

Often translators have been viewed as little more than text categories or, at most, actors who only translate and do nothing else. However, towards the end of the 20th century, Anthony Pym emerged as a prominent voice calling for translators to be seen as real people who do more than just translate, claiming that viewing them as historical figures would allow historians to truly account for the roles translators can play in history. Other translation studies researchers, such as Andrew Chesterman, have seconded Pym's call and argued that translators themselves should become the focus of research. In the same spirit, one of the core themes of the collected volume *Archívny výskum (textov) v interdisciplinárnych súvislostiach* (Archival research [of texts] in between disciplines) is to humanize the study of translation history. Edited by Edita Gromová, Natália Rondziková, and Igor Tyšš, it originated within the framework of the project "Translation as Part of the Cultural Process History III" realized in cooperation with the Institute of World Literature SAS. The second theme presented in the publication is to emphasize the *history* in translation history, to understand the field as one aspect of history that is connected to other aspects, thus painting a fuller picture of overall history. The collection sees archival resources as highly important in regards to both of these topics. As such, the five studies it contains explore the various ways archives can be used by researchers, but they also do not shy away from presenting the challenges along with the advantages of archival research.

The introductory study by Igor Tyšš discusses the background of the collection and presents its aforementioned themes and aims.

Subsequently, it establishes a groundwork for the other studies in regards to the term *archive* itself and it briefly introduces the included studies.

Filip Pavčík's article focuses on the cultural policy in Slovakia after 1948, i.e. after the communist coup in Czechoslovakia. He utilizes non-archival sources, such as contemporary newspapers, as well as archival sources, primarily those centered around Ladislav Novomeský, the communist intellectual, poet, and politician who essentially created the cultural program of the Communist Party of Slovakia between 1945 and 1948. The study follows the development of Novomeský's cultural policy via published archival material and discusses some of the material's shortcomings, such as the fact that much of it was published during the communist era in Czechoslovakia, which calls into question the veracity of the sources, as ideological interference is all but certain.

General recommendations and methods for working with archival material, particularly in literary historical studies, are explored by Martin Navrátil in his chapter. He comments that not all archival research is equal, thus it is difficult to generalize universal research methods. Instead conditions and aims of any archival research dictate its strategies. Navrátil also brings up the fragmentary nature of archival sources, as some information might not be available to the researcher for various reasons. Nevertheless, he notes that in many kinds of research, archives are a valuable tool in the researcher's toolkit.

Mária Kusá reflects on how archival materials were used in compiling the two-volume *Slovník prekladateľov umeleckej literatúry 20. storočia* (Dictionary of Slovak literary translators of the 20th century, ed.

Oľga Kovačičová and Mária Kusá, 2015, 2017). She claims that official sources can prove insufficient due to their institutional nature, i.e., dependence on outside factors, which can lead to fragmenting of information. Private archives, on the other hand, come with their own drawbacks stemming from their inherent non-institutional and disorganized nature, which complicates their cataloguing and general use. Taking examples from the manuscript materials found in the archives of the former Institute of Literary Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Kusá points out that the space between the public and the private can turn out to be highly useful and fruitful. To combat the aforementioned fragmentation of information, she suggests supplementing archives with oral histories to help paint the fullest picture possible.

Katarína Bednárová discusses the use of archives in researching the history of translation of French texts in the Slovak cultural context from 1750 to 1918. She explains how focusing only on printed translations would be reductive, thus necessitating the inclusion of manuscript materials found predominantly in archives of the Slovak National Library in Martin. Bednárová explores how, as a result of the geopolitical history of Slovakia, it can be difficult to locate

relevant material, if such material has even survived to the present day. She also comments on how archival material can hold little informational value in and of itself, if various information about it is unknown or cannot be verified.

Last but not least, Libuša Vajdová is concerned with correspondence as a means of research. She reflects not only on how to define correspondence in terms of text types (record, documentary, testimony, etc.) but also on changes connected with the transition to electronic correspondence. She then explores how correspondence, e.g., between translators and authors, provides a fuller picture of the complex interactions that ultimately result into major events, such as translations and critiques.

Overall, this publication about the roles of archives in translation history research represents an enriching read, especially given that the subject is explored from various points of view. The studies included discuss how different types of archival materials can be used in research, ponder their nature, but also bring attention to pitfalls or shortcomings of such sources, such as their often fragmentary and incomplete nature.

MATEJ MARTINKOVIČ

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra
Slovak Republic

MÁRIA KUSÁ – NATÁLIA RONDZIKOVÁ (eds.): Preklad vo vedách o človeku a dialóg kultúr [Translation of humanities texts and cultural dialogue]

Bratislava: Ústav svetovej literatúry SAV – Veda, vydavateľstvo SAV, 2020. 119 pp.
ISBN 978-80-224-1873-7

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.31577/WLS.2021.13.3.16>

La publication *Preklad vo vedách o človeku a dialóg kultúr* (La traduction en sciences humaines et le dialogue des cultures) consacrée à la traduction des textes de sciences sociales est l'une des rares contributions à la réflexion traductologique en Slovaquie de ces dernières décennies dans ce domaine. Sous la direction de Mária Kusá et Natália Rondziková, elle exa-

mine, au moins partiellement, le terrain peu exploré de l'histoire de la traduction des textes de sciences sociales et humaines en Slovaquie.

Composée de quatre contributions exhaustives, cette publication s'oriente principalement vers la réception de textes d'origine française. Dans l'introduction intitulée « Traduction de textes de sciences sociales ?