



ARCHIV ČESKÉ PROVINCE TOVARYŠTVA JEŽIŠOVA

ACPTJ

(Last update – 04/04/2024)

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HEAD ARCHIVIST

OBLIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS AND CONSULTATION

Only by appointment.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

The current archive of the Czech Jesuit Province was established in 1990 after the fall of communism and the restoration of religious life in Czechoslovakia. The communist regime abolished all male religious orders in 1950, and the Jesuits were also persecuted from that time onwards and operated illegally in dispersion for forty years. Before 1950, the Czech province did not have one central archive, but the provincial curia and major colleges and communities had their own archives, which were nationalized in 1950 and are still in the state archives today.

FONDS DESCRIPTION

Current Czech Jesuit Archives has no inventory or cataloguing of the holdings, they are only approximately divided as follows:

- Catalogues of the Czechoslovak and Czech province (1920–1939–1950).
- Reports from the province (1926–50).
- Personal records (kept since 1950, but including Jesuits living also before 1950):
 - Personal cards;
 - Fond Defuncti.
- Written estates of Jesuits (deceased after 1950)
 - including the organized collection of Adolf Kajpr SJ.

- Periodicals:
 - Dorost (Youth, 1939, 1940, 1945–48);
 - Posel Božského Srdce Páně (Messenger of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, 1937–40);
 - Hlasy svatohostýnské (Voices of the Holy Hostýn, 1929–48);
 - Nuntii Pragenses (News from Prague, 1938–50);
 - Zprávy z Bubenče (News from Bubeneč, 1924–49).
- Photographs:
 - three albums with photographs of provincials, priests and brothers (1920–90, with overlap to the present);
 - various photograph albums or sets of photographs from Jesuit places (Prague, Brno, Hostýn, Velehrad).

HISTORY OF THE FONDS

The archives of the Czech Province of the Society of Jesus contain materials relating to the period before 1990 due to the fact that many archival materials were secretly kept by the Jesuits or their friends throughout the 40 years of the communist regime. These are mostly materials from the personal estates of individual Jesuits who died after 1950, when religious orders were banned and their archives nationalized. Materials from the years before 1950 are only sporadically preserved by the current archives, especially in the case of Jesuit institutions and communities.