

GERMAN AND CZECH ARCHIVISTS IN THE FIRST
CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC.
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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On the staff of the archives of the Interior Ministry, the largest archives in interwar Czechoslovakia, were several German officials, among them Josef Bergl, Gustav Pirchan, and Anton Blaschka. Having offered comprehensive information about the

biographies of these three archivists, the author of the present contribution examines their respective relationships with Czech archive directors Ladislav Klicman and Josef Prokeš, and with their Czech co-workers. These relations, as is convincingly demonstrated, were characterized by cooperation, by contacts and exchanges. Both Czech supervisors always showed a benevolent attitude towards their German staff members. The author draws the conclusion that the relations between German and Czech citizens in the democratic First Czechoslovak republic had considerable potential for improvement. But he also uses the example of the three archivists to demonstrate how easily many Germans adopted Nazi positions towards Czechoslovakia in 1938. The final part of the article deals with the fact that the three archivists witnessed different memories of the inter-war period once they had been evicted from Czechoslovakia.