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## Sir Charles Hilary Jenkinson. The Academic Profile of the Father of British Archival Science

*Sir Charles Hilary Jenkinson. Sylwetka naukowa nestora archiwistyki brytyjskiej*

### ABSTRACT

This article presents the academic profile of Sir Charles Hilary Jenkinson, who in the first half of the 20th century had major influence on the development of Anglo-Saxon archival thought. The theoretical models and conceptual solutions he suggested have been a subject of academic reflection conducted in different parts of the archival world. The article contains the profile of H. Jenkinson in the context of professional experience, which found its reflection in the archival theory he presented. The text discusses the essential components of concepts and assumptions presented in the *Manual of Archive Administration* which remains the most famous and recognised book he authored. This article was created based on an analysis of materials which constitute the archival legacy remaining after H. Jenkinson and a review of Anglo-Saxon literature of the subject.

**Key words:** archival theory, archival thought, Hilary Jenkinson, British archival science

In the course of analysis of the output of archival theory and practice of particular countries we come across the figures of people, who by means of their work, engagement and ambitions made significant contributions to the development of the archival field<sup>1</sup>. They also include eminent individuals, who by means of their achievements in the field of academic writing became permanently inscribed in the canon of European, and

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<sup>1</sup> *International Biographical Directory of National Archivists, Documentalists and Librarians*, eds. J.M. Wilhite et al., London 2000; *Słownik biograficzny archiwistów polskich*, vol. 1, 1918–1984, eds. M. Bielińska, I. Janosz-Biskupowa, Warszawa–Łódź 1988; vol. 2, 1906–2001, ed. B. Woszczyński, Warszawa 2002; vol. 3, 1835–2015, ed. E. Rosowska, Warszawa 2017; *Słownik biograficzny polskich archiwistów kościelnych*, vol. 1, ed. J. Marecki, Kraków 2017.

even global archival science<sup>2</sup>. One of these figures recognised as such is definitely Sir Charles Hilary Jenkinson, who in the first half of the 20th century had major influence on the development of Anglo-Saxon archival thought. The theoretical models he presented, even though embedded in the already classical views on archival matters, were and continue to be the subject of academic reflection conducted on the outline of the problems of modern archival studies. It is precisely for this reason that he is described as one of the most influential archivists in the anglophone world<sup>3</sup>. On his native soil H. Jenkinson was remembered as a great scholar within the scope of archival theory, an experienced archivist practitioner, and a man of firm principles, uncompromising on the matters of protection of archival heritage, who contributed significantly to the formation of theoretical and methodical foundations of British archival science<sup>4</sup>.

The following text discusses the most important academic achievements and professional and social accomplishments of a man whose total dedication to archival service brought him great recognition in his homeland and abroad. Although Jenkinson is a demanding writer to the modern reader due to the used style and language and partial invalidity of the problems he discussed<sup>5</sup>, the basic assumptions of his archival thought and the factors which ultimately shaped it are worth familiarising with. In Jenkinson's biography, like through the lens, one can see institutional and organisational transformations occurring in the first half of the previous century to the English state archives, the archivist profession and archival science as an academic discipline<sup>6</sup>.

This article was created based on an analysis of materials which constitute the archival legacy remaining after H. Jenkinson and a review of Anglo-Saxon literature of the subject. The personal papers of the scholar reflects his broadly conducted activities in the field of archival science, especially in numerous organisations and associations and the Public Record Office [hereinafter: PRO] in London<sup>7</sup>. It still requires in-

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<sup>2</sup> *Encyclopedia of Archival Writers, 1515–2015*, eds. L. Duranti, P.C. Franks, Lanham 2019.

<sup>3</sup> O.W. Homes, *Sir Hilary Jenkinson, 1882–1961*, 'The American Archivist' 1961, 24, 3, p. 345.

<sup>4</sup> C.H. Johnson, *Memoir of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, in: *Studies Presented to Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, ed. J. Conway Davies, London 1957, pp. 13–30; R. Ellis, *Recollections of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1971, 4, 4, pp. 261–275.

<sup>5</sup> T. Eastwood, *Jenkinson's Writings on Some Enduring Archival Themes*, 'The American Archivist' 2004, 67, 1, p. 37.

<sup>6</sup> J.D. Cantwell, *The Public Record Office 1838–1958*, London 1991; E. Shepherd, *Archives and Archivists in 20<sup>th</sup> Century England*, Farnham 2009.

<sup>7</sup> The National Archives, London [hereinafter: TNA], ref. no. PRO 30/75, Sir Charles Hilary Jenkinson: Papers.

depth analyses, which will allow to prepare the first full study of his biography. Basic information on the subject of professional achievements and events in the life of H. Jenkinson has been included, i.a. in memorial books and collective works dedicated to him<sup>8</sup>, terms of encyclopaedic and biographical nature<sup>9</sup>, as well as articles on different academic problems. Interest in H. Jenkinson was most broadly reflected in Polish archival literature in the works of Bartosz Nowożycki, devoted to American archival science<sup>10</sup>.

### PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Charles Hilary Jenkinson was born on 1 November 1882 in Streatham in south London as the youngest of six children of William Wilberforce Jenkinson, a land agent, and Alice Leigh Bedale<sup>11</sup>. Once he graduated from the Dulwich College, he continued his education at the Pembroke College, graduating in 1904 with first class honours with a major in classics. His uncle was Francis John Henry Jenkinson, a librarian and academic lecturer at that time, a very well-known and respected person in the university circles<sup>12</sup>. One of the options of development of professional career for people educated in the knowledge of Latin, Greek and classical history was then to take up a job at the British Civil Service. Once he passed appropriate exams, H. Jenkinson was employed in 1906 at the PRO state archive, to which he dedicated nearly 50 years of his life. In the first years of his work at this institution he worked on arrangement of the medieval royal revenue office of England (Exchequer) and under supervision of Charles George Crump he learnt about the methodological foundations

<sup>8</sup> *Studies Presented to Sir Hilary Jenkinson; Essays in Memory of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, ed. A.E.J. Hollaender, Chichester 1962.

<sup>9</sup> R. Ellis, *Jenkinson, Sir Hilary (1882–1961)*, in: *World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services*, ed. R. Wedgeworth, 3 ed., American Library Association 1993, pp. 412–414; H.C. Johnson, *Jenkinson, Sir (Charles) Hilary (1882–1961)*, 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography', Oxford University Press, online ed., <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34177>, [accessed on: 26 IV 2019]; G. Yeo, *Sir Hilary Jenkinson (1882–1961)*, in: *Encyclopedia of Archival Writers*, pp. 319–323.

<sup>10</sup> B. Nowożycki, *Teoria i praktyka archiwistyki USA*, Warszawa 2017; idem, *Records Group. Problem zespołowości w archiwistyce amerykańskiej*, 'Archiwa – Kancelarie – Zbiory' 2017, 8 (10), pp. 129–146.

<sup>11</sup> The London Metropolitan Archives [hereinafter: LMA], ref. no. P85/LUK/002, Saint Luke, West Norwood: Knight's Hill, Lambeth; *Register of baptisms April 1862–May 1884*, p. 276. During baptism, he received two names, but more often he used the name Hilary.

<sup>12</sup> H.F. Stewart, *Francis Jenkinson, Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge and University Librarian: A Memoir*, Cambridge 2013.

of studies on historical documents. Experience he gained in that period of work had fundamental impact on the assumptions of the theory presented in the *Manual of Archive Administration*, the most famous and recognised work he authored.

In 1912 H. Jenkinson took charge of the Literary Search Room ('Round Room') at the building at Chancery Lane, where he remained until 1929, with a short break for military service during the First World War. In the years 1916–1918 he served in the artillery units in France and Belgium, and then until 1920 he worked at the British War Office<sup>13</sup>. Once he returned to the PRO he continued the duties at the Round Room, and in 1922 in addition he took over supervision and handled the reorganisation of the Repairs and Binding department. In 1929 he was entrusted with being in charge of the Repository department. At that time he was one of the most active assistant keepers. Under his supervision the conditions of storage and protection for archival resources, as well as the methods of preservation and restoration of archival objects were significantly improved and modernised. He also introduced numerous improvements in the use of archival materials for the users of the archive<sup>14</sup>.

In 1938 he was appointed Secretary and Principal Assistant Keeper of the PRO, and in the years 1947–1954 he held the honourable function of Deputy Keeper himself. In his work in the archive he followed the top professional standard, although as noted by J.D. Cantwell, constant pursue of perfection led him astray in the direction of supporting ideas and practices, which created numerous difficulties. Acting as Deputy Keeper, H. Jenkinson was perceived as an autocratic person, with conservative views on archival matters<sup>15</sup>. It was only his retirement in 1954, as emphasised by E. Shepherd, that allowed the PRO to enter the more modern stage of development of the institution<sup>16</sup>.

In the period of the Second World War H. Jenkinson acted as an adviser in War Office on protection of archival materials with regard to the areas affected by armed conflict. At that time he paid several visits to Germany, Italy and Malta. He played a significant role in the development of the procedures for preservation of German and Italian cultural goods at the time of war and the period of post-war reconstructions, which contributed

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<sup>13</sup> TNA, ref. no. WO 339/50363, Records created or inherited by the War Office, Armed Forces, Judge Advocate General, and related bodies; Captain Charles Hilary Jenkinson. Royal Garrison Artillery.

<sup>14</sup> J.D. Cantwell, *op. cit.*, p. 388.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 475–476.

<sup>16</sup> E. Shepherd, *op. cit.*, p. 81.

to his international reputation<sup>17</sup>. He was an officer of a special Allied forces subcommittee, an elite unit nicknamed the 'Monuments Men', formed by historians, museum experts, architects, specialists on monuments and works of art, who at the time of war acted to preserve and recover the plundered cultural goods.

H. Jenkinson was actively and broadly engaged in the activity of historical societies and archival associations on both the regional and national level. On his initiative, the Surrey Record Society was created in 1913, the statutory task of which until this day remains the preparation of a source edition of materials related to the history of the County of Surrey. At the Society, Jenkinson served as Secretary, Chief Editor and President. He was entrusted with similar duties at the Surrey Archaeological Society. H. Jenkinson was one of the initiators and founders of the British Records Association, the first British archival association, created in 1932 to take action to preserve the documents of historical value, which were at the risk of damage or loss<sup>18</sup>. Jenkinson acted there as: Honorary Secretary, Chairman of the Records Preservation Section and Vice-President. In the years 1953–1955, acting as the President of the Jewish Historical Society of England, he initiated a project on edition of medieval sources on Anglo-Jewish matters<sup>19</sup>. In the years 1955–1961 he acted as the President of the Society of Archivists, the first British professional organisation of archivists.

In the years 1947–1961, H. Jenkinson acted as a Commissioner at the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, publications of which constituted a main source of information on British archival heritage until mid-20th century, kept in private collections and local repositories<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> H.E. Bell, *Archivist Itinerant: Jenkinson in Wartime Italy*, in: *Essays in Memory*, pp. 167–177. H. Jenkinson co-authored a report on preservation of Italian cultural goods, ordered by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives and Other Material in Enemy Hands. In 1944, for the purposes of the Allied forces, H. Jenkinson prepared a document on preservation of the German archival heritage, including a characteristic of the location of more significant German archives.

<sup>18</sup> LMA, ref. no. ACC/3162/RPS/002/011, British Records Association; Correspondence with Sir Hilary Jenkinson; M.F. Bond, *The British Records Association and the Modern Archive Movement*, in: *Essays in Memory*, pp. 71–74; *British Records Association 1932–1992: Jubilee Essays*, ed. B.S. Smith, London 1992.

<sup>19</sup> N. Bentwich, *Memorial Addresses in Honor of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, 'Transactions and Miscellanies of the Jewish Historical Society of England' 1959/61, 20, pp. 257–258.

<sup>20</sup> R. Ellis, *The Historical Manuscripts Commission 1869–1969*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1962, 2, 6, pp. 233–242; idem, *The Centenary of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts: Origins and Transformation*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1969, 3, 9, pp. 441–452; CH. Kitching, *The Historical Manuscripts Commission: Past Achievements and Future Goals*, 'The Local Historian' 2003, 33, 2, pp. 66–72.

In 1945, in accordance with the recommendations of the report on British Records after the War, which was prepared by Jenkinson and published by the British Records Association<sup>21</sup>, the National Register of Archives was established, which became a central point for collecting information on archival materials concerning British history kept in national and foreign archives. H. Jenkinson was also one of the founding fathers of the International Council on Archives, created in 1948. Engagement in academic and organisational activities in the archival field was reflected in the national distinctions awarded to him. In 1943 he was honoured with the Order of the British Empire, and in 1949 he was given a knighthood. He died on 5 March 1961 in Horsham in the County of Sussex at the age of 78<sup>22</sup>.

#### LITERARY OUTPUT

H. Jenkinson left a substantial literary output covering fairly diversified research topics. He authored and co-authored monographs, academic and popular science articles, pamphlets, reviews, publications of analytic and synthetic nature, within the scope of, i.a.: diplomatics, paleography, sphragistics, archival theory and methodology, archival studies, as well as ones discussing different aspects of history of the medieval and modern England<sup>23</sup>. The content of his selected works were reprinted in *Selected Writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*<sup>24</sup>. This publication constitutes a collection of 25 articles, originally published in the years 1915–1960, which thematically reflect the main academic interests of their author.

H. Jenkinson dedicated particular attention to the medieval issues, especially the taxation system of England and the studies on the writing style used in English courts (Court Hand)<sup>25</sup>. The publications within this scope, published from 1915, grounded his position and academic authority in the area of paleography and diplomatics. He wrote on the basis of experience gained in the course of work on medieval documents kept

<sup>21</sup> *British Records after the War. A Summary of Reports and Memoranda by a Special Committee of the Council of the British Records Association*, London 1943.

<sup>22</sup> R. Ellis, *Jenkinson, Sir Hilary*, pp. 412–414.

<sup>23</sup> R. Ellis, W. Kellaway, *A Bibliography of the Writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, in: *Studies Presented*, pp. 480–494.

<sup>24</sup> *Selected Writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson*, eds. R.H. Ellis, P. Walne, Gloucester 1980 (reprint 2003).

<sup>25</sup> CH. Johnson, H. Jenkinson, *English Court Hand A.D. 1066–1500*, Oxford 1915; H. Jenkinson, *Paleography and the Practical Study of Court Hand*, Cambridge 1915; idem, *The Later Court Hands in England from the Fifteenth to Seventeenth Century*, Cambridge 1927; idem, *Medieval Tallies, Public and Private*, 'Archaeologia' 1925, 24, pp. 289–351.

in the PRO resources. He also made the sphragistic material kept in the archive the subject of reflection on source knowledge and methodology, pondering on its proper classification and nomenclature, effective methods of preservation, and interpretation of the significance of a seal as a sign having legal effect and serving to authenticate<sup>26</sup>.

However, H. Jenkinson showed the greatest academic interest in relation to the matter of archival studies. Some of his works focus on the issue of securing and protecting archives at the time of armed conflict<sup>27</sup>, others are in the field of archival theory and archival knowledge, reflecting on the problems related to terminology and definitions, as well as history and characteristics of selected English archives<sup>28</sup>. In 1922 *A Manual of Archive Administration including the Problems of War Archives and Archive Making* was released, which for many years was perceived among the Brits as a compendium of knowledge on the basic principles of archival science<sup>29</sup>. In modern times, it received the status of a 'classic' item within the framework of Anglo-Saxon archival theory<sup>30</sup>. Jenkinson wrote the manual under the influence of changes caused by the First World War, when dynamic development of methods and means of communication and record of information occurred<sup>31</sup>. Their common application in state administration contributed to an increase in the production of records. The first publication of his work contained the reflections concerning the problems of managing archives in the circumstances of war as early as in the subtitle.

In the recent years the merits attributed to Jenkinson as a pioneer of British archival theory have been questioned by scholars, who accuse him that to a large extent in his work he compiled the ideas and concepts

<sup>26</sup> H. Jenkinson, *Some Notes on the Preservation, Moulding and Casting of Seals*, 'Antiquaries Journal' 1924, 4, pp. 388–403; idem, *The Study of English Seals: Illustrated Chiefly from Examples in the Public Record Office*, 'Journal of the British Archaeological Association' 1937, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, I, pp. 93–125; idem, *Guide to Seals in the Public Record Office*, London 1954

<sup>27</sup> H. Jenkinson, *The Choice of Records for Preservation in Wartime: Some Practical Hints*, in: *Selected Writings*, pp. 186–189; idem, *The Expert Care of Archives: Dangers of the War and Post-War Periods*, in: *Selected Writings*, pp. 189–196; idem, *British Archives and the War*, 'The American Archivist' 1944, 7, pp. 101–103.

<sup>28</sup> H. Jenkinson, *Archives Developments in England 1925–1950*, in: *Miscellanea Archivistica Angelo Mercati*, Citta del Vaticano 1952, pp. 337–362; idem, *Archives and the Science and Study of Diplomacy*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1958, 1, 8, pp. 207–210; idem, *The Problems of Nomenclature in Archives*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1959, 1, 9, pp. 233–239; idem, *The Classification and Survey of English Archives*, in: *Selected Writings*, pp. 197–206.

<sup>29</sup> H. Jenkinson, *A Manual of Archive Administration including the Problems of War Archives and Archive Making*, Oxford 1922. The new and revised edition was published in 1937 and reissued in 1965.

<sup>30</sup> B. Nowożycki, *Teoria i praktyka*, pp. 122–123.

<sup>31</sup> H. Jenkinson, *Manual*, pp. 20–21.

developed earlier by other authors. Margaret Procter proved that Jenkinson, although he gained the status of an icon, was neither the first nor the most prolific of the British archival thinkers, and that his work was strongly based on texts and ideas of other, currently mostly forgotten researchers<sup>32</sup>. H. Jenkinson extensively used the output of people he closely cooperated with since the beginning of his career at the PRO archive<sup>33</sup>.

What did the academic success of Jenkinson result from then? He was doubtlessly the first person in the British land to comprehensively compile and develop different aspects of archival theory. The second edition of his book published in 1937, basically reproducing the main theoretical assumptions of the first edition<sup>34</sup>, coincided with the establishment of the first British archival societies, as well as the institutional development of a network of record offices on the local level. At that time, through his manual and broad activity in the archival field Jenkinson became perceived as a creator of foundations of modern archival science. After the Second World War, on the other hand, the process of professionalisation of British archivists accelerated. The main role in this field played the Society of Archivists, in which Jenkinson was vitally engaged<sup>35</sup>. In 1947, postgraduate archival studies were initiated at the universities in Liverpool, London and Oxford, and the profession of archivist gained three academic education programmes<sup>36</sup>. Almost throughout his entire professional career Jenkinson conducted lectures on paleography, diplomacy and archival studies at the universities in Cambridge and London.

When developing the *Manual*, H. Jenkinson also doubtlessly drew from the output of foreign researchers, either directly or indirectly –

<sup>32</sup> M. Procter, *Life Before Jenkinson: the Development of British Archival Theory and Thought at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, 'Archives' 2008, 33, 119, pp. 137–138.

<sup>33</sup> Cf. CH. Crump, *Records*, in: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed., vol. 22, New York 1911, pp. 955–966; CH. Johnson, *The Care of Documents and Management of Archives*, London 1919; CH. Crump, *The Logic of History*, London 1919; R.L. Marshall, *The Historical Criticism of Documents*, London 1920; G.H. Fowler, *The Care of County Muniments*, London 1923.

<sup>34</sup> TNA, ref. no. PRO 30/75/58, *Manual of Archive Administration*.

<sup>35</sup> One of the more significant achievements in this field was undertaking actions related to accreditation of archival education centres and professional certification of archivists. In 2010 the society was incorporated in the structures of a newly established organisation, the Archives and Records Association.

<sup>36</sup> In the years 1954–1956, archival studies were introduced by Welsh universities in Bangor and Aberystwyth. Cf. E. Shepherd, *Sixty Years of Archival Education in England 1947–2006: Looking Back and Looking Forward*, in: *Second Asia-Pacific Conference for Archival Educators and Trainers 18–19 October 2006 Proceedings*, International Council on Archives, Tokyo 2006, pp. 103–111; G. Yeo, E. Shepherd, A. Flinn, *Education in Records and Archives Management: A View from London*, in: *Integrity in Government through Records Management. Essays in Honour of Anne Thurston*, eds. J. Lowry, J. Wamukoya, London 2014, pp. 217–224.



through his British colleagues. Some of the theories presented in his work were original, others were drawn from the achievements of representatives of other European states. Although archives already functioned in the ancient times, the modern principles of archival science have been determined as late as in the 19th century, thanks to the French and German archivists<sup>37</sup>. In 1898 Dutch archivists published a manual<sup>38</sup>, sometimes called the 'bible for modern archivists'<sup>39</sup>, in which they determined the principle of provenance and the principle of original order and prepared practical guidelines for the arrangement and description of archival materials. Each of the 100 rules included in the work was debated at the meetings of the Royal Dutch Society of Archivists<sup>40</sup>. Jenkinson definitely used this publication of the Dutch colleagues, even though the English translation of the work has not appeared until 1940<sup>41</sup>. Before that, a translation in French was available, among others. As noted by Gudmund Valderhaug, the *Dutch Manual* has a methodological and practical nature, without a developed theoretical foundation. The authors of the Dutch manual did not engage in theoretical reflections on the nature of documentation, they rather focused on formulating practical principles, which were supposed to contribute to the development of standards for the arrangement and description of the archival holdings<sup>42</sup>. As opposed to the Dutch archivists, Jenkinson developed the practical foundations for studying the properties and nature of archives and the relations between archival theory and practice<sup>43</sup>. This does not change the fact that Jenkinson's

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<sup>37</sup> M. Duchein, *The History of European Archives and the Development of the Archival Profession in Europe*, 'The American Archivist' 1992, 55, 1, p. 19; T. Cook, *What is Past is Prologue: A History of Archival Ideas Since 1898, and the Future Paradigm Shift*, 'Archivaria' 1997, 43, pp. 20–21.

<sup>38</sup> S. Muller, J.A. Feith, R. Fruin, *Handleiding voor het Ordenen en Beschrijven van Archieven*, Groningen 1898.

<sup>39</sup> P. Horsman, E. Ketelaar, T. Thomassen, *Introduction to the 2003 Reissue*, in: S. Muller, J.A. Feith, R. Fruin, *Manual for the Arrangement and Description of Archives*, SAA Archival Classic Series, Chicago 2003, p. XXX (reprint of the introduction: *New Respect for the Old Order: The Context of the Dutch Manual*, 'The American Archivist' 2003, 66, 2, pp. 249–270).

<sup>40</sup> E. Ketelaar, *Archival Theory and the Dutch Manual*, 'Archivaria' 1996, 41, p. 35.

<sup>41</sup> S. Muller, J.A. Feith, R. Fruin, *Manual for the Arrangement and Description of Archives*, transl. A. Leavitt, New York 1940.

<sup>42</sup> G. Valderhaug, *Between Practice and Theory – Some Reflections on Archival Science, the Archival Professions and Archival Educations*, <https://depotdrenge.wordpress.com/between-practice-and-theory-%E2%80%93-some-reflections-on-archival-science-the-archival-professions-and-archival-education/>, [accessed on: 26 IV 2019].

<sup>43</sup> J. Ridener, *From Polder to Postmodernism: A Concise History of Archival Theory*, Duluth 2009, pp. 41–47.

work was deeply rooted in the methodology of the *Dutch manual*, especially as far as in the principle of provenance and maintenance of the order of records introduced by the records' creator is taken into consideration<sup>44</sup>.

#### THE BASIC ASSUMPTIONS OF ARCHIVAL THEORY

While discussing the basic elements of archival theory presented by H. Jenkinson one should indicate the issues of archival appraisal and selection, as well as the terminological issues regarding the basic terms and principles of archival science. In the first chapter of his manual, H. Jenkinson included a definition of archives and explained the features of impartiality and authenticity which were supposed to determine their evidentiary value in studies of the past<sup>45</sup>. At the same time, he emphasised the value of their creation as a result of natural processes in the course of regular activities of the records creator and their mutual relation, as well as the relations with the originator, without understanding of which it is impossible to properly interpret the significance attributed to them. H. Jenkinson claimed that studies of administrative context of production is the key to understanding documentation, therefore archivists should in no way interfere with its integrity and nature. As the most important rule of archive studies Jenkinson recognised the respect for the relation of archival materials, which were forming fonds, with its creator, and demanded that the preservation of the entirety of the produced documentation should be imposed. This was meant to ensure authenticity and integrity of fonds<sup>46</sup>. At the same time, he emphasised how important it is to know the custodial history of the documents. He claimed that familiarity with the procedures and context of production, and further fortunes allow one to verify the authenticity of records. Therefore, he indicated the so-called authenticating significance of an unbroken chain of custody<sup>47</sup>.

H. Jenkinson, in a way similar to the Dutch archivists, referred to the concept of organic nature of the fonds. In his opinion, any change introduced to them would be detrimental to the whole<sup>48</sup>. Just like a living organism grows and is subject to changes in accordance with the principles of

<sup>44</sup> B. Nowożycki, *Teoria i praktyka*, p. 122.

<sup>45</sup> H. Jenkinson, *A Manual*, pp. 11–12.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 101.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 38.

<sup>48</sup> P. Galloway, *Principle of Respect for Original Order*, in: *Encyclopedia of Archival Science*, eds. L. Duranti, P.C. Franks, Lanham 2015, pp. 291–294.

nature, so does a documentation that grows and achieves its final form as a result of the natural growth of records<sup>49</sup>. As a result, it also reflects more fully the functions and the actions of its creator. Jenkinson introduced the term 'archive group', which he used to describe an organic whole of archives created as a result of work of an independent administrative unit<sup>50</sup>.

H. Jenkinson did not generally distinguish between the terms 'records' and 'archives'. He used the term 'archives' both for documents which are the products of administrative activity, as well as the records intended for permanent preservation<sup>51</sup>. An American archivist, Theodore Schellenberg<sup>52</sup>, the main adversary to the views of H. Jenkinson on the matters of appraising and selecting documents<sup>53</sup>, indicated in the mid-20th century the need to differentiate both terms. From his point of view, the 'records' referred to all books, papers, maps, photographs, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by public or private institutions in pursuance of their legal obligations, or in connection with the transaction of its proper business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by that institution or its legitimate successor as the evidence of its functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities, or because of the informational value of the data contained therein<sup>54</sup>. What draws attention is the unusual insight of this definition, which regardless of the passing of time retains its validity seen in the modern approaches to this term. 'Archives' according to T. Schellenberg are 'records' appropriated for permanent preservation in an archive due to their value<sup>55</sup>. Schellenberg assumed division into two

<sup>49</sup> L. Puđowski, *Model cyklu życia dokumentacji*, 'Archeion' 2014, 115, pp. 180.

<sup>50</sup> B. Nowożycki, *Teoria i praktyka*, pp. 122-123, 134-135; idem, *Records Group*, p. 131; Z. Chmielewski, *Problemy archiwistyki podzielonej Europy. Selekcja i opracowanie dokumentacji 1918-1991*, Warszawa 2017, pp. 151-155.

<sup>51</sup> 'A document which may be said to belong to the class of Archives in one which was drawn up or used in the course of an administrative or executive transaction (whether public or private) of which itself formed a part; and subsequently preserved in their own custody for their own information by the person or persons responsible for that transaction and their legitimate successors'. Cf. H. Jenkinson, *A Manual*, p. 11.

<sup>52</sup> L.J. Cappon et al., *In Memoriam: Schellenberg (1903-1970)*, 'The American Archivist' 1970, 33, 2, pp. 190-202; J.F. Smith, *Theodore F. Schellenberg: Americanizer and Popularizer*, 'The American Archivist' 1981, 44, 4, pp. 313-326.

<sup>53</sup> T.R. Schellenberg, *Modern Archives: Principles and Techniques*, Chicago 1956; idem, *The Appraisal of Modern Public Records*, 'Bulletins of the National Archives' 1956, 8, pp. 237-278; idem, *The Management of Archives*, New York 1965.

<sup>54</sup> Cf. T.R. Schellenberg, *Modern Archives*, p. 16.

<sup>55</sup> 'Those records of any public or private institutions which are adjudged worthy of permanent preservation for reference and research purposes and which have been deposited or have been selected for deposit in an archival institutions'. Cf. *Ibidem*.

value categories: primary (documentary) and secondary (informational), departing from Jenkinson's concept, for whom the sole criterion of qualification was evidentiary value<sup>56</sup>.

H. Jenkinson emphasised in his works that the main task of an archivist is physical and moral defence of archives. In his opinion, archivists should play the role of passive and impartial guardians in order to ensure objectivity of archival materials. He thought that every external interference of an archivist within the scope of appraising, selecting and rejecting files breaches the integrity and comprehensiveness of documentation as the sources of the past. In this sense, Jenkinson was a supporter of the passive attitude of archivists, who were not supposed to engage in appraisal of records and the process of their destruction, i.a. due to subjectivism resulting from historical education. He attributed authorisation within this scope to the creator of the records, meant to decide which documents should be submitted to an archive for permanent storage. The process of appraisal itself, in the opinion of H. Jenkinson, should occur long before achievement of the status of archival materials.

An American researcher, T. Schellenberg, presented different views on the issue of appraisal and selection, claiming that archivists, due to the possessed professional competences and historical education should actively participate in these processes. A dispute has arisen between Jenkinson and Schellenberg, the echoes of which still resonate in contemporary discussions on the issues of archival appraisal<sup>57</sup>, when one returns to the roots and already classical proposals in this field, once again analysing their assumptions and arguments<sup>58</sup>.

Jenkinson is sometimes credited with developing the basic ethical principles of the profession of archivist due to introducing the concept of the physical and moral defence of archives and the category of impartiality in the context of conducted archival work<sup>59</sup>. According to Jenkinson,

<sup>56</sup> B. Nowożycki, *Teoria i praktyka*, p. 133.

<sup>57</sup> H. Jenkinson, *Modern Archives: Some Reflections on T.R. Schellenberg*, *Modern Archives: Principles and Techniques*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 1957, 1, pp. 147–149; R. Stapleton, *Jenkinson and Schellenberg: A Comparison*, 'Archivaria' 1983–1984, 17, pp. 75–85; R. Tschan, *A Comparison of Jenkinson and Schellenberg on Appraisal*, 'The American Archivist' 2002, 65, pp. 176–195; P. Hohmann, *On Impartiality and Interrelatedness: Reactions to Jenkinsonian Appraisal in the Twentieth Century*, 'The American Archivist' 2016, 79, 1, pp. 14–25.

<sup>58</sup> H. Robótko, *Wartościowanie akt. Przeszłość i przyszłość*, in: *Dokumentacja masowa. Z problematyki kształtowania zasobu archiwalnego*, eds. I. Mamczak-Gadkowska, K. Strykowski, Poznań 2012, p. 32.

<sup>59</sup> G. Dingwall, *Trusting Archivists: The Role of Archival Ethics Codes in Establishing Public Faith*, 'The American Archivist' 2004, 67, p. 22; P.K. Saint-Amour, *Tense Future: Modernism, Total War, Encyclopedic Form*, Oxford 2015, pp. 157–165.

'the good Archivist is perhaps the most selfless devotee of 'Truth' the modern world produces', and his career is based on providing services which allow other people to do their jobs<sup>60</sup>. In 2007 the Department of Information Studies at the University College London established annual lectures bearing Jenkinson's name on the occasion of the diamond jubilee of the launch of archival studies at this university<sup>61</sup>. It was in 1947 that Jenkinson gave an inaugural lecture, 'The English Archivist: A New Profession', for a newly opened course of study. He included in it the words of creed which in his opinion in the professional work should guide every archivist: 'His Creed, the Sanctity of Evidence; his Task, the Conservation of every scrap of Evidence attaching to the Documents committed to his charge; his Aim to provide, without prejudice or afterthought, for all who wish to know the Means of Knowledge'<sup>62</sup>.

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The theoretical assumptions presented by H. Jenkinson generally did not survive the trial of time, giving way to models more adequate to the changing archival reality. His scientific views are assessed today as conservative and traditional, but it should be kept in mind that he lived in the times when archivists were only just beginning to face the problem of massiveness of contemporary records. For this reason, the need for them to be more proactive in the process of shaping archival resources was not always clear at the time. Jenkinson's concepts corresponded to the realities of the archival field at the time, as Natalie Ceeney stated<sup>63</sup>, but they do not seem to be very valid for the anarchic digital era, whose most important element is change itself<sup>64</sup>.

It should be noted, however, that in the output of archival literature created today, we can find works referring to the thoughts and theories presented by Jenkinson. The proponents of his views, sometimes referred to as 'neo-Jenkinsonian' use his proposed category of evidentiary value and the characteristics of archival materials such as impartiality,

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<sup>60</sup> H. Jenkinson, *The English Archivist: a New Profession: Being an Inaugural Lecture for a New Course in Archive Administration Delivered at University College, London, 14 October 1947*, in: *Selected Writings*, p. 259.

<sup>61</sup> *Jenkinson Lectures*, ICARUS – International Centre for Archives and Records Management Research, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/information-studies/jenkinson-lectures>, [accessed on: 26 IV 2019].

<sup>62</sup> H. Jenkinson, *The English Archivist*, pp. 258–259.

<sup>63</sup> Executive Director of the National Archives in London in the years 2005–2010.

<sup>64</sup> N. Ceeney, *The Role of a 21<sup>st</sup>-century National Archive – the Relevance of the Jenkinsonian Tradition, and a Redefinition for the Information Society*, 'Journal of the Society of Archivists' 2008, 29, 1, p. 69.

interrelatedness and naturalness<sup>65</sup>. They support Jenkinson's approach to appraisal of archival documents, claiming that appraisal of records by archivists has arbitrary influence and undermines integrity of archival resources. It should be a priority for archivists to provide users with as authentic archival materials as possible, and any intervention of archivists leads to controlling and artificial engineering of the past<sup>66</sup>.

Terry Cook, distinguished for his research in the field of archival theory, noted that Jenkinson's views do not correspond to the nature and typology of contemporary documentation, as well as social needs and expectations directed towards archival institutions. At the same time, he stated that Jenkinson's theoretical output enjoys considerable research interest in the framework of discussion on the ephemerality of records, decontextualisation of information and the growing number of cases of purposeful or accidental destruction of record in the electronic world<sup>67</sup>. This outline of the father of British archival science, as H. Jenkinson is sometimes called, is worth ending with the words of T. Cook, that the trick for 'neo-Jenkinsonian' enthusiast should be to follow the spirit of the Master, and not the letter of his assertions<sup>68</sup>.

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<sup>65</sup> V. Lane, J. Hill, *Defining Archives. Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going? Situating the Archive and Archivist*, in: *The Future of Archives and Recordkeeping: A Reader*, ed. J. Hill, London 2011, p. 6; A. Bell, C. Brown, *The Recordkeeper's Bookshelf*, Centre for Archive and Information Studies, University of Dundee, Dundee 2013, pp. 30–31, [https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/The%20Recordkeeper%27s%20Bookshelf\\_0.pdf](https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/The%20Recordkeeper%27s%20Bookshelf_0.pdf), [accessed on: 26 IV 2019].

<sup>66</sup> H. MacNeil, *Archival Theory and Practice: Between Two Paradigms*, 'Archivaria' 1994, 37, pp. 9, 13; M. Moss, *Opening Pandora's Box: What is an Archive in the Digital Environment*, in: *What are Archives? Cultural and Theoretical Perspectives: A Reader*, ed. L. Craven, Aldershot 2008, p. 80.

<sup>67</sup> T. Cook, *Electronic Records, Paper Minds: The Revolution in Information Management and Archives in the Post-Custodial and Post-Modernist Era*, 'Archives & Social Studies: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Research' 2007, 1, pp. 399–443; idem, *Evidence, Memory, Identity, and Community: Four Shifting Archival Paradigms*, 'Archival Science' 2013, 13, 2–3, pp. 95–120.

<sup>68</sup> T. Cook, *What is Past is Prologue*, p. 25.

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#### STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł przedstawia sylwetkę naukową sir Charlesa Hilarego Jenkinsona, który w pierwszej połowie XX w. wywarł istotny wpływ na rozwój anglosaskiej myśli archiwalnej. Zaproponowane przez niego modele teoretyczne i rozwiązania koncepcyjne były i nadal są przedmiotem refleksji naukowej prowadzonej w różnych częściach archiwalnego świata. Artykuł zawiera biogram H. Jenkinsona ukazujący kontekst doświadczeń zawodowych, które znalazły swoje odzwierciedlenie w przedstawionej przez niego teorii archiwalnej. W tekście omówiono kluczowe elementy pojęć i założeń zaprezentowanych w książce *Manual of Archive Administration*, która pozostaje najbardziej znanym i cenionym dziełem jego autorstwa. Artykuł powstał w oparciu o analizę materiałów składających się na spuściznę archiwalną pozostałą po H. Jenkinsonie oraz przegląd anglojęzycznej literatury przedmiotu.

**Słowa kluczowe:** teoria archiwalna, myśl archiwalna, Hilary Jenkinson, archiwistyka brytyjska

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