

HISTORY OF THE ARCHIVAL MATERIAL SEIZED BY  
THE SWEDES IN NIKOLSBURG IN 1645 AND IN PRAGUE  
IN 1648

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The archival material seized by the Swedes in Nikolsburg in 1645 consists largely of the correspondence of Cardinal Prince Franz von Dietrichstein. In 1648 material was removed from the registries of the Imperial Court Chancellery, the Court Chamber and the old Bohemian Court Chancellery in Prague. *Kriegsrat* Alexander von Erskein took an active part in both these actions. Some of the archival material was lodged in the Imperial Archives in Stockholm in 1653. A further section was kept by Erskein in Schwinge, the small castle he had built near Stade.

In 1717 Johann Anton Count von Nostitz, Imperial Ambassador in Stockholm from 1685—90, acquired archival material from Bohemia in Sweden for 1,000 ducats. This was incorporated into the Bohemian Crown Archives as an independent body of documents (130 numbered files and 45 numbered books). When the Bohemian Crown Archives were transferred to the *Geheimes Hausarchiv* in Vienna in 1750, only 26 numbered files and a few numbered books were left in Prague. In 1920 28 numbered files, some numbered books, together with the Dietrichstein correspondence were returned to Prague.

In 1684 the archival material lodged at Schwinge was auctioned by the sons of Alexander von Erskine, who died as a prisoner in Poland in 1656. An attempt to sell the archival material from Prague and Nikolsburg to Vienna was unsuccessful. Some of the material was taken over by the government archives in Stade, a further section was sold off cheaply. The material in Stade was sorted in the 1860s and transferred to the State archives in Hannover in 1870. Documents relating to the Imperial house and the Austrian crown lands were separated and sent to the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna in exchange for other material in 1874. What remained of the Erskine collection in the State archives in Hannover was transferred to the Lower Saxony State archives in Stade in 1961.

The appendix lists the archival material from Prague still held in the Swedish National Archives in Stockholm.