

PŪTEVODITEL NA TSENTRALNIA DŪRZHAVEN ISTORICHESKI ARKHIV. Compiled by *Nadeshda Bŭrzakova* et al. Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo, 1970. 388 pp. 2.86 lv.

Issued by the Archival Department of the Committee for Art and Culture, this book greatly expands and improves an earlier *Pŭtevoditel* (1957) to the collections (*fondove*) of the TsDIA. It describes 470 of the more than 1,200 *fonda* collected to date by the TsDIA (which mostly cover the period 1878–1944; but issues raised in this regard are too involved to discuss here). The book surveys first the *fondove* of various institutions, enterprises, and organizations. These are subdivided into sections for higher state agencies (six collections); church organizations (six); judicial and police agencies (ten); the national economy, with subsections for industry (forty-three), trade (twenty-seven), agriculture (fourteen), transport and communications (thirteen), and finance and credit (forty); a section for cultural and health agencies (eleven); and a final category for political, professional, and sports organizations (thirty-seven). The second part describes the *fondove* of individuals, who are grouped into two categories—“obshtestveni i stopanski deitsi” (108) and “kulturno-prosvetni deitsi” (127). Also listed are 582 *fonda* that are not surveyed. There are name, place, and subject indexes. After first identifying a collection according to a set format, the compilers list what they consider to be its important documents. Foreign scholars especially will welcome this detailed information about the TsDIA, because it is usually difficult for them to get preliminary access to this particular archive.

Several defects lessen the value of the book. Not a few descriptions have been skewed to reflect an overriding concern for materials on domestic political strife. (For example, scholars interested in legislative questions or in roll-call analysis will find little help in the politically oriented description of the *fond* of the National Assembly.) The compilers do not attempt to assess a collection’s completeness or its relative importance. Too often documents are not identified well enough to establish their significance. Much space is allotted to trivia. Unlike the *Obzori* series of the Bulgarian Historical Archive of the National Library, this guide does not provide background information on the collections themselves, indicate the locations of other parts of a collection, or tell what major sections of a collection might be available in published versions.

Although the descriptions themselves mention relevant materials, references in the indexes are incomplete or missing on such matters, for example, as the Pan-Slav movement, the *chorbadzhiistvo*, and linguistics. Materials on the Macedonian question would have to be found by looking under various place names (but there is an entry for the “Dobrudzha question”). The indexes also fail to include noted and seemingly salient materials on, for example, Bulgarian trade with France (p. 65) and Russia (p. 190), pre-Liberation trade (pp. 169, 226), teachers (p. 176), the BZNS (p. 159), strikes (p. 158), and railroads (pp. 226–27).

The book is a satisfactory introduction both to the types of materials held by the TsDIA and to the manner in which this archive has organized its collections. It is less than adequate as a means of helping the scholar meet more quickly and efficiently the criterion of thoroughness in his archival work.

THOMAS A. MEININGER  
*Atkinson College, York University*