

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Radzwill's Archives and Niasvizh (Nieśwież) Library Collection

(Belarus in cooperation with Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Ukraine)

Ref N° 2008-31

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

The Radzwill's Archives and Niasvizh (Nieśwież) Library Collection were created from the 15th to 20th centuries by members of the Radziwill family, one of the most prominent and mighty aristocratic families in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita - Republic). In the Republic, as constituted between the Polish-Lithuanian union in the middle of the 16th century (or even earlier) and the Third Partition (1795) one of the guiding idea was belief in the individual freedom and civil liberty. It was a noble democracy, and one have to remember that here the nobility constituted about 10% of population. When the states of Western Europe experienced the growth of its power (Monarchism, Absolutism) the noble citizens of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were proud of their consultative institutions of self-government (*sejmik* – local assembly and *sejm* – parliament of two chambers), right to resistance, the social contracts between the elected ruler and the society, the guarantees for the different denominations and ethnic groups. This decentralization was seen as sources of the power of Republic and its possibility for coexistence and cooperation, but from the other hand, the lack of kings' authority let few aristocratic families exercise their influences and control huge areas of public life. In the Radziwill family e. g. the office of Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was in fact inherited. The Radzwill's had the family connections with nearly half of European courts; with Hohenzollern, rulers of Kurland and Moldavia etc. The Radzwill's Archives was in fact the official archives of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – the state records and treaties were preserved side by side with the private correspondence of the family. The holdings, preserved during the course of history in different Radzwill's estates, included archives and library, in which invaluable historical and cultural information was accumulated. The extent of the collection, its continuous expansion through new acquisitions and comparatively high level of preservation, make it a unique archival complex of world value.

General coordinator

- 2.1 Belarusian Research Centre for Electronic Records
 - 2.2 General coordinator of the project of virtual reconstruction of the Niasvizh collection, and fulfilment of the nomination dossier
 - 2.3 Contact person Ph.D. Viachaslau Nasevich, director
 - 2.4 Francisk Skaryna St., 51, Minsk, 220141, Belarus
- tel./fax +375 17 260-24-45
http://archives.gov.by
e-mail: vn@archives.gov.by

Focal point in Paris

- 2.1 Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to UNESCO
 - 2.3 Inna Vasilevskaya, deputy permanent delegate
 - 2.4 tel. 33 1 44 14 69 73
- email: dl.belarus@unesco.org
ivasileuskaya@yahoo.com

1st part of the collection (Warsaw)

Radzwill's Warsaw Archives

- 2.1 The Central Archives of Historical Records (Poland) / Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych w Warszawie (AGAD)

2.2. All the Central Archives collection constitutes the property of the State Treasury, which is the right holder of the Radziwills' Warsaw Archives (about 43,700 items)

2.3 Ph.D. Hubert Wajs, AGAD director, tel. +48 22 831-15-25

2.4 Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych w Warszawie

ul. Długa 7, PL 00-263 Warszawa

tel. + 48 22 831-54-91

fax. + 48 22 831-16-08

<http://www.agad.archiwa.gov.pl>

e-mail: sekretariat@agad.gov.pl

2nd part of the collection (Minsk)

2.1 National Historical Archives of Belarus

2.2 The right holder of the Radzwill's Archives 2nd part (25,585 items)

2.3 Alla Kuprianovna Golubovich, director

2.4 Kropotkina Str. 55, Minsk, 220002, Belarus

phone: 375-17 286-75-20; fax: 375-17 286-75-22; e-mail: niab@solo.by

3rd part of the collection (Vilnius)

2.1 State Historical Archives of Lithuania

2.2 The right holder of the 3rd part (about 3,000 items)

2.3 Laima Tautvaišaitė, director

2.4 Gerosios Vilties Str. 10, Vilnius, 03134, Lithuania

phone: 370-5-213 74 82; fax: 370-5-217 75 12; e-mail: istorijos.archyvas@lvia.lt

4th part of the collection (Kiev)

2.1 Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine

2.2 The right holder of the 4th part (about 100 items)

2.3 Lyudmila Yaroslavovna Demchenko, director

2.4 Solomenskaya St., 24, 03110 Kiiv-110 Ukraine

phone/ fax +38 044 275 30 02; e-mail: cdiak@archives.gov.ua

5th part of the collection (Minsk)

2.1 Central Science Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

2.2 The right holder of the 5th part (more than 3000 items)

2.3 Natalia Yurievna Beryozkina, director

2.4 Surganova Str. 15, Minsk, 220072, Belarus

phone/fax: +375-17 2841428; e-mail: csl@kolas.bas-net.by

6th part of the collection (Minsk)

2.1 National Library of Belarus

2.2 The right holder of the 6th part (about 700 items)

2.3 Roman Stepanovich Motulsky, director

2.4 Nezalezhnasty Av. 116, Minsk, 220114, Belarus

phone: +375-17 290-37-00; fax: +375-17 290-37-06; web-site: <http://nlb.by>

7th part of the collection (Minsk)

2.1 Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus

2.2 The right holder of the 7th part (over 100 items)

2.3 Valery Nikolaevich Gerasimov, head of the department of old prints and rare editions

2.4 Sovetskaya St. 11, Government House, 220010, Minsk

fax: +375-17 200-12-09; phone: +375-17 222-61-20; e-mail: gerasimav@mail.ru, lib@preslib.org.by

8th part of the collection (St. Petersburg)

2.1 Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences

2.2 The right holder of the 8th part (about 10,000 items)

2.3 Valery Pavlovich Leonov, director
2.4 Birzhevaya line, 1, 199034, S-Petersburg, Russia
phone: +7-812 328-35-92; fax: +7-812 328-74-36; e-mail: ban@rasl.nw.ru

9th part of the collection (Moscow)

2.1 Science Library of Moscow State University (Russian Federation)
2.2 The right holder of the 9th part (about 1,500 items)
2.3 Anna Fiodorovna Pantza, deputy director
2.4 Lomonosovsky Av., 25, 119192, Moscow, Russia
phone: +7-495 939-1358; e-mail: APantza@nbmgu.ru

10th part of the collection (Helsinki)

2.1 National Library of Finland
2.2 The right holder of the 10th part (about 820 items)
2.3 Sirkka Havu, head of the rare books and special collections, special librarian
2.4 Box 15 (Unioninkatu 36), 00014 Helsinki, Finland
phone +358 9 19122717; fax +358 9 19124089; e-mail: sirkka.havu@helsinki.fi

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

The Radziwills' Archives and Library Collection was created from the 15th to 20th centuries by members of the Radziwill family who owned the, as a principal estate of the family, Niasvizh entail.

The Radziwills were the dynasty of the major landlords and statesmen, whose representatives often occupied the highest state posts in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and later played an important role in the history of Prussia, Russian Empire, and the Polish Republic. During all this time the Radziwills continued to preserve their family identity and realized the importance of the historical and cultural values amassed by their family, showing much concern about their preservation.

The Niasvizh entail was a complex of land holdings and movable property, which by agreement between the three members of the Niasvizh line of the Radziwills, signed in 1586 and confirmed by King, was an inalienable property of the eldest male line of the family. After the eldest branch became extinct in 1813, the entail passed to the next line and continued to exist until the beginning of the Second World War. The entail's land holdings and architectural buildings were nationalised by the Soviet authorities in 1939; its historical and cultural treasures were dispersed among archives, libraries and museums in several countries.

1st Part of the Collection (Warsaw)

Radziwills' Warsaw Archives

Due to the owners' order the separate archives was organized in Warsaw after the world war I. Large part of holdings from Niasvizh was transferred in 1919 to Warsaw. During the Nazi occupation (1939–1945) it was captured by German authorities and transferred abroad. After the war the Radziwills' Warsaw Archives was restituted with the owners' permission to Warsaw and handed over and included to the holdings of the Central Archives of Historical Records (AGAD, Poland) in 1947. 1,288 records were entered into the Parchments Collection and the Cartographic Collection; the remaining items were included into the Radziwills' Warsaw Archives (Archiwum Warszawskie Radziwiłłów), which now contains 39,000 items.

2nd Part of the Collection (Minsk)

The part of the Radziwills' archives, which remained in Niasvizh until 1940. In early 1941 it was nationalized and moved to Minsk, where it was assigned to the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR (Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic). During the Nazi occupation of Minsk (1944) it was transferred to Riga (Latvia), and part of documents were removed to Troppau (now Opava, Czechia). In 1946 the

majority of the documents were returned to Minsk and are now in Holding 694 “The Radziwill Princes” at the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Minsk (NIAB). The holding contains 25,585 items.

3rd Part of the Collection (Vilnius)

This part of the Radziwills’ archives was confiscated in Vilnius where it was located after the eldest line of the Niasvizh landlords became extinct and until their successors came into inheritance (1819–1838). These documents were requested by the Commission for settlement of Radziwills debts, established in Vilnius on the orders of the Russian authorities. A considerable part of documents continued to remain in the commission's archives (now Holding 459 "The Commission for Settlement of Radziwill Debts" at the State Historical Archives of Lithuania, and constitute the principal part of Holding 1280 "The Radziwill Princes" at the same Archives (apart from these, the holding contains Radziwill records not related to the Niasvizh archive). The exact number of items originating from the Niasvizh archives is unknown. Their attribution requires precision in identifying the signatures of the Niasvizh archives and notes made by the archivists, as well as matching titles with the surviving inventories. The total number nears 3,000 items.

4th Part of the Collection (Kiev)

A small part of the Niasvizh archives transferred from Minsk to Troppau (Opava) in the years 1941–1944 was moved as a result of re-evacuation in 1946 into Kiev. It is now in Holding 257 “The Radziwill Lithuanian Princely Family” at the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine (apart from these, the holding contains documents not related to the Niasvizh archive). The exact number of items originating from the Niasvizh archives is unknown, being estimated as between several dozen and over 100.

5th Part of the Collection (Minsk)

The principal part of the newly reconstructed library of the Niasvizh entail which remained in Niasvizh until 1940. Later this collection was moved to Minsk and was assigned to the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR. A large proportion of books in the collection had been marked with the library’s stamps but their arrangement was not completed because of the war. In the years 1941–1944 all the books were moved from Minsk to Germany and returned in 1946. The books with the stamp marks of the Academy of Sciences' Library were returned to this library. They are now concentrated in various holdings of the Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts of the Yakub Kolas Central Science Library of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. As a single unit this collection is featured in the electronic catalogue only; as a physical unit it makes parts of many previously created collections. The study of Niasvizh ex-librises and notes made by the Radziwills or their librarians, as well as matching titles to the surviving inventories have made it possible to identify more than 3,000 copies, and this number can increase in further research.

6th Part of the Collection (Minsk)

The part of the former Niasvizh library which was held in the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR until its removal to Germany but was not marked with its stamps. After re-evacuation most of these books came into the possession of the Lenin State Library of the BSSR (now National Library of Belarus) and were dispersed among various holdings of this library. 202 copies of early prints and rare books have been identified and attributed. About 500 copies are still to be found in the joint holdings.

7th Part of the Collection (Minsk)

A small part of the former Niasvizh library which was held in the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR until its removal to Germany and after re-evacuation came into the possession of the Government Library of the BSSR (now Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus). 100 copies have been identified, and this number is to be adjusted.

8th Part of the Collection (St. Petersburg)

The principal part of the initial Niasvizh library taken without the owners' permission to St. Petersburg in 1772 after Niasvizh had been captured by the Russian troops under the first partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. On the orders of Empress Catherine II this collection was handed over to the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The majority of the books are now concentrated in various holdings of the library, one of which suffered in the fire of 1988. No comprehensive attribution was made; the total number of the surviving books may be estimated as between several thousand and 11,000.

9th Part of the Collection (Moscow)

In 1814 duplicates of Niasvizh books (1,697 titles) were sent from the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg to Moscow University in order to re-establish the library destroyed in the fire of 1812. These are now in the holdings of the Library of Moscow State University. No comprehensive attribution was made.

10th Part of the Collection (Helsinki)

This part of the former Niasvizh library was transferred in 1827 from the Academy of Sciences' Library in St. Petersburg to the newly created university in Helsingfors (now Helsinki). This, for the most part, included duplicate books on theology and jurisprudence. Right now 820 copies have been identified at the Helsinki University Library, the present National Library of Finland (since 1 August 2006). The number can be adjusted.

3.2 Description

3.2.1 Description of the archives collection

The archives part of the Radziwills' collection is one of the largest collections of documents on the history of Central and Eastern Europe. The Radziwills' archives greatly exceeded other private archives in size and, unlike most of them, have survived almost entirely. A considerable part of the archival materials are unique. The majority of nearly 70,000 documents are the originals that survive in a single copy. The documents span the years from the 12th to the first half of the 20th centuries; as an example could be mentioned the records of Polish – Lithuanian unions, and treaties between Lithuania and Ruthenian dukedoms of Psków, and Novogrod. One of the Radziwills' was an addressee of the first letter from the “New World” – from the New Amsterdam (1659). The records are in Old Belarusian, Russian, Latin, Polish, German, English, French, Italian and other languages. Throughout several centuries the aristocratic family of the Radziwills played an important role in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and other European countries. Occupying the highest state positions and taking part in various diplomatic events they had access to state and international information, which was accumulated in their archives. The Radziwills were related to many aristocratic families in Europe, and the archives were constantly expanded with new records on political history and international relations acquired through marriage.

As owners of many huge estates in Belarus, Lithuania and Poland, Radziwills were obliged to deal with much business concerning their property, which generated numerous records of economic nature. These provide valuable information for the history of towns and villages, the development of handicrafts, manufactories and industrial enterprises, trades, household and economic relations.

Besides, the archives materials contain extensive information on the development of cultural and social relations and the history of daily life, including diaries and memoirs. Due to the fact that many members of the Radziwills family were cultural benefactors and authors of literary and musical works, their archives also provides valuable information for the history of culture in Central and Eastern Europe. A number of records testify how the Radziwills' managed their archives and how carefully they preserved them. This is of particular interest for researchers into the history of archival science.

3.2.2 Description of the book collection

The book collection of the Radziwills was one of the largest for its time too (about 15000 items in the mid-18th century). It throws light on the intellectual and cultural interests of the Eastern European elite and bears witness to the dissemination of knowledge throughout Europe. The library was extensively filled with works by ancient classical authors and Western European writers, testifying that these authors were known and were read in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The other part of the collection, the books published in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, including the printing house at Niasvizh. These books are of special value for the history of printing and public thought in Belarus, Lithuania and Poland.

Many books in the collection have notes and marks on margins and title pages, thus bringing a unique evidence of how much the book were appreciated by the reader at that time. Besides, the notes made by the previous owners help to identify the ways of book circulation.

3.2.3 Brief history of the collection

The Radziwills' archives began to take shape as the family increased its importance and expand its estates approximately in the mid-15th century. In the beginning of the 16th century the archives was enlarged with many records which came into the possession of the Radziwills together with various estates they acquired through marriages.

Niasvizh became a place for keeping the family's archives in the 1570s, when Mikolaj Krzysztof Radziwill (1549–1616) turned the town into his chief residence. At this same time the library was established. Mikolaj's brother, Cardinal Jerzy (1556–1600) played an exceptional role in the formation of the library. While studying at the universities of Western Europe, he acquired many books and sent them to Niasvizh, and continued doing so for many years.

After the establishment of the Niasvizh entail, the archives and library came into the possession of its owners, Mikolaj Radziwill's descendants, but continued to play the role of a common cultural centre for all members of the family, who constantly expanded the collection with their personal acquisitions. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries Radziwills acquired, in different ways, estates of other families in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland, often together with the associated records and sometimes with the personal archives of the previous owner. All these archives were transferred to Niasvizh. Among the documents acquired in that way were unique parchment charters relating to polish history from the late 12th to 14th centuries.

After the extinction of the youngest branches of the lords of Olyka (1656) and Kletsk (1690), their estates merged with the Niasvizh entail and their documents were added to the Niasvizh archive. In addition to the property of the last member of the Olyka line, Albrecht Stanislaw Radziwill (1593–1656), Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, part of the state archives passed into Niasvizh. Later the Niasvizh lords repeatedly headed the Chancellery of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and then their archives served as a state repository, acquiring minutes of parliamentary sessions, state legal acts, and the likes. The privilege of keeping state records at Niasvizh was confirmed by the Seym (Parliament) of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1768.

In the mid-18th century the owner of the Niasvizh entail, Michal Kazimierz Radziwill (1702–1762) inherited several large family archives and libraries. Of special value was the archives of the Polish-French family of the Sobieskis, and rich book collection of the Saxon commander and diplomat Jacob Henryk Flemming (1667–1728), who was married to Mikolaj Radziwill's sister. In 1760 Mikolaj Radziwill inherited the property of his brother, Hieronim Florian, including a large library from the estate of Biala, as well as the archives and library of the Birze (Slutsk) line of the Radziwills that became extinct in 1699, including the archives of the Slutski princes and the archives of the Protestant congregation at Slutsk.

In 1772 after the first partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Niasvizh was occupied by the Russian troops. The lord of Niasvizh, Karol Stanislaw Radziwill (1734–1790) was living at that time in exile abroad, where he brought his archive. The library continued to remain at Niasvizh and was taken as war booty. It was removed to St. Petersburg and on the orders of Empress Catherine II was handed over to the Russian Academy of Sciences. At that moment the library contained 14,892 storage units in 96 boxes with addition of engravings, plans, and printed music. There is evidence that the most valuable exemplars (Western European illuminated books on parchment and paper) were not included into the joint inventory and were plundered. At present single

copies have been identified in libraries and museums in various countries. Later, Karol Stanislaw Radziwill attempted to return the library, but was obliged to accept partial compensation in money.

The bulk of the book collection was dispersed to the holdings of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences (now 8th part of the collection). In 1814 duplicates of Niasvizh books (1,697 titles) were transferred to Moscow University in order to re-establish the library destroyed in the fire of 1812 (now 9th part of the collection). In 1827 duplicate books on theology and jurisprudence were transferred to the newly created university in Helsingfors (now Helsinki) (10th part of the collection). Some sources note that part of the collection was moved to the St. Petersburg Theological Academy (when identified, these may be included into the 11th part of the collection).

The archives remained in the possession of Karol S. Radziwill who in the last years of his life had it stored in different places, mainly in Poland. It continued to remain in Poland in the years 1790–1803, when the young heir Dominik Radziwill was under guardianship, and was returned to Niasvizh after 1803, when the town had already been incorporated into the Russian Empire. During the war between France and Russia in 1812 Dominik Radziwill took side of Napoleon; as a result the archives was partly confiscated and plundered after the Russian troops had occupied Niasvizh. Some part of state records was moved to Saint-Petersburg and was probably included into the Emperor's Public Library (now part of the National Library of Russia).

In 1813 the eldest line of the Niasvizh lords became extinct. In 1818 the archives was moved to Vilnius, where it was kept until 1829 under the jurisdiction of the Procuratoria [Procurator Fiscal Office] for Affairs of Niasvizh Heritage, established by the Russian authorities; and then under the jurisdiction of various guardians until 1838. At that time it was common practice to issue documents to government agencies and individual scholars for temporary use outside the archive; most of them were not returned. The largest complex of documents remained in the archives of the Commission for Settlement of Radziwill Debts in Vilnius (now 3rd part of the collection).

In 1838 the archives was returned to Niasvizh, and until early 1870s it was in the process of division between the new lords of Niasvizh and Prince Leo Wittgenstein, who inherited several estates of the Radziwills outside the entail. Part of the documents relating to these estates was removed on legal grounds from the Niasvizh collection and was handed over to Wittgenstein (at present these documents are not regarded as part of the collection though they were created within the same historical and cultural context).

Between the 1870s and 1914 the Niasvizh archives was in a fairly good condition and was enlarged with records acquired by the youngest branch of the Niasvizh lords, who played an important role in the history of Prussia and the Russian Empire. At this same time the library was newly reconstructed and probably incorporated part of the books from the previous library which escaped their removal to Russia.

With the beginning of the First World War, the archives was removed to Minsk and was returned in 1919, after the town had been occupied by the army of the newly re-established Polish Republic. According to the Treaty of Riga of 1921, Niasvizh remained part of Poland, and the Radziwills continued to be its owners until 1939. At this time the archives was divided into two parts. One of these, older records of historical value, with the consent of its legal owners, was sent to Warsaw, where separate, professional archives were organized. It was housed in the single building and served as a public archive. The other part, mainly economic and administration records remained in Niasvizh. The whole of the library remained in Niasvizh too, and continued to expand during the time between the two world wars.

In 1939 Warsaw was occupied by the Nazi troops; Niasvizh, by the Soviet army. Throughout the whole occupation the Warsaw part of the archives remained in the single building, but in 1944 it was captured by Germans and transferred abroad. It was restituted after the war, due to the positive decision of American authorities in Austria. This decision was accepted by last lord of Niasvizh, Leon Radziwill, who stayed at that time outside Poland. The Niasvizh part of the archives and the library were moved in the beginning of 1940 to Minsk and came into the possession of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR. Part of the books had been marked with the stamps of the Academy's library, but the Nazi occupation of Minsk interrupted the arrangement of the collection. In 1944 the occupation authorities removed the archives and library from Minsk. The details of this removal are still

uncertain. We know that the bulk of the archives were found in Riga, and a small part in Troppau (now Opava, Czechia).

The restitution of illegally replaced cultural property was carried out mainly in 1946, and was insufficiently documented. The Radziwills' Warsaw Archives, part of the archives (1st part of the collection) was handed over to the Archival Service of the Polish People's Republic. Now it is in holding at the Central Archives of Historical Records of Poland; parchment charters and maps were included in the respective thematic collections. The documents found in Riga were returned to Minsk and were assigned to the State Archival Service of the BSSR. After a number of reorganisations these documents now constitute Found 694 "The Radziwill Princes" at the National Historical Archives of Belarus (2nd part of the collection). The documents found in Troppau were moved to Kiev and, also after a number of reorganisations, have made part of Found 257 "The Radziwill Lithuanian Princely Family" at the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine (4th part).

The book collection was returned in 1946 to Minsk. The books with the stamp marks of the Academy of Sciences' Library were handed over to this library and are now in the department of rare books and manuscripts at the Central Science Library of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences (5th part). The remaining items came into the possession of the Lenin State Library of the BSSR (now National Library of Belarus, 6th part) and the Government Library of the BSSR (now Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus, 7th part). The scattered items can be found in the major museums in Belarus (11th part).

3.2.4 Literature:

1. Badania księgozbiorów Radziwiłłów. Materiały międzynarodowej sesji, Olsztyn, 6-7 października 1994 r. Ser. Polskie Dziedzictwo Kulturalne. B. Wspólne Dziedzictwo, red. nac. L. Krzyżanowski, Warszawa 1995;
2. Bagińska, E. Fond Radziwiłłów w Państwowym Archiwum Historycznym Białorusi w Mińsku, „Białostoczczyzna”, r. 49, 1998, z. 1, s. 58 – 63;
3. Bartoszewicz, H. Kartografia Radziwiłłowska w zbiorach Archiwum Głównego Akt Dawnych // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*. 1997. T.VII, s. 117 – 126.
4. Barwiński, E. Archiwum ks. Radziwiłłów w Niewświeżu. Rys jego historii i sprawozdanie z poszukiwań // *Archiwum Komisji Historycznej PAU*, T.XI, 1909 – 1913, Kraków: Wydawnictwo Komisji historycznej AU w Krakowie, druk.UJ pod kier.J.Filipowskiego, 526 S, SS.1 – 10.
5. Bajer, P. P. Een korte geschiedenis van de familie-Radziwill: Rijkdom, invloed en prestige" in: "Oost-Europa Verkeningen", Amsterdam, Holland: Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek, December, 2000, p. 39-53;
6. Chwalewik, E. Zbiory polskie. Archiwa biblioteki gabinety galerje muzea i inne zbiory pamiątek przeszłości w ojczyźnie i na obczyźnie (wyd. 2, popr. i rozszerz.), t. 2, Warszawa-Kraków 1927, s. 7 – 11;
7. Davies, N. *God's Playground. A history of Poland*, Oxford 1981;
8. Eichhorn, Karl-Fryderyk. Stosunek Xiążęcego Domu Radziwiłłów do Domów Xiążęcych w Niemczech uważany ze stanowiska historycznego i pod względem praw niemieckich politycznych i xiążęcych, przekł. Ludwik hr. Rzyszewski, Warszawa 1843.[I wyd. wersja niemiecka];
9. Hiscowa L.Z., Antonienko I.E. Znaczenie archiwaliów Radziwiłłów, przechowywanych w Centralnym państwowym historycznym archiwum Ukrainy w Kijowie, dla rekonstrukcji Archiwum Radziwiłłów // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, 1997, T.VII, s. 99 – 105.
10. Jankowski R., Prace inwentaryzacyjne w Archiwum Głównym Radziwiłłów w Nieświeżu do 1945 r. // „*Archiwista Polski*”, rok V, 2000, nr 3 (19), s. 43 – 55;
11. Jankowski R. Burzliwe losy Archiwum Radziwiłłów z Nieświeża od XV w. do 1838 r. // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, 2000, T.XI, S.35 – 68.
12. Jankowski R. Archiwum Radziwiłłów z Nieświeża od 1838 R. do XX w. // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, 2001, T.XIII, S.131 – 168.
13. Jankowski R., Próba przedstawienia dziejów archiwów Radziwiłłów linii kleckiej z uwzględnieniem klęsk elementarnych, jako jednym z czynników kształtowania się

- zasobu In: „Archiwa – Kancelarie – Zbiory”, t. 2, Toruń 2007 (w druku);
14. Jankowski R., Archiwum Warszawskie Radziwiłłów w Archiwum Głównym Akt Dawnych w Warszawie: <http://www.agad.archiwa.gov.pl/ar/ar.html#ARW1>;
 15. Karkucińska W., Biblioteka i archiwum Radziwiłłów w Białej Podlaskiej, In: Z badań nad Polskimi Księgozbiorami Historycznymi: Studia i Materiały, red. nauk. J. Wojakowski, Warszawa, 1995, t. 16, s. 49-73;
 16. Mikulski W. Dokumenty z archiwum WXL w archiwum warszawskim Radziwiłłów // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*. Warszawa, 1997. T.VII, s.71 – 83.
 17. Nowakowski T., Die Radziwills. Die Geschichte einer grossen eurpäuischen Familie München 1967.
 18. Olechnowicz L. Przegląd archiwaliów Radziwiłłów w zbiorach publicznych na Litwie // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, 1997, T. VII, s. 85 – 91.
 19. Radziwill M., One of the Radziwills, London 1971
 20. The Library of the Radziwill princes. In: Collections donated by the Academy of Sciences of St Petersburg to the Alexander University of Finland in 1829 : an annotated catalogue / compiled by Sirkka Havu and Irina Lebedeva. Helsinki University Library , 1997 Ulkoasu: 813 s. : ill. ; 25 cm. (Helsingin yliopiston kirjaston julkaisuja , ISSN 0355-1350 ; 61), pp. 247–352.
 21. Siekierski M., Landed wealth in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the economic affairs of Prince Nicolas Christopher Radziwill, *Acta Balitico-Slavica*, t. 20, R. 1989, s. 239-308; t. 21, s. 195-294;
 22. Zawadzki J. Archiwalia różnych rodów przechowywane w Archiwum Warszawskim Radziwiłłów // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*, 1997, T. VII, s. 127 – 133.
 23. Zielińska T. Archiwa Radziwiłłów i ich twórcy // *Archeion*, 1978, T. 66, s. 105 – 130.
 24. Zielińska T. Archiwa różnych linii rodu Radziwiłłów w polskich zbiorach publicznych // *Miscellanea Historico-Archivistica*. 1997. T.VII, s. 107 – 113.
 25. Zielińska T., Dziewiętnastowieczny epilog sprawy dóbr neuburskich, niegdyś fortuny Radziwiłłów birżańskich // „*Krakowski Rocznik Archiwalny*”, t. 5, 1999, s. 85-102.
 26. Вяртанне-7. Нясвіжскія зборы Радзівілаў, іх фармаванне, гістарычны лёс, цяперашняе месцазнаходжанне і шляхі выкарыстання. Мінск: Беларускае фонд культуры, 2002. – 427 с.
 27. Галенчанка Г.Я. Архівы Радзівілаў // *Энцыклапедыя гісторыі Беларусі*, Мн., 1993, Т.1., С.170 – 172
 28. Галубовіч А.К. Матэрыялы архіва князёў Радзівілаў у Нацыянальным гістарычным архіве Беларусі // *Архівы і справаводства* №5 1999.
 29. Голубович А.К. Обзор документальных материалов фонда “Радзивиллы, князья” // *Беларускі археаграфічны штогоднік*, Вып. I, Мн., 2000, С. 97-107;
 30. Латушкін, А.М. Нясвіжскі архіў князёў Радзівілаў у XV – першай палове XX ст.: гістарыяграфія і крыніцы // *Весн. Беларус. дзярж. ун-та. – Сер. 3, Гісторыя. Філасофія. Псіхалогія. Паліталогія. Сацыялогія. Эканоміка. Права.* – 2006. – №2. – С. 3 – 9.
 31. Латушкін, А.М. Дакументальныя страты Нясвіжскага архіва Радзівілаў у другой палове XVIII – першай палове XX стагоддзяў // *Архівы і справаводства.* – 2007. – № 2. – С.102 – 107.
 32. Леонтьева Т.Е. Документальные материалы фонда князей Радзивиллов как исторический источник // *Вопросы архивоведения и источниковедения в БССР.* – Мн., 1971. – С. 306 – 319.
 33. Леонтьева Т.Е. Несвижский архив князей Радзивиллов (Обзор документальных материалов) // *Научно-информационный бюллетень Архивного управления при Совете министров БССР.* Мн., 1961, №2 (9), С. 12-25.

34. Николаев Н.В. Несвижская библиотека князей Радзивиллов // Книга в России XVIII – середины XIX в.: Из истории Библиотеки Академии наук: Сб. науч. тр. / БАН СССР; Ред. кол.: А.А.Зайцева (отв. ред.) и др. Л.: БАН, 1989. С.140 – 147.
35. Стефанович А.В. Книжная коллекция Несвижской ординации Радзивиллов // Гісторыя выдавецкай дзейнасці ў Польшчы і Беларусі ў XVI – XX стагоддзях. Мн., 2003. С. 23-33.
36. Стефанович, А.В. Библиотека Несвижской ординации князей Радзивиллов: ее роль и место в национальной культуре Беларуси (связь времен из прошлого в будущее), (по материалам фондов ЦНБ НАН Беларуси) // Праблемы ідэнтыфікацыі мастацкай спадчыны Нясвіжа ў агульнаеўрапейскім кантэксце культуры: Матэрыялы навук. канф., Нясвіж, 15 мая 2004. Мінск: БелДІПК, 2004. С. 44–50.
37. Стефанович, А.В. Состав и тематическая структура книжных фондов частновладельческого книжного собрания Радзивиллов Несвижской ординации // Беларускі археаграфічны штогоднік, – Мінск, 2006. Вып.7. С. 49-58.

3.2.5 Accessible modern researchers:

Georgy Yakovlevich Golenchenko, Doctor of History
The Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Address: Akademicheskaya Str., 1, Minsk, 220072, Belarus
Tel.: (+375-17) 2841409

Olga Valerievna Guseva, PhD in Philology
Assistant professor, St. Petersburg State University, Faculty of Philology and Arts
Address: Universitetskaya nab., 11, Saint-Petersburg, 199034, Russia

Andrzej Rachuba, Doctor hab.
Professor, Institute of History PAN
Address: Rynek St. Miasta 29/31, 00-272 Warszawa, Poland
Tel.: (48) 0-22 8310261. E-mail: andrzejrachuba@wp.pl

Henryk Lulewicz, Doctor hab.
Docent, Institute of History PAN
Address: Rynek St. Miasta 29/31, 00-272 Warszawa, Poland
Tel.: (48) 0-22 8310261

Walter Leitsch, univprof.dr.
Universität Wien -Emeritus
Address: Formanekgasse 10, 1190 Wien 19, Austria
Tel. 004313677440

Maciej Siekierski
Curator of the East European Collection Hoover Institution
434 Galvez Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-6010
Tel. 001 650-725-6955
<http://www.hoover.org/about/directory/curatorships/eastEuropeanCollection/siekierski.html>

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established? (see 4.2.3)

All archival documents, signatures, marginalia, ex-libris bookplates and notes of ownership are authentic. The overall authenticity of the collection was never questioned by any researcher. However, the archives may have a small number of documents forged at different times. Even in this case, the fact of forgery in itself provides a valuable testimony to the motives and interests of historical characters.

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established? (see 4.2.4)

The Niasvizh collection contains valuable historical and cultural information. The extent of the Radziwill archives and library (nearly 90,000 storage units, hundreds of thousands of documents) is impressive even by modern standards. Letters that survive in the archives amount to nearly 450,000 and are attributed to nearly 20,000 authors. For its time this was one of the largest collections not only in Europe but far beyond its borders. The existence of such a collection in itself exerted influence on the contemporaries and made one reflect on the phenomenon of historical memory. Besides, the archives information and knowledge contained in the library books made constant impact on the activities of persons who had access to the Niasvizh collection, among whom were the highest government officials, diplomats, and military commanders.

Unlike public archives and thematic collections arranged on strict principles the Niasvizh collection, as a private one, is distinguished by high diversity. It contains extensive data relating to historical events and international relations and also throws light on people's private lives and spiritual world (one of the personal diaries, which ran to 2,327 pages, was kept during 40 years). Unlike the other private collections, this one is particularly large in size, comparatively well-preserved, and is remarkable for its long continuous expansion.

The importance of this collection increases as it is connected to the region of Central and Eastern Europe, where the number of surviving written evidences is generally less than in Western Europe. In the area of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania this collection can compare in the extent and significance of the information it provides to the whole amount of all other written evidences. The other surviving archives and libraries of the 15th to 18th centuries, taken together, cannot replace this collection.

It is also important from the legal point of view. The collection covers the different steps of the juridical and self-government sources, showing the local noble government in every day's activities. The highest emanation of "the nobleman's paradise" (cf. N. Davies "God's Playground. A History of Poland") was the union of two political organisms, which was enacted as a parliament bill (not the personal union). It was something unusual and unique in contemporary European context. In this political and legal circumstances a new union was created, which could be recognized as the activity toward creation of a new model of international relations in the form of present European Union.

4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style satisfied?

Time: The Niasvizh collection began to take shape at the time when Western Christian Civilization spread into Eastern Europe intermingling with the indigenous Slavonic and Baltic cultures, with the legacy of Byzantine Civilization, and the nascent Russian Empire. The unique experience of a centuries-long interaction remained imprinted in records, diaries and letters, as well as in the choice of books for the library. The Niasvizh library bears testimony to the transmission of ideas of the Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment into Eastern Europe and their inoculation in the local cultural environment.

Place: The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, of which the Niasvizh estate made part and where the Radziwills pursued their activities, are no longer on the map. Its area is now divided between Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. It is not a coincidence however, while this land was a part of the 'melting pot': the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was in fact a place where a lot of languages and scripts, cultures and denominations, ethnic and social groups

could live and coopered peacefully side by side. And now the archival heritage of the Radziwills is their common legacy that needs joint effort in its identification, preservation, research, and provision of access. Besides, parts of the collections are in Russia, Finland and, probably, in some other countries. The world recognition of the importance of the Niasvizh collection will give a mighty impulse to the scholarly and cultural cooperation in the region and will contribute to further integration of the peoples and their mutual enrichment.

People: The collective founder of the Niasvizh collection was the Radziwill family, unparalleled in the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth for the number of family members who occupied the highest state positions. Twelve members of the family held the highest civil post in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as Voivode of Vilnius; two of its members rose to the highest position in the Church hierarchy of the Grand Duchy as Bishop of Vilnius (one of them later became Cardinal). Seven times Radziwills were made state chancellors; seven times, commanders in chief (grand hetmans). Members of the Niasvizh line of the Radziwills had correspondence with nearly fifty crowned heads. It was due to their high erudition and broad range of interests that they stayed long enough at the top of the political elite, enhancing their family wealth and splendour. The number of their subjects totalled hundreds of thousands, equalling the size of a small European country.

Subject and theme: The simple listing of topics represented in the Radziwills' archives and Niasvizh literary genres in the library would have taken several pages. The Niasvizh collection covers practically all topics of interest to the educated people of that time or the issues confronted by them in the public service.

Form and style: Among the early prints that survive in the Niasvizh library are the true masterpieces: unique incunabula dating from the 15th century, illustrated and illuminated herbaria, atlases, and albums of engravings. Many ex-libris bookplates are the real works of art. Of high artistry are a number of manuscripts, especially genealogical records embellished with coloured coats of arms and magnificent images of family trees. A rich collection of stamp marks on early records are of especial interest for the history of sphragistics. Of artistic value are also some diaries, poetic works, printed music.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

Extremely rare works in the collection are parchment charters, papal bulls and indulgences, early prints and manuscripts, letters written or signed by the crowned heads and prominent cultural personalities, the originals of state documents and international treaties, old illuminated maps, plans and sketches executed by prominent architects, printed music and libretti dating from the 18th century, and more.

Many parts in the collection are of particular interest from the point of view of their coherence. For example, the contents of personal libraries of individual family members, reconstructed through ex-libris bookplates, throw light on the scope of reading and literary preferences of their owners, even if each book separately is not a rarity. The circle of correspondence and its frequency are of the same importance.

The integrity of the collection was largely damaged by its split into several archival and library holdings which are now in various institutions in different countries. Therefore there is no common management plan at the present moment. Each repository makes necessary efforts to ensure the preservation of its own part of the collection together with its other holdings, but nowhere the preservation of the Niasvizh collection was formulated as a separate task.

Risks of damage to the collection are generally assessed as relatively low, despite the fact that quite recently one part of the collection was greatly damaged. The so-called Baer Holding, located in the building of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint-Petersburg, suffered significant losses in the fire of 1988. Exactly this holding included the principal part of books removed from Niasvizh in 1772 (8th part of the collection). Because the Niasvizh books were not documented in

the library as a single complex, we still don't know to which extent the collection suffered in the fire and the associated plundering.

In recent years the experts in all the countries that acquired parts of the collection broadly discuss the idea of its virtual reconstruction in a single information resource, covering all parts of the collection and accessible to the world scholarly community and the general public. This idea was supported by the international conference “UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme: activities of libraries, archives and museums in safeguarding documentary heritage” (Minsk, 30 November – 1 December 2006), as is reported in its final document. In line with the resolution, the International Council on the project for the virtual reconstruction of the Radziwills' archival/written heritage and book collections was set up; its first meeting was held in Minsk on 27 April 2007.

5 LEGAL INFORMATION

- 5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)
- 5.2. Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)
- 5.3. Legal status:
 - (a) Category of ownership
 - (b) Accessibility
 - (c) Copyright status
 - (d) Responsible administration
 - (e) Other factors

1st part of the collection (Warsaw) ***Radziwills' Warsaw Archives***

5.1 On behalf of the State Treasury, the owner of the documents is the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, Długa St 7, PL 00-263 Warszawa, tel.+ 48-22-831-54-91, fax.+ 48-22-831-16-08, e-mail: sekretariat@agad.gov.pl

5.2. Apart from the Central Archives director, the person directly responsible for these documents is the manager of the III Department of the Central Archives where the records are kept: Jarosław Zawadzki MA

5.3 Legal status:

- (a) Category of ownership: all the Central Archives collection constitutes the property of the State Treasury
- (b) Accessibility: the records are made available in the research room of the Central Archives on the basis of internal “Rules of Research Room” of 1 August 2000, which may be found in Polish at the following address: <http://www.agad.archiwa.gov.pl/about/regpn.pdf>. Since the collection was partly microfilmed, the records are usually made available in this form; the originals may be made available in exceptional cases, e.g. for the purposes of editorial work following a decision by the manager of the Central Archives research laboratory in co-operation with the manager of the relevant department (the III department of the Central Archives in this case).
- (c) Copyright status: The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (AGAD)
- (d) Responsible administration: Ph.D. Hubert Wajs, director of AGAD

2nd part of the collection (Minsk)

5.1 National Historical Archives of Belarus, Kropotkina Str. 55, Minsk, 220002, Belarus, phone: 375-17 286-75-20; fax: 375-17 286-75-22; e-mail: niab@solo.by

5. 2. Apart from the National Historical Archives director, the person responsible for access to these documents is the head of the Department of Use: Siargej Alexandravich Rybchonak

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) The documents of the holding are categorised as especially valuable; all of them have microphotocopies accessible in the reading room. In exceptional cases original documents may be issued to users with the permission of the archives administration

(c) Copyright status: National Historical Archives of Belarus. Users are obliged to inform the archives administration about recreating the contents of the documents for publishing

(d) Responsible administration: Alla Kuprianovna Golubovich, director of the National Historical Archives of Belarus

3rd part of the collection (Vilnius)

5.1 State Historical Archives of Lithuania, Gerosios Vilties Str. 10, Vilnius, 03134, Lithuania, phone: 370-5-213 74 82; fax: 370-5-217 75 12; e-mail: istorijos.archyvas@lvia.lt

5. 2. Apart from the State Historical Archives director, the person responsible for these documents is the head of the Department of Historical Records: Leokadija Olechnovič

5.3. Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Open access is provided to finding aids, reference tools, and microfilms of the holding's documents

(c) Copyright status: State Historical Archives of Lithuania

(d) Responsible administration: Laima Tautvaišaitė, director of the State Historical Archives of Lithuania

4th part of the collection (Kiev)

5.1 Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, Solomenskaya St., 24, 03110 Kiiv-110 Ukraine, phone/ fax +38 044 275 30 02; e-mail: cdiak@archives.gov.ua

5.3. Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Open access is provided to finding aids, and the holding's documents

(c) Copyright status: Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine

(d) Responsible administration: Lyudmila Yaroslavovna Demchenko, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, e-mail cdiak@archives.gov.ua

5th part of the collection (Minsk)

5.1 Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts of the Central Science Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Sorganova Str. 15, Minsk, 220072, Belarus, phone/fax: +375-17 284-10-12; e-mail: rarebook@kolas.bas-net.by

5. 2. Apart from the Central Science Library director, the person responsible for these documents is the head of the Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts where the books are kept: Alexander Viktorovich Stefanovich

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books and manuscripts are accessible in the special reading room for rare books and manuscripts upon the presentation of an official letter from the scholarly institution, stating the research topic

(c) Copyright status: the Central Science Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

(d) Responsible administration: Natalia Yurievna Beryozkina, director of the Central Science Library of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

6th part of the collection (Minsk)

5.1 National Library of Belarus, Nezalezhnasty Av. 116, Minsk, 220114, Belarus, phone: (+375-17) 290-37-00; fax: (+375-17) 290-37-06; web-site: <http://nlb.by>

5.2. Apart from the National Library director, the person responsible for this part of the collection is the head of the Bibliology Research Department: Galina Vladimirovna Kireeva, phone: (+375-17) 293-27-81

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books and archives material, electronic copies and microfilms are accessible in the reading room for manuscripts, early prints and rare editions of the bibliology research department upon the presentation of an official letter from the scholarly institution, stating the research topic

(c) Copyright status: National Library of Belarus. Special permission is required for copying, with scholarly and educational purposes, publishing and reproduction of books or parts of them conducted with the library's digitisation equipment

(d) Responsible administration: Roman Stepanovich Motulsky, director of the National Library of Belarus

7th part of the collection (Minsk)

5.1 Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus, Sovetskaya St. 11, Government House, 220010, Minsk, fax: (+375-17) 200-12-09; phone: (+375-17) 222-61-20; e-mail: gerasimav@mail.ru

5.2. Apart from the Presidential Library director, the person responsible for this part of the collection is the head of the Department of Old Prints and Rare Editions where the books are kept: Valery Nikolaevich Gerasimov

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books and manuscripts are accessible in the reading room upon the presentation of a letter from the scholarly or cultural institution, stating the topic of the research

(c) Copyright status: Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus. The library may require, if necessary, the compulsory reference to the place of keeping of any documents or parts of them that may be published or reproduced

(d) Responsible administration: Sofia Vasilievna Yudo, director of the Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus, phone: (+375-17) 222-65-68, e-mail: sophia@preslib.org.by

8th part of the collection (Saint-Petersburg)

5.1 Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Birzhevaya line, 1, 199034, S-Petersburg, Russia, phone: +7-812 328-35-92; fax: +7-812 328-74-36; e-mail: ban@rasl.nw.ru

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books and manuscripts are accessible in the reading room upon the presentation of a letter from the scholarly or cultural institution, stating the topic of the research

(c) Copyright status: Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences

(d) Responsible administration: Valery Pavlovich Leonov, director of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences

9th part of the collection (Moscow)

5.1 Science Library of Moscow State University, Lomonosovsky Av., 25, 119192, Moscow, Russia, phone: +7-495 939-1358; e-mail: APantza@nbgmu.ru

5.2. Apart from the Science Library director, the persons responsible for this part of the collection are the deputy director Anna Fiodorovna Pantza, and the head of the Department of Rare Editions and Manuscripts: Irina Leonodovna Velikodnaya

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books and manuscripts are accessible in the reading room for rare editions and manuscripts

(c) Copyright status: Science Library of Moscow State University

(d) Responsible administration: Viacheslav Viktorovich Mosiagin, director of the Science Library of Moscow State University, phone +7-495 939 2241

10th part of the collection (Helsinki)

5.1 National Library of Finland, Box 15 (Unioninkatu 36), 00014 Helsinki, Finland
phone +358 9 19122717; fax +358 9 19124089; e-mail: sirkka.havu@helsinki.fi

5.2. Apart from the National Library director, the person responsible for this part of the collection is the head of rare books and special collections where the books are kept: Sirkka Havu

5.3. Legal status:

(a) Public property

(b) Books are accessible in the reading room of special collections

(c) Copyright status: National Library of Finland

6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES/NO

1st part of the collection (Warsaw)

Radziwills' Warsaw Archives

As the Radziwill Archives records were nominated, the following measures were undertaken in order to facilitate access to information and protect the originals at the same time:

- all the records of the collection were in process of microfilming; about 70% of the records is microfilmed.

- the inventory of the collection was copied out in order to make it available in an electronic form (inventory on the internet in the archival standard: Encoded Archival Description-EAD) and currently works aiming at its completing are in progress; as the outcome of these activities (international project of Belarus, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia) a complete inventory of Radziwills' archives should be completed;

- separated items of the Radziwill Archives collection will be subjected to conservatory evaluation and will undergo restoration if necessary;

- the paper covers, made of acid paper several years ago will be replaced.

2nd part of the collection (Minsk)

All the records of the collection are microfilmed. Several inventories are under process of conversion into electronic form. Separated items of the Radziwill Archives collection are subjected to restoration

3rd part of the collection (Vilnius)

The inventories and all the documents of Holding 459 "The Commission for Settlement of Radziwill Debts" and Holding 1280 "The Radziwill Princes" are microfilmed. There is a special reading room equipped for microfilm reading and copying (paper print-outs and digital copies).

4th part of the collection (Kiev)

There is no special management plan for this part of the collection

5th part of the collection (Minsk)

The Radziwill Collection is being catalogued; the "Radziviliana" database has been maintained in the library since 1994

6th part of the collection (Minsk)

There is no special descriptive system for this part of the collection. Works aiming at cataloguing of the Radziwill collection in digital form are in progress

7th part of the collection (Minsk)

This holding, as a distinctive collection within the library's department of early prints and rare editions, has a separate system of descriptive documents and finding aids

8th part of the collection (Saint-Petersburg)

There is no special descriptive system and management plan for this part of the collection

9th part of the collection (Moscow)

There is no special descriptive system and management plan for this part of the collection

10th part of the collection (Helsinki)

There is no special descriptive system and management plan for this part of the collection

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

(a-b) Resolution on the joint nomination was adopted at the first meeting of the International Council on project for the virtual reconstruction of the Radziwills' archival heritage and book collections, held in Minsk on 27 April 2007. The final document was published in journal *Arkhivy i Spravavodstva* (Archives and Records Management), 2007, No 3, pp. 101, 102. Participants at the meeting were:

Andrzej Biernat, General Director of the Head Office of State Archives of Poland, secretary of national Memory of the World committee of Poland, the 1st part of the collection;

Vladimir Ivanovich Adamushko, Director of the Department of Archives and Records Management of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus, the 2nd part of the collection;

Alla Kuprianovna Golubovich, director of National Historical Archives of Belarus (custodian of the 2nd part of the collection);

Leokadija Olechnovič, director of the department of early records at the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, and Helena Šimanel, leading expert in palaeography at the department of early records of the same archives (custodians of the 3rd part of the collection);

Olga Vladimirovna Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine (custodian of the 4th part of the collection);

Aleksandr Viktorovich Stefanovich, head of the department of rare books and manuscripts at the Yakub Kolas Central Science Library of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences (custodian of the 5th part of the collection);

Roman Sergeevich Motulsky, director of the National Library of Belarus, Ludmila Gennadijevna Kiriukhina, assistant director for research and public relations, and Galina Vladimirovna Kireeva, head of the research department of bibliology of the same library (custodians of the 6th part of the collection);

Valery Nikolaevich Gerasimov, head of the department of early prints and rare editions at the Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus (custodian of the 7th part of the collection);

Valery Pavlovich Leonov, director of the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences (custodian of the 8th part of the collection).

Additional consultations were undertaken by e-mail contacts. The nomination was confirmed by Sirkka Havu, special librarian and the head of the rare books and special collections of the National Library of Finland (custodian of the 10th part of the collection).

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

1st part of the collection (Warsaw)

Radziwills' Warsaw Archives

The building of the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw is protected day and night by a professional, licensed company „Lider” and monitored by the State Fire Service; in the repositories there are an Access Control System, a Burglar Alarm and smoke (fire) detectors as well as humidity sensors (in case of flooding).

In the repositories the temperature and humidity levels are monitored and recorded every day.

2nd part of the collection (Minsk)

The archives building was purposely constructed in 1991, and located in the city centre far from fire risks and air-polluting industrial enterprises. The building is equipped with fire suppression, security and warning systems.

3rd part of the collection (Vilnius)

The documents are kept in an archives building purposely constructed in 1961, equipped with fire suppression, security and warning systems.

5th part of the collection (Minsk)

The library's building was constructed in 2006 and is equipped with video monitoring system. Security and access control system with electronic chips. Alarm system connected to the local police station, on-site security staff.

6th part of the collection (Minsk)

The library's building was constructed in 2006 and is equipped with video monitoring system. The holdings are in a stack area with air-conditioning, fume extraction, and dust collection. There is gas fire suppression system, fire protection doors, 90 minute fire resistant covering, smoke and heat removal system. There is a security and access control system with electronic chips, an alarm system connected to the local police station, and on-site security staff.

7th part of the collection (Minsk)

The safety is guaranteed by the security of Government House, where the library is housed

10th part of the collection (Helsinki)

The collection is preserved in the newly constructed safe stock with controlled temperature and humidity

9 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

1st part of the collection (Warsaw)

Radziwills' Warsaw Archives

The whole collection in AGAD is in process of control by the ‘Universal Procedure for Archives Assessment’ developed for the overall assessment of the holdings of the Dutch National Archives. This activity includes an archives random-sampling procedure, definition of damage profiles and sub-profiles and the development of a classifier. Research has shown that the whole model developed is reliable and that the processes involved can be carried out easily. The work will be done by the qualified team of the Central Conservation Laboratory, in the framework of the project granted by the Polish Committee of Scientific Research.

2nd part of the collection (Minsk)

The documents of the “Radziwill Princes” collection are stored in the archives repository, equipped with fire suppression, security and warning systems.

The stacks have stationary metal shelving. The temperature, humidity, light, hygiene and sanitary regimes are subject to control. The stacks and documents are regularly monitored and tested for insects and fungi.

The originals are deposited in folders and boxes made of acid free cardboard. The items categorised as documentary heritage are placed in a separate area in a metal cabinet.

3rd part of the collection (Vilnius)

The documents are kept in the archives repository equipped with stationary metal shelving. The temperature, humidity, light, sanitary and hygiene regimes are subject to control. Disinfection and disinsection are conducted on a regular basis. The documents are placed in boxes made of acid free cardboard. The originals are not delivered to the reading room.

5th part of the collection (Minsk)

The holdings are located in a stack area with air-conditioning, fume extraction, and dust collection. There is gas fire extinguishing system, fire protection doors, 90 minute fire resistant covering, a smoke and heat removal system.

6th part of the collection (Minsk)

The holdings are in a stack area with air-conditioning, fume extraction, and dust collection.

7th part of the collection (Minsk)

Storage and overall conditions of the holdings are satisfactory and meet microbiological standards

10th part of the collection (Helsinki)

The collection is preserved in the newly constructed safe stock with controlled temperature and humidity

PART C - LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

(Please print name) Viachaslau Nasevich, director Belarusian Research Centre for Electronic Records

(Signature)..... (Date).....