

International Summer School for Archivists
Electronic Records Management
7th - 12th September 2008
Historical Archives, National Bank of Greece, Athens

The Historical Archive of National Bank of Greece hosted an International Summer School for Archivists 7th - 12th September 2008, focusing on the subject of Electronic Records Management, organized jointly by the European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH), the Hellenic Open University and NBG's Historical Archive.

The Summer School for Archivists—first conceived by the EABH and designed for archivists working in the historical archives of banks—focuses on a different theme at each Summer School, which is held every two years.

The sessions of this year's Summer School were attended by 32 students, 18 from Greece and 14 from abroad. Of these, 17 Greeks work in four banks (NBG, Bank of Greece, Piraeus Bank and Alpha Bank) and one at the Open University. Of the 14 foreign participants, 11 work in nine foreign banks (1. European Central Bank, 2. Is Bank, Turkey, 3. National Bank of Romania, 4. Central Bank of Cyprus, 5. Bank of Cyprus, 6. Limassol Co-operative Savings Bank Ltd, 7. Bank of Lithuania, 8. Societe Generale, 9. National Bank of Bulgaria), and three in other international organisations (The Rothschild Archive,

The Foundation for Economic History Research within Banking and Enterprise, and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University).

Participation in the Summer School surpassed every expectation. While the break-even number was 18 participants, and the optimum number 25, there were so many applications that we had to raise the final number to 32 and even, reluctantly, turn down a few.

Historical archives are set up to preserve, exhibit and facilitate access to information deemed to be of historical importance to researchers. Until relatively recently the information amassed by historical archives was by and large recorded on paper and the archives were charged principally with the task of preserving and classifying this material. Today, things have changed, as information is increasingly recorded in electronic



Participants at the Archive of NBG

form. In the future, therefore, archives will be called upon to handle, preserve and present research information recorded by such means. This was the core theme of this year's Summer School, which was divided into the following four units:

The first unit included presentations by Margarita Dritsa, Professor of European Economic and Social History, Hellenic Open University, on What are the Needs of Researchers? Evolution from Classical Research Tools to Electronic Records Management and Alexandros-Andreas Kyrtis, Professor of Sociology University of Athens, on What Kind of Historical Data do Banking Information Systems Produce? and Banking History and the Social Science Approach to Information Systems and Financial Technologies.

The second unit focused on IT systems at banks, and included workshops by Dimitrios Vrailas, Director of the IT Department at NBG, on What are Banking Information Systems? Concepts, Practices and Technologies of Data-Mining, and George Vlastos, Deputy Head of IT at NBG, on Storage and databases: What is Preserved and What is Deleted, and Where to Find What: Strategies and Methods of Searching.

The third unit included workshops run by Stuart

Orr, Head of the Document/Records Management and Archives Section, European Central Bank, on "Standards" Relevant to Electronic Records Management and Lessons Learned from Major Electronic Records System Implementations, and Adrian Brown, Head of Digital Preservation, National Archives UK, on Long-term Electronic Preservation.

The fourth unit presented two case studies.

The first concerned the archives of the Bank of Portugal and was presented by Luis Filipe de Abreu Nunes, Head of Documentarion, Historical Archives and Museum, Banco de Portugal, under the title Case Study on the Archives of the Banco de Portugal and How to Choose a Solution for Electronic Document and Record Management-EDRM.

The second case study was run by Nikos Pantelakis of NBG's Historical Archive under the title The Development of Information Systems at the Historical Archive of National Bank of Greece, which focused on the implementation at the Bank's Archives of the International Standard of Archival Description (ISAD-G) of the International Council on Archives.

The participants returned very positive feedback on the organization of the Summer School. They



Nikos Pantelakis showing the premises of the Archive of NBG

also made a number of proposals for further enhancing the workshops so that in the next Summer School they can play a more active role in the teaching process.

The NBG Historical Archive organized various social events for the Summer School participants. On the day of registration, Sunday, 7th September, a welcome reception was organized in the Historical Archive premises where participants had a chance to get to know each other, speak with the organizers and view the NBG Historical Archive exhibition on security printing procedures and machinery. On the other days participants were able to view the permanent exhibition of the Historical Archive, which presents the history of National Bank of Greece and the history of the Greek banknote. On Wednesday, 10th September, the Summer School visited

the Cultural Foundation of Piraeus Bank, which presented the Bank's efforts to preserve aspects of the Greek industrial heritage, followed by the screening of a documentary on the preservation of old Greek industries transformed into Museums of Industrial Archaeology. On Friday, 12th September, after a visit to the Benaki Museum, and at the close of the Summer School, which was marked by a farewell dinner, participants were presented with attendance certificates.

It was a special pleasure for NBG's Historical Archive to run this year's Summer School on Electronic Records Management, particularly since it has itself been running an electronic archive management system since 1998, based on ISAD-G of the International Council on Archives, while it is also investigating ways to preserve the electronic records today produced by NBG.

Nikos Pantelakis

NBG Historical Archive



Mr Stuart Orr, European Central Bank