

**THEFTS IN ARCHIVES:
NEW DANGER, NEW CHALLENGE
HOW TO PREVENT LOSSES**

**Position paper
presented at the VII European Conference on Archives
«Archivist: Profession of the Future in Europe»**

Warsaw, May 18-20, 2006

**by Hennadii BORIAK
(State Committee on Archives of Ukraine)**

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According to the French Insurance Group Argos (2002), “about \$10 bln of art treasures are stolen and sold every year. Everywhere in the world, in the Old World, in the New World... And paintings are not the only target of thieves. Any kind of a document or manuscript, more or less ancient, more or less precious. Everything that has a potential buyer is in danger. And thieves are clever and tricky [...]. Documents (not only ancient books) in libraries or archives are regularly stolen, and they are supposed to be very well protected, by custodians or by sophisticated equipments. And a recent paper has been published (in French) about the theft of books, manuscripts and ancient archives, only in the ancient USSR and his ex-Empire (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, ancient Czechoslovakia, etc). Those countries are systematically plundered, looted by organized gangs, who steal their goods in eastern countries to sell them in western countries. People steal to sell, and they sell to people who have money... In this case, thieves are in eastern countries and customers in western”¹

At the beginning of 2005 an “Exlibris” e-forum announced that according to the experts’ evaluation, between 2003 and 2004, the libraries lost 6 percent of their materials to theft².

At large illegal actions relating to Cultural Heritage take the third place as international crimes worldwide (following illegal arms and drugs trade)³. At that, number of maps, manuscripts and archival documents is still growing compared to stolen museum works of art.

Statistical clearance data of such crimes is far from being “comforting”: only every third crime (theft) is detected (according to the statistics of Russian law enforcement authorities)⁴.

¹ <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byform/mailling-lists/exlibris/2002/02/msg00044.html>.
According to the FBI statistics, annual cost of stolen works of art is about \$ 5 bln:
<http://te.verweg.com/pipermail/cpprot/2006-January/thread.html>

² <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byform/mailling-lists/exlibris/2005/02/msg00226.html>

³ Ogurtsov I.B. Aktual’nyie problemy profilaktiki i raskrytiia prestupnykh poshiagatel’stv na kulturnyie i istoricheskiie tsennosti // Bezopasnost’ arkhivov i arkhivnykh fondov: Dokl. i soobshch. na Vserossiiskoi nauch.-prakt. konf. (30 noiab. – 1 dek. 1999 g.). – M., 2000. – pp. 78–84.

⁴ See: <http://www.tbforum.ru/print.php?id=248&funky=print>

There are lists of incidents reported in the public media and on open list service, such as Exlibris. The "Incidents of Theft" list was begun in 1987 and is updated by a member of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RMBS) Security Committee of the American Libraries Association (ALA). Although known to be incomplete, the list does provide an indication of the extent and variety of reported and alleged thefts, mostly in the USA, Great Britain and some European countries.

For the reports in the Exlibris electronic discussion list, the number of archives and libraries thefts in 2005 can be perceived as global catastrophe⁵.

The most famous of them are as follows: numerous map thefts valued at \$900,000 from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, stealing 118 Civil War-era documents from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (61 documents that are still missing); unprecedented removal of five classified "top secret" documents from a secure reading room at the National Archives; the theft of about 1,500 rare books, illuminated manuscripts from the Transylvania University Library valued at \$500,000. A number of other institutions have also reported maps missing from their collections, including the British Library (about 8,000 publications), the Newberry Library in Chicago and the New York Public Library.

There are also missing: a rare book from the archives of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) of Addis Ababa University; manuscripts fonds of a Finnish museum; holdings of the New York Public Library, the Boston Public Library, the University of Utah, the Newberry Library (Chicago), the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia; Kenyon College library in Gambier, Ohio; the Norwich University as well as some New Zealand libraries.

In February, 2000 the USA National Archives and Records Administration were shocked by the first (within 70 years of NARA existence!) theft of historical records which were stolen by a former National Archives employee. 500 historical rarities were taken from the National Archives Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives in Philadelphia, PA and subsequently sold to manuscript dealers and collectors.

The U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia charged Shawn P. Aubitz, a former National Archives employee, on February 11, 2002 with one count of theft of government property. The estimated dollar value of the theft is approximately \$200,000. Shawn P. Aubitz, a long-time curator and archivist at the Philadelphia branch of the National Archives, was apprehended for the theft of historical documents, such as presidential pardons, between 1996 and 1999. Mr. Aubitz was charged with taking 71 Presidential pardons signed by Presidents James Madison, James Polk, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan,

⁵ http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/security/theft_reports/theft_reports_2005.shtml#2005

Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, and Rutherford B. Hayes as well as with stealing two dozen other historical documents relating to land grants and to the slave trade and approximately 316 photographs taken by astronauts in space and on the moon.

The loss of documents was discovered in March, 2000 when a National Park Service employee notified the National Archives that a possible item from its holdings was for sale on eBay, an online auction site. Investigators assigned to the National Archives Office of the Inspector General discovered four National Archives documents being offered for sale through eBay. To date, 59 documents belonging to the National Archives have been recovered. Efforts to locate the remaining items are continuing.

"I am outraged by this theft of Federal records by a former National Archives employee," said the then U.S. Archivist John W. Carlin. "Our employees are entrusted with the most important documentary evidence of our nation's history and this individual has abused that trust. I applaud the efforts of the investigators and the U.S. Attorney's Office and hope that Mr. Aubitz will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"In the meantime, I have appointed a high-level management task-force to review internal security measures. A preliminary set of recommendations are under review and a number of new measures are already in place."

Shawn P. Aubitz sentenced in August, 2002 to 21 months in prison and was ordered to pay \$73,793 in restitution.

The celebrated theft caused certain damage to "e-Bay" reputation: apparently, the offered documents had not been examined by the auction management.

While investigating American law enforcement authorities often complained of lack of detailed document-by-document inventories of the NARA archival collections. Tom Mills, Task Group Head gave his reasons for the fact: to him, ensuring **document-by-document protection and control** of huge amount of the NARA documents is unreal taking into account its cost.

For recent years European archival community has been facing the growing number of archives thefts which are becoming more mass in character. From January, 2001 onwards, a sequence of thefts from rare map collections in various parts of Europe was reported. The libraries known to have been affected were in Aberystwyth (UK), Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm and the Hague.

Documents, unique manuscripts, valuable old prints, ancient maps have been roughly stolen from libraries and archives of Amsterdam, Kyiv, Krakow, London, Lviv, Moscow, Paris, Petersburg, Riga; sometimes the number of thefts is just fantastic: for example, at the moment 30,000 items of rare books and manuscripts of the National Library in Paris are under investigation.

Both internal and external thefts took place at the national libraries of Great Britain, Scotland, Netherlands, Finland and Denmark; in particular, thefts from map collections of Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen were reported.⁶

Since 1990s archival documents have been stolen from Ukrainian state archives in Berehove (Transcarpathian Oblast), Kyiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv⁷. Particularly, numerous Memory institutions have been affected in Lviv: besides two state archives, there were Lviv Scientific Library after V.Stefanyk (about 600 ancient maps have been recently stolen), the Scientific Library of Lviv University, Lviv Art Gallery.

Special attention should be drawn to documents sale via the **Internet auctions.**

Generally, Western respected collectors who deal with rare books, ancient maps and documentary rarities follow certain Code of Ethics; at least, some of them. Professional collectors' associations, such as the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) or International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB) pretend to take their Code of Ethics seriously: "It is the cornerstone document that makes us who we are: dedicated professionals with established reputations based upon integrity and reliability.." Point 3(b), in particular, stresses out that "... an Association member shall make every effort to prevent the theft or distribution of stolen antiquarian books and related materials. An Association member shall cooperate with law enforcement authorities and the Associations' Board of Governors in the effort to recover and return stolen materials, and apprehend and prosecute those responsible for the theft, including, but not limited to, providing the names of the persons involved"⁸.

Activities of similar associations do not exclude the opportunities for archives and library thefts, but , at least, make it possible to keep a check on them.

The "documentary rarities" world lives an active and vigorous life. The respected worldwide known auctions, such as "Sotheby's", "Christie's", "Bohnams", "Kotte-Autographs", "Swann Galleries", "Bohnams and Butterfields" and the like offer for sale (in particular, via the Internet) the autographs of outstanding public figures, mostly of the 20th century. The trade of these documents is constantly expanding and, thus, making the situation more precarious. Lermontov's manuscripts, Turhenev's letters, the Russian tsars' decrees are being sold by "Sotheby's"⁹. Recently due to the uncleared origin of Rakhmaninov's Second Symphony its author's score has been withdrawn off sale at

⁶ <http://www.maphistory.info/europethefts.html>

⁷ See special section of "Archives of Ukraine" web portal:
<http://www.archives.gov.ua/Archives/Arhivy-Ukr.php#1>

⁸ <http://www.abaa.org/cgi-bin/abaa/abaapages/code-of-ethics>

⁹ <http://www.express-k.kz/2002/12/05/05.php>

“Sotheby’s” (the estimated dollar value of the manuscript is approximately \$950,000)¹⁰.

Pushkin’s letter is offered for sale in Berlin (approx. \$300,000); correspondingly, in Moscow – Picasso’s lithography album with the artist’ autograph¹¹. Hitler’s watercolour has been sold at Cornwall auction for almost \$10,000¹². Hitler’s portrait with his autograph has been sold in London for \$22,000¹³. Ancient maps are extremely popular; hundreds of them are offered for sale as, for example, by the Swann Gallery (USA)¹⁴.

“Swann is one of the few auction houses to hold regular sales of maps and atlases. Twice a year we conduct auctions that attract scholars, historians, and cartographers, as well as interior decorators and others seeking attractive decorative images. These sales contain atlases and individual maps of locations around the world, as well as fine natural history and historical prints and other decorative graphics. Please contact us to discuss your special collecting interests.”

Notably, within last 5-7 years the autographs’ prices took a 100-200% jump: in 2000 the start price of the documents signed by H. Zhukov or J. Stalin at German “Kotte–Autographs” auction was about \$150¹⁵, and now the similar documents cost thousands dollars.

Three English key words for the Internet search: “autograph”+ “online” + “auction” results in ... **1,800,000 links!**

One of the European Internet auctions offered L. Trotsky’s autograph for €6.000. It is the last page of a German typescript dated by 1927. The document has no visual marks of a state archival holding. But the fact of vandalism is evident. Apparently, we will never know what way all identification signs of the rest of the typescript have disappeared¹⁶.

Generally speaking, most of so-called “autographs” are the first pages of official documents torn out of files in barbarous manner, with instructions appended or the last pages signed by the authors.

One of the US Internet auctions posted clear cynical advertising (**“180,000 autographs for sale. Authenticity – 100%. Reasonable**

¹⁰ <http://www.cultcorp.ru/doc.html?id=8666&sid=122&date=08-12-2004>

¹¹ <http://www.grani.ru/Culture/m.24724.html>

¹² http://www.proza.com.ua/news/05-11-2005_1_950c.shtml

¹³ http://www.hoolig.chat.ru/num2_1.html

¹⁴ http://www.swanngalleries.com/maps_atlases.cgi

¹⁵ See.: <http://www.archives.gov.ua/News/ArchAukcion/#pr-1>

¹⁶ For comparison: Freiser Gallery (UK) offers another Leo Trotsky’s autograph (1926) for £1,700. A famous American “e-Bay” auction offers the original of Revolutionary Military Council Order of December 15, 1919 No 343 signed by Leo Trotsky for \$8,000–9,000 (by the way, having definite marks of a state archival holding). The German “Kotte-Autograph” valued Leo Trotsky’s autograph (1933) \$4,600.

prices. All categories [of documents] available”). It is entitled “History for Sale”¹⁷.

They were proud to offer at least seven documents with typical marks of state archives holdings. The matter concerns three autographs of Joseph Stalin (1936 – \$45,000; 1938 – \$25,000; 1931 – \$30,000;)¹⁸; one of Viacheslav Molotov (1939 - \$999)¹⁹; a letter of Leonid Brezhnev (1947 – \$2,500)²⁰; two documents signed by Nikita Khrushchev (correspondingly for \$4,400 and \$4,900)²¹.

Having no mark of being a state archival holding (for making final conclusions professional expertise is needed, though) the autograph of Laurentii Beria was also offered for sale (1926 – \$5,000)²².

Todd M. Axelrod, the “History for Sale” founder and the President is a respected authority in the collection field. He is modest enough to define his collection as “the largest one in the world which is based on 38 years of his efforts”. The diligent antiquarian provides a qualified English translation of all Russian documents as well as the complete Complete Signer Listing (with above 15,000 names on it)²³.

Todd Axelrod is the author of several books for collectors, in particular, “The Handbook of Historical Documents” – A Guide to Owning History” for the experienced and novice and for those who love history.²⁴ The book is aimed at discovering “wonders of history”. In what way? By investing historical documents, including those as we can see, that apparently have not been examined by experts before entering a bright and attractive “History for Sale” world from public archives!

Besides love for history, certain collectors regard the hobby of collecting historical autographs as reliable long-term investments. You must expect to hold onto them for a minimum period of three to five years before you can start to see a return on your investment. From an accounting standpoint, historical documents may be treated as appreciating assets. They cannot be depreciated.

Immediately after **original documents bearing archival marks** had been discovered at the auctions the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine issued corresponding instructions in terms of expert examination and enhanced control of using the documents signed by political leaders of the 20th century in archives reading rooms. The Russian colleagues

¹⁷ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/default.asp>

¹⁸ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=217253>;

<http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=262319>;

<http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=262313>

¹⁹ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/prodetails.asp?documentid=261568&start=1>

²⁰ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=264499>

²¹ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=258501>

<http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=258503>

²² <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/printfriendly.asp?documentid=262802>

²³ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/displaysigners.asp>

²⁴ <http://www.historyforsale.com/html/prodetails.asp?documentid=263034>

were also informed about the finds as far as according to the preliminary expertise, these documents might probably belong to the holdings of the Russian federal archives.

To all appearances, Russian Internet auctions do not disdain to offer archival holdings either. Actually, a powerful market is in operation in Moscow. The most popular are “Rare Books and Manuscripts”²⁵, a specialized ancient gravures auction²⁶, “Antik.Wariat.Ru” auction²⁷ etc.

The owners of Russian Internet auctions also declare their devotion to “good form”. To one of them, “*The book has to belong completely to a person offering it. The book should not have a state library or museum stamp, or erased stamp signs*”²⁸. Another Internet auction offers a document signed by Alexander I and “Ill’ich’s Questionnaire”²⁹.

The latest document offered by a collector from Aktobe (Kazakhstan) is V. Lenin’s handwritten questionnaire of 1921 party conference delegate with typical (for the party archives documents) stamped pagination in the right top corner. The document is professionally restored. On March 20, 2006 the opening bid was just \$500; two weeks later it went up to \$2,000³⁰.

Alexander’s I autograph is offered by a collector from Archangelsk...just for \$30, but a starting rate of the bid has not been achieved for a week³¹. At the same time, in contrast to the emperor’s signature, the opening bid of A. Tarasov’s autograph, a famous hockey player, is \$1,000³².

The section titles of the international post-Soviet “Auctions-SU”³³ sound strikingly cynical: “Documents, Photos, Literature”, “Medals Books and Deeds”, “Medals Certificates”, “The Red Army, the Soviet Army, VMF (the Navy), VVS (the Air Forces), PVO (the Air-Raid)...”, “VChK-KGB, NKVD-MVD”, “Diplomas, Deeds”, “Other Documents”) as incontestable proof of the auction management intentions to sell everything that is much in demand. And fashionable, of course. There are, in particular, posters of L. Brezhnev times, extremely popular photos of WWII period, other rarities both of the USSR epoch and Russian empire times.

The same auction offered the “Feldpost” collection which, undoubtedly, is of archival origin. We mean 400 letters of the WWII German militaries with unprecedentedly low (\$140!) bid made by a

²⁵ <http://www.rarebook.ru/index.htm>

²⁶ <http://www.gravura.ru/>

²⁷ <http://www.antikwariat.ru/>

²⁸ <http://www.rarebook.ru/u029.htm>

²⁹ <http://www.antikwariat.ru/categoriesparent2112>

³⁰ http://www.antikwariat.ru/showpic.php?pic=uplimb/mb101135_456764408_mainpic.img

³¹ <http://www.antikwariat.ru/lot118902>

³² <http://www.antikwariat.ru/lot119525>

³³ <http://auction-su.com/aboutus.php>

collector from Zaporizhzhia³⁴. First, for almost fifty years such documents have belonged exclusively to archival special fonds. Sometimes they happen to be kept uncontrolled and not properly organized. Secondly, the collection is of integral nature which is hardly possible in case of its sporadic acquisition. Thirdly, its minimum bid proves the owner's desire to get rid of the collection as soon as possible.

Again, a Kyiv collector put to the same auction a personal file of Ivan Kipot, Hero of the Soviet Union (with the "USSR Ministry of Military Forces" title page, its reference code crossed); just for \$100. Similar files are kept at the Russian Central Archives of Ministry of Defense³⁵. But each time new documents of the kind appear on the auction list³⁶.

Naturally, the above list is just a digest (in the sense of widely available information) and does not cover all "legal" documents sales in Ukraine. The rest of the documents for sale can be compared with an iceberg hidden in water or, to be more exact, shadowed.

Today, due to rapid Ukrainian "black" market development, the number of auction sales (documents included) is increasing with certainty. To experts' pointed remark, "Ukraine is being covered with auctions like a tree – with leaves"³⁷. First of all, we mean works of art trade. Taking into account current international trends one should expect numerous documents for sale at Ukrainian auctions in the nearest future; first and foremost, so-called "autographs". For example, "Antique-Centre Gallery" ("Epokha"), "Azbuka", "Lotok", "L-Art Gallery" and other auctions are gradually gaining popularity among collectors. Ukrainian auctions are characterised by "silent" (no open advertising) sales: only "reliable" trustworthy buyers are informed about sales. In every Ukrainian town there are two or three antique shops; in large cities – about ten, in Kyiv - about twenty. Compare: in Moscow – 200 antique shops, in Paris – 1,500³⁸. Hence, future auction development prospects in Ukraine are obvious.

From 2006 onwards the Portal of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine provides regular information in terms of probable archival documents to be offered for the Internet auction sales (see Section "Attention! Archives at Auctions!")³⁹.

The USA immediately responded to the threats mentioned: the 2006 National Archives budget was increased, and a "Help the National Archives Recover Lost and Stolen Document" special section was

³⁴ <http://auction-su.com/auctiondetails.php?id=101643>

³⁵ <http://auction-su.com/auctiondetails.php?id=101669>

³⁶ <http://www.archives.gov.ua/News/ArchAukcion/#pr-4>

³⁷ <http://www.uaportal.com/>

³⁸ <http://www.alpha-avizo.com/index.php?page=art&file=ET7/a>

³⁹ <http://www.archives.gov.ua/News/ArchAukcion/>

opened on the National Archives website with the list of the lost documents enclosed⁴⁰:

“National Archives staff members will follow through to determine if the document in question is a lost or stolen historical U.S. government document. If it is found to be so, National Archives staff will request the return of the document. Contact the National Archives to report a lost or stolen historical U.S. government document. You may be contacted for additional information, and will receive a thank you from the National Archives for your assistance.”

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) joined an active counteraction against thefts. In August, 2005 a panel discussion on “Archival Thefts and Security: What Is to Be Done with Impossible?” took place at the annual meeting in New Orleans (In the mid-1990s SAA published the books: “Libraries and Archives: An Overview of Risk and Loss Prevention (1994)⁴¹, “Protection for Your Collections: A Manual of Archival Security” (1995)⁴²; and “ACRL Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries” have recently appeared in print⁴³).

Lately a series of special theft and losses prevention guidelines has been published. Among them one can find a well-known William Moffett’s study “Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries”⁴⁴. The Annex contains a significant document, that is, “Draft of Model Legislation: Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials”, which, in particular, should be adjusted to legislation in force on both federal and state levels.

The North-Eastern Document Conservation Centre developed the guidelines on “Emergency Situations: Disaster Contingency Planning and Loss Prevention in Cases of Fire, Flood, Pest Risk, Theft and Vandalism”⁴⁵ and published a fundamental manual “Collections Security: Planning and Prevention for Libraries and Archives”, by Karen E. Brown and Beth Lindblom Patkus)⁴⁶.

In the thefts context the classical book of John J. Jenkins “Rare Books and Manuscripts Thefts: A Security System for Librarians,

⁴⁰ <http://www.archives.gov/research/recover/>

⁴¹ See: http://www.rbms.nd.edu/standards/theft_guidelines.shtml#top

⁴² See: http://www.rbms.nd.edu/standards/theft_guidelines.shtml#top

⁴³ <http://www.ferris.edu/library/SpecCollections/SAA/Securityinstructions.pdf>

⁴⁴ Moffett, William. “Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries”, in: *College and Research Libraries News*, March 1988, pp.159–62; ACRL Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries http://www.rbms.nd.edu/standards/theft_guidelines.shtml#top. Revised version: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/guidelinesregardingthefts.htm>.

⁴⁵ See Russian translation:

<http://user823621.sf1000.registeredsite.com/ruplam32/rusec31.htm>

⁴⁶ See.: <http://www.nedcc.org/plam3/tleaf312.htm>

Booksellers and Collectors” (New York, 1988)⁴⁷ is perceived anew. The legal aspects of the issue have been actualized in Vincent A. Totka’s study “Preventing Patron Theft in the Archives: Legal Perspectives and Problems” (1993)⁴⁸.

The largest USA libraries have begun total inventory of their manuscript and map collections. Significant budgetary financing is fixed for digitization, above all, of map collections. The latter, in contrast to archival holdings, were, so to say, “lucky enough”: as theft objects they have been digitized on a substantial scale; consequently, in the course of time that might result in complete isolation of original documents from reading rooms.

The proposed measures are characterized by a key aspect: *Regulations on Work with Documents have to be equally applied to both researchers and the archival staff.*

A French librarian F. Lapèlerie (the Library of Mediterranean University, O-Marseille-II) is the author of the latest publication on thefts, illegal books and documents trade: “Copernic, Galilée, Ptolémée and the others. Rare Books Movement in Eastern Europe”. He puts the emphasis just on the western vector of stolen documents movement and comes to a sad conclusion: today you cannot rely either on the latest technologies or on researchers who seem to be decent; unfortunately, you have to distrust even your colleagues...⁴⁹

As a response to mass museum, library and archives thefts Museums and Libraries Security Group (at UK Museums and Galleries Committee) published a manual “Museum, Archives and Libraries Security” in 1998 in Great Britain.

The amended and updated edition of the manual (2003) is aimed at thefts prevention measures. Prepared by the UK Museum, Library and Archives Council its new edition is to be published⁵⁰.

In April, 2002 the National Library of Wales conducted a “Responding to Theft” special seminar⁵¹.

In 2003 “New Guidelines to Safeguard Collections in UK Museums, Archives and Libraries”⁵² appeared in print – a comprehensive set of practical recommendations, procedures and information to

⁴⁷ Jenkins, John J. “Rare Books and Manuscript Thefts: A Security System for Librarians, Book-sellers and Collectors”. New York: Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, 1988.

⁴⁸ Totka, Vincent A., Jr. “Preventing Patron Theft in the Archives: Legal Perspectives and Problems.” *American Archivist* 56 (1993): 664–72).

⁴⁹ Lapèlerie François. “Copernic, Galilée, Ptolémée et les autres. Trafics de livres précieux en Europe de l’Est” // BBF (Paris). – 2001. – T. 46, No 6. – P. 6–13; <http://www.enssib.fr/bbf/bbf-2001-6/01-lapelerie.pdf>

⁵⁰ <http://www.resource.gov.uk/action/managingrisk/managingrisk.asp>

⁵¹ See the Report: <http://www.maphistory.info/aberseminar.html>

⁵² See: <http://te.verweg.com/pipermail/msn-list/2003-June/000055.html>; also: <http://www.swmlac.org.uk/print.php?ID=28&SID=444>

safeguard the collections in museums, archives and libraries developed by specialist security staff from over 70 museums, archives and libraries across the country have pooled their extensive experience of protecting collections against criminal activity. The guide covers a wide range of security issues including: criminal activity and fire; security staff, alarms; physical defenses; bag searching; bomb warnings; event and exhibition security; disaster planning.

The website of UK Museums, Libraries and Archives Council offers special pages relating to emergency situations at museums, archives, libraries; in particular, “Guide on the Action to Be Taken in Cases of Theft, Criminal or Accidental Damage (including indemnified material)”⁵³. There is also Object Identification List to be filled on-line in case of theft or disaster⁵⁴.

Another evidence of understanding terrible threats to archives was “International Cooperation for Protection against the Theft and Illicit Trade of Archives” Round Table within the framework of ICA Congress in Vienna in August, 2004 chaired by a French archivist Pascal Even.⁵⁵ The participants stated that for several years public archives had faced increasing numbers of thefts of archival documents. Certain factors explain this phenomenon: on one hand, a noticeable expansion and change in composition in the user community in recent decades, on the other hand, the monetary value of certain archival documents due to their character as autographs or collectors objects in ever higher demand. Archival documents are thus under more threat from malevolent acts today than in the past. The study of measures to combat trade in archival documents should enable better cooperation at an international level for the preservation of the integrity of public archival heritage.

It was pointed out that thorough marketing of Cultural Heritage private trade (via the Internet included) was a burning issue.

The participants also discussed the issues of rarities market and limited public strict impact on it. The state has to take appropriate and careful steps in order to prevent further shadow market development and breaking off contacts with collectors.

The participants put the emphasis onto necessary strengthening of international cooperation, developing adequate measures, such as creating Archives Protection Supervisory Boards worldwide. Volodymyr

⁵³ See:

[http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=73&Document/@id=19259&Section\[@stateId_eq_left_hand_root\]/@id=4332&Session/@id=D_YKcr786sGgWDv1bptlWb](http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=73&Document/@id=19259&Section[@stateId_eq_left_hand_root]/@id=4332&Session/@id=D_YKcr786sGgWDv1bptlWb)

⁵⁴ See:

<http://www.wien2004.ica.org/fo/programmes/php?ctNv1=1&ctNv2=29&id=358&dt=&vd=1093437000>

⁵⁵ See:

<http://www.wien2004.ica.org/fo/programmes.php?ctNv1=1&ctNv2=29&id=358&dt=&vd=1093437000>

Kozlov, Director General of Russian Federal Archives suggested implementing scientific approach to thefts and criminals classification⁵⁶.

Despite certain positive outcomes, the general impression of Round Table was far from optimistic: most archivists were unanimous as for their almost total helplessness.

Nevertheless, a year later the activities seemed to be more enthusiastic. In April, 2005 at the European Bureau of National Archives (EBNA) meeting in Luxemburg the Archives Task Group was created with a view to analyze the theft issue in the EU archives.

The recommendations of the Task Force report aim to make a real difference and impact on individuals and communities. It's an ambitious agenda, but this work is essential to create a strategy for national knowledge management, and for saving and storing our present for future generations.

In September, 2005 in Stockholm a seminar was conducted; the conclusions of the discussion were summarized and preparation for a large scale 2007 European Forum was announced.

In October, 2005 the Report on Stockholm seminar "Theft Protection of Archival Collections" signed by Tomas Lidman, Director General of National Sweden Archives was submitted to EBNA. The Guidelines for EU archives were designed by five Task Groups and, correspondingly, were distinguished into five following groups:

1. Best practice with regard to national and European law and lost archival documents recovery;
2. Protection and prevention of damage to archives;
3. Reinforcement of training and understanding;
4. Thefts in archives: current trends;
5. Organisation.

The Guidelines were followed by a special "Thefts Prevention Measures" chapter of the final document "Report on Archives in the Enlarged European Union" prepared by request of the Council of Europe in November, 2005⁵⁷.

For the first time the above documents contained real suggestions concerning counteractions against illegal records movement, in particular: obligatory registration of documents and their origins by rarities sellers; monitoring of rarities sales catalogues; immunity from taxation for the citizens who obtained stolen documents and brought them back to the archives; strengthening of records movement control within the archives; entitling archives employees to provide researchers with record copies (instead of their originals); promoting research in

⁵⁶ *Tiurina E.* Krazhy v arkhivakh i ikh preduprezhdenie // Otechestvennyie arkhivy. – 2004. – № 6. – С. 13–14; http://www.rusarchives.ru/publication/icaiv_i.shtml

⁵⁷ Published on EC website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/edoc_management/introreportArch_en.htm

terms of special methods on marking documents; familiarizing with EU Liber Library Security Network⁵⁸; developing European stolen documents database similar to the stolen works of art database. Within EBNA framework a special Task Group has to conduct a thorough examination of the issue and represent the summary at a special conference in 2007.

At the same time the thefts issue was discussed (notably, for the first time at a high-level meeting) at the EURASICA 6th General Conference in Lviv in September, 2005.

Directors General of ten European and Asian national archives adopted the Declaration that stated, in particular, that in the context of recent archival thefts in Europe the archival records had become the objects of sale due to: violation of normative and legal acts regulating access to records and their movement, insufficient protection level of archivists as well as outdated protection means. Thereby, with a view of enhancing counteraction against illegal movement of archival records the participants of the Conference have undertaken the obligations as follows: to exchange information with regard to the archival records recovered within foreign countries on the illegal basis; to exchange overall investigation results relating to thefts and illegal movement of archival records; to urge the national governments to review the national legislation in force; to stipulate for strengthening responsibility for theft and participation in illegal movement of archival records; to take additional measures aimed at enhancing archives protection; to improve social protection of archivists and promote their professional status. There was a proposition as for target consideration of the issue at an Archives Forum⁵⁹.

Thus, archival community is gradually becoming aware of thefts as real and extremely serious threat for archives.

We distinguish the major reasons of the threat aggravation as such:

- increase of users non-professionalism (that is, appearance of “mass”, “non-academic” researchers in archives reading rooms);
- providing exceeding services to users, insufficient volume of archives facilities (reading rooms included);
- growing market demand for archival documents, especially for the autographs of outstanding public figures; besides, rapid “black” market development in Eastern Europe;
- lack/insufficiency of strict national legislation which must implement obligatory examination of archival records origin in antique shops;
- low level of archivists social protection in Eastern Europe which results in personnel crises and provokes to “internal” thefts;

⁵⁸ www.kb.se/liber/news/library_security.htm

⁵⁹ <http://www.archives.gov.ua/News/EVRAZIKA.php#3>

- unsatisfactory archives protection level due to outdated protection means in some Eastern European countries;
- imperfect internal archives guidelines regulating access to documents as well as their movement within archives;
- inadequate security copy volume in archives; in its turn, it leads to providing researchers with originals both in reading rooms and archivists' offices. For example, in Ukrainian archives the security fond amounts to less than 3% of the general massive of the National Archival Fond documents.

Thus, we can witness a fact of powerful illegal market having appeared at the beginning of the new Millennium, with a circulation of documents stolen both from the public and private archives.

Archival thefts are basically different from museums and libraries thefts: **in most cases**, archives thefts and sales of stolen documents are mainly performed by a **corrupted archivist**, in other words, ***this is mostly internal criminal***.

An external criminal can be effectively counteracted by technical protection means as well as by limited original documents movement within the archive owing to digital and other copies; in case of *an internal criminal* ANY protection is helpless. **Page-by-page** marking of **all documents** aimed at preventing originals movement outside archives is physically impossible worldwide because of enormous archives' records volumes.

Unlike museum or library thefts, the archives ones are much less visible: actually, the fact of a document disappeared can be established while inventory or inquiry made for a lacking document, so it might take ages to establish the fact of the theft in archives.

To summarize it all, we can state that total avoiding of internal archives thefts is unreal today, thus, we have to concentrate well-coordinated international efforts so that to define stolen documents on markets and block illegal movement of archival records.

Prevention of illegal movement of documents can be accomplished only through efficient (and private, at least at the moment) dissemination of knowledge on a stolen document or monument. What way?

We suggest development of the thesis from “Report on Archives in Enlarged European Union” on creation of all-European stolen documents database similar to the stolen works of art and rare books centralized comprehensive databases developed by international and national specialized organisations (Interpol⁶⁰, Museum Security Network⁶¹, Rare Manuscripts and Books Section Security Committee of American

⁶⁰ See special section of Interpol website “Stolen Works of Art”: <http://www.interpol.int/Public/WorkOfArt/Default.asp>

⁶¹ Museum Security Network (MSN). Supported by International Council on Museums (ICOM) and International Council of Museum Security (ICMS) (<http://www.museum-security.org/>).

Libraries Association⁶²), as well as various e-forums (Interlock⁶³, “Exlibris”⁶⁴, “Map History/History of Cartography: the Gateway to the Subject”⁶⁵, Heritage Map Museum⁶⁶) etc. The stolen rarities are sometimes registered by Antiquarian Associations (for example by the International Antiquarian Mapsellers Association)⁶⁷.

The Interpol keeps an eye on such stolen works of art as illuminated Middle Ages manuscripts, but there are no traces of the USA Presidents’ autographs stolen from the USA National Archives; whereas from the point of view of market costs the above documents are basically the same. Yet a stolen archival document has not found its place within the stolen cultural values system. The centralized registration of similar objects is not performed by either international criminal structures or professional or non-government organisations.

So, expedient implementation of international stolen documents and manuscripts centralized control is absolutely evident. Such database can be developed due to joint efforts of international archival community on the basis of an international professional association. It has to cover ALL European archives, taking into consideration that Eastern European archives are the main source of archival rarities, whereas the major market is represented by West European auctions. Moreover, globalization processes in this criminal sphere exceeded all European bounds. It seems logical to develop all-European Stolen Documents and Manuscripts Register within the framework of European ICA Section.

The database is supposed to include the stolen objects throughout Europe registered and described on different levels according to the International Standards of Archival Description, ISAD(G). Access to the database needs to be strictly managed; in other words, be available just for police authorities, special expert groups, national archives senior management.

Along with this it might be logical to develop and implement another open access database which could cover all “suspicious” (as for their origin) documents offered for auction sale worldwide. On the other hand, this database should also include the data on all found and recovered documents/files. It would enable archives to search for and recognize “their” stolen values. We are positive that such project can ensure introduction of a new highly-performed international cooperation with regard to counteraction against thefts and stolen documents recovery.

⁶² http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/security/theft_reports/

⁶³ Registration: <http://lists.webjunction.org/mailman/listinfo/publib>

⁶⁴ <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byform/mailling-lists/exlibris/>

⁶⁵ <http://www.maphistory.info/theftlinks.html#libraries>

⁶⁶ <http://www.carto.com/mapthefts.html>

⁶⁷ <http://www.antiquemapdealers.com/>

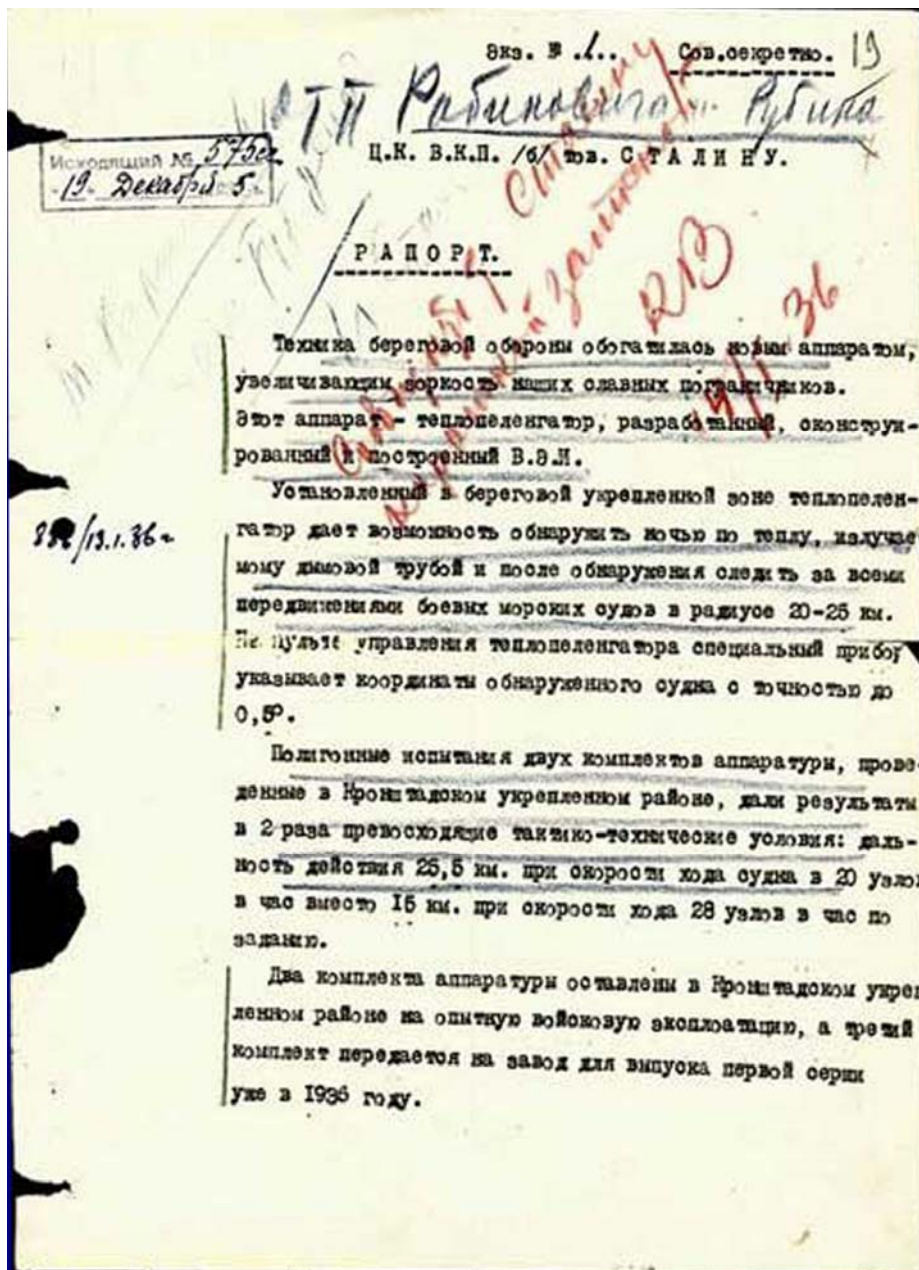
We would also recommend to work out similar databases in all regional ICA Sections.

Discussion on information openness relating to stolen documents is also on the agenda. From our own experience we can assert that because of *illegal, non-civilized*, “black” market of criminogenic character in Central and Eastern Europe, information on stolen documents cannot be public so far since in that case it would make illegal collectors destroy or hide stolen documents for a long time.

Archives security system is also a target for reconsideration and change. Almost all components of security systems in operation (both technical and organizational) are intended to make documents unavailable for external criminal. At the same time almost 100% archival thefts are committed by archival employees. Based on this, it is necessary to adhere to the key position while taking thefts prevention measures: strategic reorientation onto “*internal*” criminal (instead of an “*external*” one). I.e., **prevention measures philosophy** needs to be fundamentally changed and, thereby, strict regulations on work with documents (wide limitations range included) have to be equally applied to both researchers and the archives staff. First of all, it concerns records movement control at all stages.

Positive prevention measures also include special stamps, holograms, e-chips etc. for especially valuable documents. **Probably, the only thing beyond the control of the mankind is an internal criminal factor or, paraphrasing it, professional betrayal.** In that case all technical security and protection means are of no help. The latest observing systems are unable to watch each step of an archives employee. And no archives worldwide are able to install electronic PAGE-BY-PAGE protection means for billions of documents.

SAMPLES OF PRESUMABLY ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS
FOUND ON THE INTERNET AUCTIONS



ФОРТЕЛЕГРАММА №

2102

Получена в США

28 Apr 22

Заставленная

Стемпольна

1917 г. 405 132

Републик.

1016

М. Станислав

Мен Кавенс отбор
визитирован
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визитирован

М. Станислав

7357

179

✓ 187 2/25
По истечении 48 часов с момента получения, шифровка подлежит возвращению в Секретно-Шифровальный Отдел Наркомвнешторга СССР

Место для резолюций и виз

ШИФРОВКА

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

Сактике копий воспрещается

НЕКЛЕДАННОЕ

Из Нью-Йорка, в № 5093.

И. ТИХОМИРОВ, копия САВИНУ.-

Получена
18.УП.39г.
09ч.05 м.

Отпечат.
19.УП.39г.
14.3 экз.

- 1-подлин.
- 2-Тихомирову
- 3-Савину
- 4-рабочий.

На мраморных заводах у нас осталось несколько миллионов около 2500 квадратных метров различных сортов мрамора из них около половины результате замены части мрамора облицовки штукатуркой чтобы избежать еще больших расходов. Остальная часть предусмотрен справедливый процент вклада на случай боя. Продать этот мрамор помощью Амторга до сих пор не удалось. Цены предложенные нам ниже помини. В случае если нам не удастся добиться продажи на приемлемых условиях просю разрешения пожертвовать эти остатки мрамора городу или правительству. Отправка обратно в СССР и дальнейшее хранение будет стоить до 10.000 долларов.-

16.УП. - ТИХОМИРОВ.

ВЕРНО: *09/17*

Расп. Белевская, 18.УП. 13ч.40м.
Отпечат. 10час.20 мин.

Прокатні цехи заводу "Запоріжсталь"
2005/1
30/5-45
II

130

КОМУНІСТИЧНА ПАРТІЯ (Більшовиків) УКРАЇНИ
ЗАПОРІЗЬКИЙ ОБЛАСНИЙ КОМІТЕТ

Відділ _____
Підприємство, посади якого
не вказано і номер

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К И Е В ЦК КП/У
СЕКРЕТАР ЦК КП/У
Товарищу КАГАНОВИЧУ Д. М.

Направляю Вам, Лазарь Моисеевич, образцы
продукции прокатных цехов завода "Запоріжсталь":

- горячекатаный лист не травленный,
- горячекатаный лист травленный,
- холоднокатаный лист не отожженный,
- холоднокатаный лист отожженный и дроссированный.

Завод изготавливает горячекатаный лист толщиной
2-6 мм., шириной 710-1500 мм., и холоднокатаный лист
толщиной 0,75 - 2,0 мм., шириной 710 - 1450 мм.

Годовая производительность горячего тонколисто-
вого непрерывного стана 800 тысяч тонн, холодного тонко-
листозового непрерывного стана 220 тысяч тонн.-

СЕКРЕТАРЬ ОБКОМА КП/У / *Л. БРЕЖНЕВ* /

З-ар.

503 484 -2. 489

Совет Министров УССР и ЦК КП/б/У объявляет немедленно проверить выполнение планов дополнительного открытия торговой сети, ремонта действующих торговых предприятий, освобождения торговых помещений занятых не по назначению, ход строительства хлебобулочных предприятий и обеспечить выполнение этих заданий до пятого декабря 1947 года по каждому городу рабочему поселку району объекту строительства.

Совет Министров УССР и ЦК КП/б/У обращает Ваше внимание на исключительную важность полного проведения всех мероприятий, обеспечивающих выполнение постановлений Правительства по этому вопросу.

Двадцать восьмого ноября представьте отчет о выполнении настоящего указания.

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЬ СОВЕТА
МИНИСТРОВ УКРАИНСКОЙ ССР

СЕКРЕТАРЬ ЦК КП/б/У

Н. ХРУШЕВ

Д. КОГОТЧЕНКО

Handwritten signatures and notes:
113/703
23/11-47

Серия 2

171

КИРОВОГРАД

ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЮ ОБЛКОЛХОМА

товарищу ИРВИНУ

СЕКРЕТАРЮ ОБКОМА КП/6/7

товарищу Петрову *Петров*

Совет Министров УССР и ЦК КП/6/7 телеграммой 14 ноября объявил: Вас обеспечить выполнение плана поставки картофеля и овощей военным потребителям в ближайшие пять дней, однако на 20 ноября по Вашей области поставки картофеля и овощей военным потребителям до сих пор не закончены: Киевскому военному округу еще необходимо картофеля 1234 тонны; Одесскому округу картофеля 1375 тонн и овощей 766 тонн; Министерству внутренних дел картофеля 1206 тонн.

Такое непредусмотренное отставание грозит невыполнением поставки картофеля и овощей военным потребителям.

Совет Министров УССР и ЦК КП/6/7 требуют от облисполкома и обкома КП/6/7 выправить положение и в ближайшие дни целиком закончить сдачу и отгрузку военным потребителям всего заданного количества картофеля и овощей.

Наряду со сдачей картофеля и овощей военным потребителям принять меры к полному выполнению плана закладки картофеля в государственный запас.

Совет Министров и ЦК КП/6/7 еще раз предупреждает облисполком и обком КП/6/7, что план поставки картофеля и овощей военным потребителям должен быть безоговорочно выполнен полностью.

И. ХРАБОВ *И. КОРОТЕНКО*
15/11/71 КП/6/713
мф

Зубов 20/12/19 172
П Р И К А З
РЕВОЛЮЦИОННОГО ВОЕННОГО СОВЕТА РЕСПУБЛИКИ

№...2113...
"15" декабря 1919 года
гор. Москва.

§ 1.

Член Революционного Военного Совета 6-й Армии т. БИТКЕР назначается Окружным Военным Комиссаром петроградского Военного Округа.

§ 2.

Окружной Военный Комиссар Петроградского Военного Округа т. ИСАКОВ назначается в распоряжение Политического Управления Революционного Военного Совета Республики.

Председатель Революционного Военного
Совета Республики

Заместитель Начальника Политического
Управления Революционного Военного Совета Рес-
публики

Красовский
К. С. М.р. 25/19

ЛИЧНАЯ АНКЕТА

ДЛЯ ДЕЛЕГАТОВ НА ВСЕРОССИЙСКОЙ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ Р. К. П. (большевики).

1. Фамилия, имя, отчество Урицкий (Василий) Михайлович Иосиф
2. С каким голосом (революция или социализм) участвует
3. Делегатский билет № 54
4. Какой организацией делегирован М. К. РСД.
5. На каких Всероссийских партконференциях и съездах участвовал с революционным голосом:
в Вос. Член РСД съезде, на Всероссийской конференции.
6. Год рождения 1870 год
7. Национальность Славяне
8. Образование (класс, средн., высшее)
9. а) Основная профессия и специальность до 1917 г. Водопроводчик
- б) Сколько лет работал на этой профессии: с 1894 до 1917 г. 23 лет.
10. а) Основной источник средств к существованию до 1914 г. Водопроводчик, мастер по электротехнике
- б) в 1914-1917 гг. Земледелец
- в) в 1917-1921 гг. член РСД. М. К. РСД. Мастер по электротехнике
11. Какую общественную работу выполняете в настоящее время член РСД. - с. т. о.
12. Какое участие принимаете в настоящее время:
 - а) в кооперации
 - б) в профсоюзах
 } на профессиональной профессии участвую
13. Какую партийную работу выполняете в настоящее время член РСД.
14. Когда вступили в Р. К. П. в 1915 году.
15. Состояли ли раньше в других партиях, когда, каковы РСД.
16. Подвергались ли репрессиям за революционную деятельность (когда)
арест в Москве в 1907 г. и арест в Иркутске в 1908 г. - 1909

- Сколько арестов претерпели:
- 1) в тюрьме по делу "Зем." в 1907 и 1908; 14 мес. 1895-1897.
 - 2) на каютах КС РСД
 - 3) в ссылке в Иркутске (Сибирь, Иркутск г.).
 - 4) в концлагере 1908-1909 - 1908-1912
- Подпись Урицкий (Василий)

14 июля 1921 г.

~~492~~

ТАЙНИТЕ НЕ РАЗКРИВАЙТЕ СЕБЕ ССОР



ЛИЧНОЕ ДЕЛО

Кадрашвили

№ 123456789

КНПОТЬ

№ 123456789

ИВАН СЕРГЕЕВИЧ

№ 123456789

1881



ЛИЧНОЕ ДЕЛО

Жуковник

ВОЙНСКОЕ ЗВАНИЕ

КЕВРОЛОВСКИЙ

СЕМЛЯ

[Redacted]

ИМЯ ОТЧЕСТВО