

THE EPISTEMOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTION OF DIPLOMATICS AND ITS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHIVAL THEORY IN BRAZIL

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, new forms of document production, new communication media and information technologies have challenged both practical and theoretical Archival Science to rethink its concepts and principles, as well as the role of the archivist in the information society. In this new scenario of reformulation and reinterpretation regarding the perspectives of archival knowledge organization, the Contemporary Diplomatics has emerged.

Specifically in the Brazilian reality, Diplomatics has provided a tool for archivists to understand documentary sets. Such tool is the study of Documentary Typology, which is an application of the Diplomatics method proposed by Duranti in *Diplomatics: new uses for an old science*. Since then, some Brazilian Archival Science authors have based their theory and practice on Contemporary Diplomatics studies, but with no specific questioning on the origins and original purposes of Diplomatics as a background to its development as a discipline. Considering the practical connection between Archival Science and Diplomatics some authors have assumed that the first archival thoughts were actually born with Diplomatics old works.

OBJECTIVES

This poster aims to present the Phd research in Information Science that has been carried out in Brazil, at *Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp)*, and in Italy at the *Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Medioevo e Rinascimento e Linguistica dell'Università di Firenze*, which analyzes the epistemological construction of Diplomatics and its possible contribution to Archival Theory in Brazil. Its *specific objectives* are:

- To identify and systematize the Diplomatics landmarks and its main works (from *de re Diplomatica*);
- To identify in these selected works the divergent and convergent traits regarding the nature of Diplomatics, its origin, purpose and object of study;
- To identify if there is a "conducted line of thoughts" in this works;
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- To identify if these works treat the subject of archival organization and how they do it;
- To verify if there is an epistemological foundation of Archival Science in these works.

METHODS

In order to achieve the outlined objectives, it has been carried out an exploratory, theoretical and documentary study focusing the reading of main Diplomatics works (*Traités de ancièn règime* and *i Manuali Moderni e Contemporanei di Diplomatica*) and the selection of important definitions and terms that will be used to analyze divergent and convergent traits .

PARTIAL RESULTS

The first part of the research, which focused on the reading and extraction of definitions and terms from the main Diplomatics works (from XVII to XIX century), demonstrated that the *traités de ancièn règime* were not concerned about establishing diplomatic concepts and definitions, which can be observed in Diplomatics Modern Manuals. This difference demonstrates that from the XIX century Diplomatics achieves a disciplinary status much more strong than that established on XVII century.

It is also important to highlight that most works of *ancièn règime* used to dedicate a chapter or more to the Archives, which might have led some Brazilian authors to misunderstand the relationship between Diplomatics and Archival Science, on this first moment. The archives were usually approached in these works because they used to allocate the object of study of the diplomatist: the document (*diploma*).

CONCLUSION

On this first moment and based on these preliminary results, it can be said that Diplomatics do not contribute to an epistemological foundation of Archival Science because it did not have any concern in establishing concepts or building theory and methods for archival organization. Thus, it can be observed an interest in describing the archival institutions, but only because they are used to allocate the diplomas.

