



Banks at War I:
Financial Institutions confronted by the Great War.
2014 Archival Workshop
12 June 2014
Swiss Re, Rueschlikon, Switzerland

jointly organised by
EABH (European Association for Banking and Financial History e.V.)
and *Swiss Re*

This project aims to reconstitute the reaction and adaption of banks and insurance companies in the first days, weeks and months of what became the Great War. The objective is to deliver a comprehensive study, rich with case studies and illustrations from different international archival centers. Banks and insurance companies were altogether competing against each other and complementing their activities on a global level in Germany and France. All of a sudden, war imposed drastic borders between two fighting camps and created two economic and finance areas. Governments had to finance the immediate needs of military entities. Moreover, the creation of an 'economics of war' fostered a new structure of productive processes, where banks and insurance companies assumed their functions and tasks.

How did banks and insurance companies fare throughout the conflict? Records of loans to companies offer a good way of understanding the economic war effort and the policy of investment. Archival sources could foster analysis of the destabilizing aspects of war of the new role of the state imposed on business and daily life. Archival materials offer excellent opportunities for (comparative) analysis of the changing strategies and business models as a reaction to crises, which also created barriers to free markets and exchanges.



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 Draft Programme

12.45 - 13.00	Registration
13.00 - 13.15	Welcome Address/Introduction
	Salvatore Novaretti, <i>Swiss Re</i>
	<i>EABH</i> representative
13.15 - 14.45	Session I
	Moderator: Martin L. Müller, <i>Deutsche Bank</i>
13.15 - 13.35	,Zurich Would Have Been Bankrupt a Long Time Ago'. <i>Zurich Insurance Company</i> and the Great War
	Thomas Inglin, <i>Zurich Insurance Company</i>
13.35 - 13.55	title to be specified
	Marzio Lipari, <i>Generali Group</i>
13.55 - 14.15	Alexander Freiherr von Spitzmüller and his Diary
	Thomas Just, <i>Austrian State Archives</i>
14.15 - 14.35	,The War before the War' – The <i>National Bank of Romania</i> and the Economic War during Romania's Neutrality years (1914 – 1916)
	Brindusa Costache & Nadia Manea, <i>National Bank of Romania</i>
14.35 - 14.45	Discussion
14.45 - 15.00	Break
15.00 - 16.20	Session II
	Moderator: Francesca Pino, <i>Intesa Sanpaolo</i>
15.00 - 15.20	Things I can do for my Country. The archives Reveal Patriotic Concerns of the Forerunners of <i>BNP Paribas</i>
	Christiane de Fleurieu, <i>BNP Paribas</i> & Jean-Louis Moreau, <i>BNP Paribas Fortis</i>
15.20 - 15.40	<i>Deutsche Bank</i> and its Employees during WWI
	Martin L. Müller & Reinhard Frost, <i>Deutsche Bank</i>
15.40 - 16.00	On Both Sides of the Eastern Front – <i>Bank Handlowy w Warszawie</i> during WWI
	Lukasz Wilinski, <i>Leopold Kronenberg Foundation at Citi Handlowy</i>
16.00 - 16.20	Being German in Wartime Britain: How and why did <i>J. Henry Schröder & Co.</i> Survive?
	Caroline Shaw, <i>Schroders</i>
16.20 - 16.30	Discussion
16.30 - 16.45	Concluding Remarks
	Richard Roberts, <i>King's College London</i>