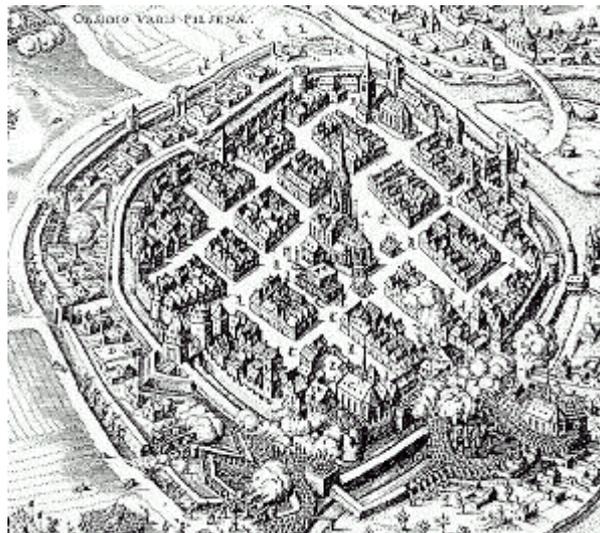


# Plzen City Archives

---

Plzen was founded in 1295 and has always been the center of West Bohemia. The Plzen City Archives have been located in the City Hall since the Middle Ages. From 1878-1948, they were part of a local museum (Plzen City Historical Museum) and have since become independent. The worth of these Archives resides in the importance of Plzen which for most of the time of its own existence has been the second or the third largest city in the Czech Lands (the Czech Lands excluding Moravia and Silesia).



Today (as of August 1, 2012), the archival stock deposited occupies an area of 3,580 meters and is divided into 1,339 branches. There is a variety of documents permanently deposited: documents related to the activity of the municipal government and local district government, the documents of financial, statistic, educational and Church authorities, the documents of guilds, business associations, enterprises, co-operatives, industrial associations and municipal organizations. There are both older and newer documents (the latter are represented by the documents of saving banks, municipal organizations, various associations and also communities being gradually annexed by Plzen) deposited in the Archives.

In a large group of the documents of personal „inheritance“ stocks one can find not only literary manuscripts (since 15th century), but also documents concerning the activities of many writers, literary critics and academics – for example Ignac and Jaroslav Schiebl, Karel Klostermann, Bohumil Polan – , and the Association of Friend of Science and Czech Literature in Plzen. Regarding theater history, the Archives do not only offer the documentation of the Pilsner theater, but also the archival stock relating to Josef Kajetan Tyl, Vendelin Budil, Josef Skupa, the Kreuzmann family and other pilsner actors. Concerning the Fine Arts, information can be found in the documents related to Jiri Trnka, Josef Hodek, Josef and Hugo Boettinger, the art historian Jaromir Kovar and many others. As for music history, it is possible to find a lot of information in a large collection of music and in the documents of many composers and interpreters, e. g. Antonin Devaty,

Bohdan Gsöllhofer, Stanislav Suda, and organizers of activities connected with music such as Vaclav Cisar and Antonin Spelda.

The part representing personal inheritance is very important to the history of science and technology (the documents of Pilsner archivists and historians such as Martin Hruska, Josef Strnad, Fridolin Machacek and Miloslav Belohlavek, the electrotechnical engineer Frantisek Krizik, the Anglicist Vilem Mathesius, architects Müller and Kapsa, the Arabist Marie Tauerová and others).

A very popular and used part of the Archives are collections. They include literary manuscripts, old prints, newspapers, magazines, photographs, negatives, films, tapes, maps, plans, sealing-sticks, slides, microfilms and records. Also important is a collection of copies of documents from other archives. Another part of the collections contains documents divided thematically (e. g. documents about the anti-Nazi revolt in 1939-1945 or the occupation of Bohemia and Plzen in 1968-1969).

Part of the Archives is also a widely-ranged library (some 81,000 books, newspapers and journals in this year, 2012) in which publications concerning the history of the city, the Westbohemian region, the Czech state and cities as well as the history of other countries, basic archival literature and various dictionaries, works concerning the history of art, literature and other fields from the Czech Lands as well as from abroad are held. The Archives offer a special department of the Skupa's, Polan's, Jan Frantisek Hruska's and other's libraries which were gained together with the personal inheritance portion. The library also contains publications concerning World War I and II and a lot of educational, entertaining and humourous calenders of political parties.

Since 1958 Plzen City Archives have been publishing and dispatching a historical periodical called „Through the History of the Westbohemian Region“ (named „Through the History of Plzen and Pilsner Region“ between 1958-1960). A Guide describing the contents of the Archives (published by M. Belohlavek, first edition – 1954, second edition – 1987) is necessary for all researchers. The Plzen City Archives publish and dispatch other publications as well (the year of publishing is added in the brackets): Adolf Zeman: „Economic and Social Structure of Plzen in the Beginning of the 18th Century“ [1955], M. Belohlavek: „The Book of Maths of the City of Plzen“ (a statistic report on city economy) [1957], M. Belohlavek: „The Plzen City Archives“ (the inventory of the documents from 1293 to 1879) [1976], „Plzen 1945-1975 (group of authors) [1971], Karel Klostermann: „Letters to Betty“ (published by Ivan Martinovsky and Kristina Kaiserova) [1995].

**Address:**

Plzen City Archives  
Veleslavinova 19  
Plzen 305 77  
Czech Republic  
Tel/fax: +420 378 032 600/+420 378 032 602  
e-mail: [archiv@plzen.eu](mailto:archiv@plzen.eu)

**Opening hours:**

Monday 8.00-17.00  
Wednesday 8.00-17.00