

European Association for Banking History e.V.

EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM ON BANK ARCHIVES



VOL. 1

THE SITUATION OF BANK ARCHIVES IN
WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

CONTENTS

Foreword	7
Olivier Brunet	
Welcoming Address	9
Manfred Pohl	
Opening Statement	11
Edwin Green	
Banking Archives in the United Kingdom	13
Discussion	18
Daniel Farcis	
La situation des archives historiques des banques en France	21
Discussion	25
Maria Teresa Tortella	
Les archives bancaires espagnoles à l'heure actuelle	31
Discussion	37
Rosanna Benedini	
The Situation of the Italian Bank Archives	41
Discussion	56
Christiane Logie	
Les archives historiques des banques belges	57
Discussion	60
Nicolas van Horn	
Banking Archives in the Netherlands	63
Discussion	68

Silvio Bucher	
Rapport sur la situation des archives des banques cantonales en Suisse	71
Discussion	75
Gabriele Teichmann	
The Situation of Bank Archives in Germany	77
Discussion	80
Manfred Pohl	
Histoire et Entreprise	81
Discussion	88
John Orbell	
Getting started: Ground Rules for Establishing an Archive System in a Bank	99
Discussion	109
Jean-Marie Thiveaud	
Histoire, consulting et marketing	115
Discussion	125
List of Participants	128

FOREWORD

The European Association for Banking History e.V., founded on 29th November 1990, spans two domains – that of banks on the one hand, and scholarship on the other. The main objective of the Association is to initiate a dialogue between these two quite separate realms. It therefore aims to stimulate and foster historical awareness and the maintenance of archives in banks, and, at the same time, to promote research into banking history. The dual nature of the EABH is also reflected in the composition of its Academic Advisory Council, whose members include both heads of bank archives and professors of history. This composition guarantees differing approaches to the same issues, and thus the generation of different ideas, influences and stimuli.

In the interest of obtaining a wide spectrum of ideas, the European Association seeks to co-operate with academic institutions with similar objectives, such as the Swiss Association for Banking History, Berne, the Institute for Bankhistorical Research, Frankfurt, the Business Archives Council, London, and the International Council on Archives, Paris. The widest possible scope and impact are attained by including also the banks' press and marketing departments in this work.

In keeping with its twofold orientation, the European Association for Banking History organizes each year an »Academic Colloquium« on a specific aspect of European banking history, and a »Colloquium on Bank Archives«. In the banking field as elsewhere, archives have been and will remain the basis for any historical research. However, alongside their commitment to academic research, bank archives have to fulfil numerous other responsibilities within their banks. They have to act as »Historical Information Centres«, that is, as service departments to the management, to other departments, to branches and the public.

In order to meet the various demands placed upon them, the archives must have at their disposal a maximum of knowledge and organization; yet they generally possess no more than a few members of staff. For this reason it is essential that they be enabled to maintain a maximum of historical data with a minimum of effort. Modern technology and methods of organization can play a key role here. The dialogue between heads of bank archives across the European frontiers may open up new horizons, facilitating common