that succeeded it.


Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Maramureș (Maramureș County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Crișan 9, RO-4800 Baia Mare. Tel: (40-62) 13566.

The National Archives of Maramureș County, with its seat in Baia Mare, holds an extensive county archives (1406–1950), the city archives, a collection of guild documents (1411–1873), mining records (1622–1970), and the archives of the mining inspectorate (1729–1940). There are also archives for several church-run secondary schools.

Finding Aids: *Filiala Arhivelor Statului județului Maramureș* (DGAS, 1982); and *Indrumător în arhivele statului județului Maramureș* (DGAS, 1974).

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Sălaj (Sălaj County Branch of the National Archives). Str. Tudor Vladimirescu 34A, RO-4700 Zalău. Tel: (40-60) 611016.

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Hunedoară (Hunedoara County Branch of the National Archives). RO-2700 Deva.

Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județului Covasna (Covasna County Branch of the National Archives). RO-4000 Sântu Gheorghe.

The holdings of the other National Archives branches for counties in the formerly Hungarian area preserve similar kinds of records for counties, districts, municipalities, schools, artificial collections, and family archives.


Filiala Arhivelor Naționale județul Suceava (Suceava County Branch of the National Archives). RO-5800 Suceava.

The National Archives for Suceava County (the southern part of Austrian Bukovina) contains some archives from the period of Habsburg administration: administrative archives for some districts in the region and for the city of Suceava, the papers of the church endowment for Bukovina, and the Orthodox Metropolitanate of Bukovina.


Selected Other Libraries

Special collections in regional research libraries house many of the manuscripts of former ecclesiastical libraries or other private collections as well as their books.

Biblioteca Centrală Universitară "Lucian Blaga" (Lucian Blaga Central University Library). Str. Clinicilor nr. 2, RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca. Tel: (40-64) 197092. Fax: (40-64) 197633.

The University Library houses a substantial collection of incunabula and the personal papers of some Transylvanian politicians (notably the Hossu-Longin family
archives, Gheorghe Sion, and Iosif Hodoș), which may now be in the National Archives. At the end of World War II the archives of the Museum Society were stored here, and parts of these archives remained when the bulk was transferred to the State Archives. Components of the old family archives may be in one place or the other.


Biblioteca Academiei Române (Library of the Romanian Academy). Str. M. Kogălniceanu 12–14, RO-3400 Cluj-Napoca. Tel: (40-64) 116202.

The Library of the Cluj branch of the Romanian Academy is the home of the literary (non-administrative) manuscript collections of the defunct ecclesiastical secondary schools (Roman Catholic, Reformed, and Unitarian) of the Cluj Hungarians (German and Hungarian manuscripts; a combined catalog of these three collections is in preparation) and also of most of the manuscripts that were formerly in the library of the Uniate Metropolitanate in Blaj. The Blaj Collection includes the writings and correspondence of the Blaj clerics (linguists and historians) of the 18th century who, because of their key role in formulating Romanian national identity, are known collectively as the Transylvanian School.


Biblioteca Batthyaneum (Batthyaneum Library). Str. Bibliotecii 1, RO-2500 Alba Iulia. Tel: (40–58) 811939.

The Batthyaneum Library, founded in 1794 as the library of the Roman Catholic diocese, is administered as a branch of the Central State Library. It boasts the country's largest collection of over 600 incunabula and one part of the Codex Aureus, an early-9th-century manuscript; the other part is in the Vatican Library. The manuscript collection includes the literary production and correspondence of many churchmen of the Catholic diocese, the smaller but older and more valuable part of the chapter archives (54 feet, 1258–1874), and part of the archives of the convent of Kolozsmonostor (1341–1880), the other principal notarial archives of the province.


Biblioteca Muzeului Brukenthal (Library of the Brukenthal Museum). Piața Mare 4, RO-2400 Sibiu. Tel: (40–69) 41 76 91. Fax: (40–69) 41 15 45.

While most of Baron Brukenthal’s manuscripts are in the National Archives, the Brukenthal Museum and Library boast his excellent collection of paintings, a large selection of bound legal and religious manuscripts from the 14th to 16th centuries, and 382 incunabula. The library’s collection of early modern book engravings, Saxon newspapers, and early Saxon and Romanian calendars is unrivaled.
