

RECORDS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE
(STAATSARCHIV) AMBERG REGARDING
RELATIONS BETWEEN BAVARIA AND BOHEMIA

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The records of the National Archive Amberg represent a good example of the fact that, even nowadays, historical research concerning Bohemian Countries may well be supplied with various records despite insufficient material from special local sources. The immediate neighbourhood of the Upper Palatinate to Bohemia not only resulted in close continuous relations between the neighbouring countries and their peoples but also necessitated keeping in constant touch with the Government in Prague and, especially, with the Bohemian states (Landstände). The records of the National Archive Amberg not only disclose the relations between the two countries resulting from their geographical situation, considering various border-incidents which played no little part throughout centuries, but also territorial integration as constituted by the Bohemian leases in the Upper Palatinate and Upper Palatinate leases in Bohemia.

Endeavours to achieve good neighbourly relations, repeatedly expressed by the Upper Palatinate, are proved by the fact that all correspondence between the two countries was chiefly held in German and only the Government of the Kingdom of Bohemia, aristocrats and few towns made occasional use of the Czech language, adding German translations, if Latin was not used as in some cases. Many such correlations are individually evident from comprehensive correspondence of the electoral government at Amberg, authorities of the Upper Palatinate, the electoral government of Sulzbach, the landgraviate of Leuchtenberg, and other former offices in the region of the present district government of the Upper Palatinate, with authorities in Bohemia, private individuals, nobles and towns. Information regarding economic relations between the Upper Palatinate and Bohemia may also be expected from the Amberg archives. A correlating amalgamation of the

Upper Palatinate mining industry with its steel-mills, especially in the region of Amberg, and the mining-districts of north-west Bohemia existed and is recorded in the archives. The function of the Upper Palatinate as a country of transit for Bohemian trade led to the repeated correspondence between various offices and the archives are able to give instant information about the lively commercial activities. This, however, is not only disclosed by the clerical records of the individual custom-houses but also, primarily, by many records filed in various places regarding confiscation and pilferage of merchandise, road-fees, escorts, and so on.

The National Archive Amberg also provides information relating to the time of the Reformation and Counter-reformation during which parts of the Upper Palatinate were divided owing to different confessions such as the Lutheran Church, Catholicism and Calvinism. In addition, there were ever-changing conditions in neighbouring Bohemia and thus both countries became places of exile for like-minded people. Furthermore, there are frequent records regarding armed riots, troop-movements, accommodation of military units and similar incidents of pre- and post-war times which give detailed and original information as to the relations of the Upper Palatinate and Bohemia.

Finally, in a brief summary, those items of the Archive Amberg are especially noted which have a bearing on the present subject.