

The time was ripe. Jacob Schreiber and Jacob von Ramingen, scribes, registrars, archivists and the liberalisation of archival techniques in 16th century Southwest-Germany.

Introductory remarks and project definition

The oldest surviving German manuals on archivistics known, are compiled by Jacob Ramingen aka Jacob von Ramingen. (1510-ca. 1582). Von Ramingen's father, Jacob Schreiber (litt. Scribe), aka Jacob Ramingen (ca. 1461-1532) was employed as scribe and registrar (archivist) in the city of Stuttgart. Schreiber started (re)organising the registry/archive of Stuttgart in the early years of the 16th century, inspired by the registry/archive 'system' of Nuremberg. Schreiber acted at the instigation of the Austrian governor of Württemberg who ruled that area between 1519 and 1534. Obviously the time was ripe to act in 'archival business'.

Schreiber was his son's tutor, as Von Ramingen himself taught 'the matter' his sons and other relatives. While Schreiber transmitted his knowledge orally, Von Ramingen trusted basic principles and methods of 'archival management' to paper. A part of his papers were printed and published, earning Jacob von Ramingen the title of the 'first archive theorist' or even 'the father of archival science'.

There are only a few short biographical notes on Jacob Schreiber and Jacob von Ramingen, and two larger studies: one by Swiss historian Beat Rudolf Jenny and one by Swedish archivist Bo Strömberg. Where Jenny concentrates on Von Ramingen as an 'historian', Strömberg focuses on the content of two of Von Ramingen's treatises on archival management.

Context.

Schreiber and Von Ramingen lived and worked in turbulent times. Political and religious reform movements in connection with social, political and military upheaval define the setting. But also 'humanism', on-going literacy, increasing complexity of administration, uniformity of the latter and extending rules and regulations on all governmental levels are part of the context in which father and son lived and worked. The changes in administration have to be seen in connection with the implementation of regulations on archives and chancelleries ('*Kanzleiordnungen*') and the ([re-]establishment of) so called 'good police' ('*Gute Policey*').

Von Ramingen's treatises on archival management.

Von Ramingen published some 'natural scientific', historical and juridical works. This research though, concerns five treatises on aspects of archival management. Analysing scope and content of these treatises will show how these texts are related to each other and to other existing contemporary texts on this matter.

The five treatises will not be translated into Dutch. Notes with information on the specific meaning of words and concepts used by Von Ramingen will be added, as well as information necessary for the understanding of the texts in their context.

Research questions.

The main concern is the societal context of the life and work of father and son. But also the archival order that has been applied and implemented by Schreiber and Von Ramingen on the one hand and the archive treatises by Von Ramingen on the other will be object of research:

1 Was the time ripe?

- a. The context and developments in the late 15th and early 16th century seem to have been of great influence on the methods chosen for (re)ordering the Stuttgart archives by

- Jacob Schreiber. Why was there an obvious need for (re)ordering the archives at that specific moment?
- b. The context and developments in the mid-16th century seem to have been the main reason for Jacob von Ramingen to publish some treatises on archival management. What were his motives to publish on archival management, where he himself states that knowledge on this matter actually should be kept secret?
- 2 Why were Von Ramingen's treatises of importance? For how long were they used in practice? Where they actually used? This question in fact leads to questions as how the works of Von Ramingen were appraised by contemporaries and by archivists and scholars in later times as well.
 - 3 How do the treatises relate to actual contemporary archival management?
 - a. Von Ramingen was taught archival management by his father. Do the treatises reflect the archival order in Stuttgart? If so, can the archival system of Nuremberg also be traced in the treatises?
 - b. Were other sources used for the treatises? Thus, how original are the works of Von Ramingen?
 - c. In what way did Von Ramingen act in accordance with his own thesis and theories when he worked as an archivist, archival advisor or renovator?

Objects of research and research methods.

Several different objects of research will be distinguished and every one of them deserves specific research methods.

The questions concerning the archival work of Jacob Schreiber and Jacob von Ramingen in the context of contemporary time and space will be answered via literature search.

The importance for archival science of the treatises by Von Ramingen leads to analyses of contemporary and later (archival) literature where the treatises, as well as the person Jacob von Ramingen, are judged.

Questions on the content of the treatises lead to an analysis of the archival systems of Stuttgart and Nurnberg, as well as the archives that are (re)arranged by or under supervision of Von Ramingen. But also correspondence on the treatises with lords, financiers and publishers, as far as available, and the analysis of other archival treatises, rules and regulations play a role.

Apart from the analysis of each of the treatises, the 'corpus' of Schreiber and Von Ramingen's work will be evaluated using archival science's concept of an archival system: the existence and availability of staff, knowledge, means and structure of the records themselves and the archival functions that should be carried out, managed and maintained.