

The Archives Challenge

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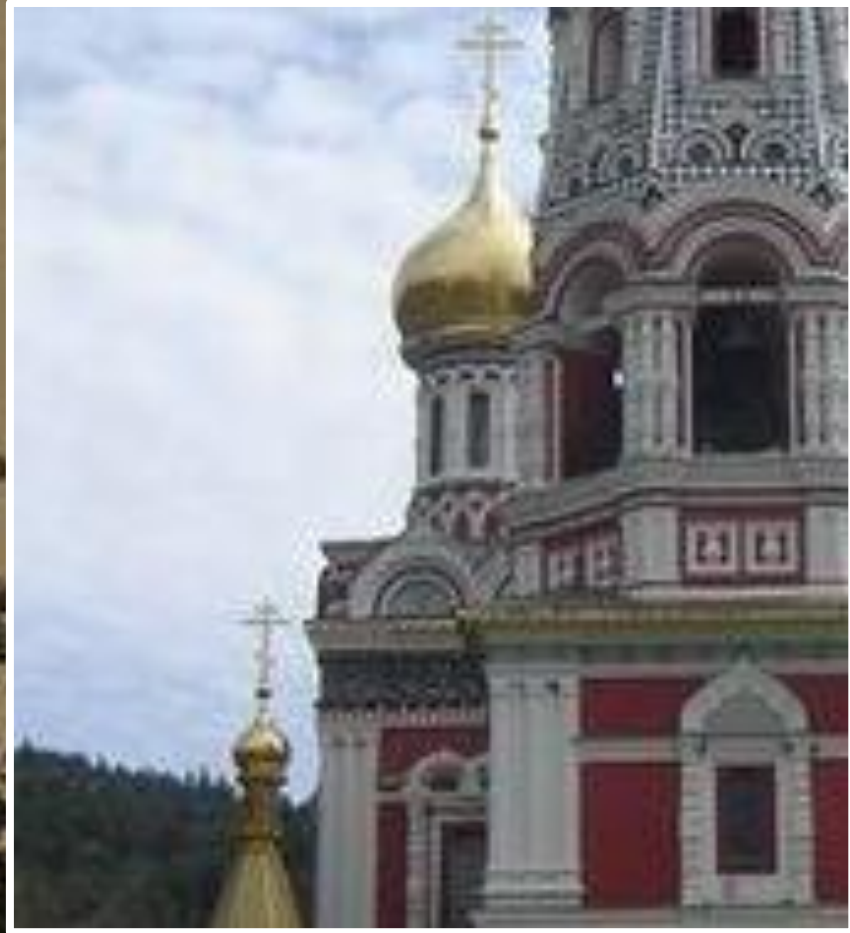
Outline

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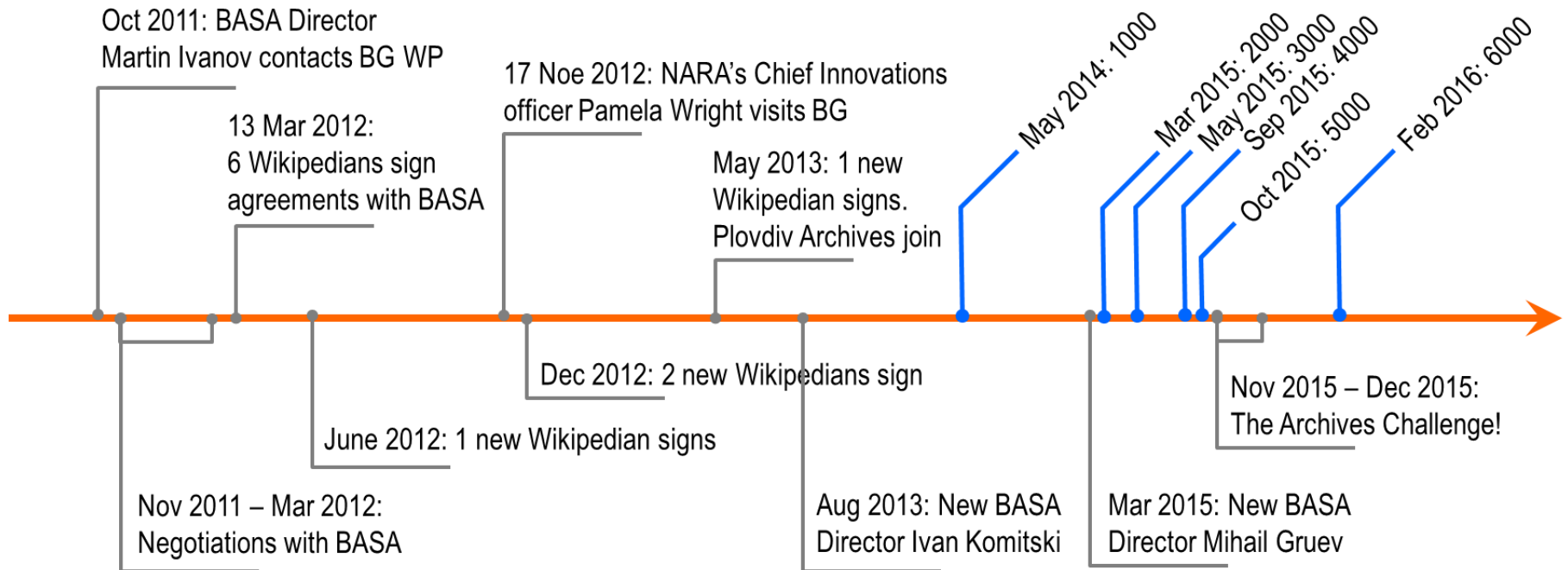
Collaboration with the Bulgarian Archives

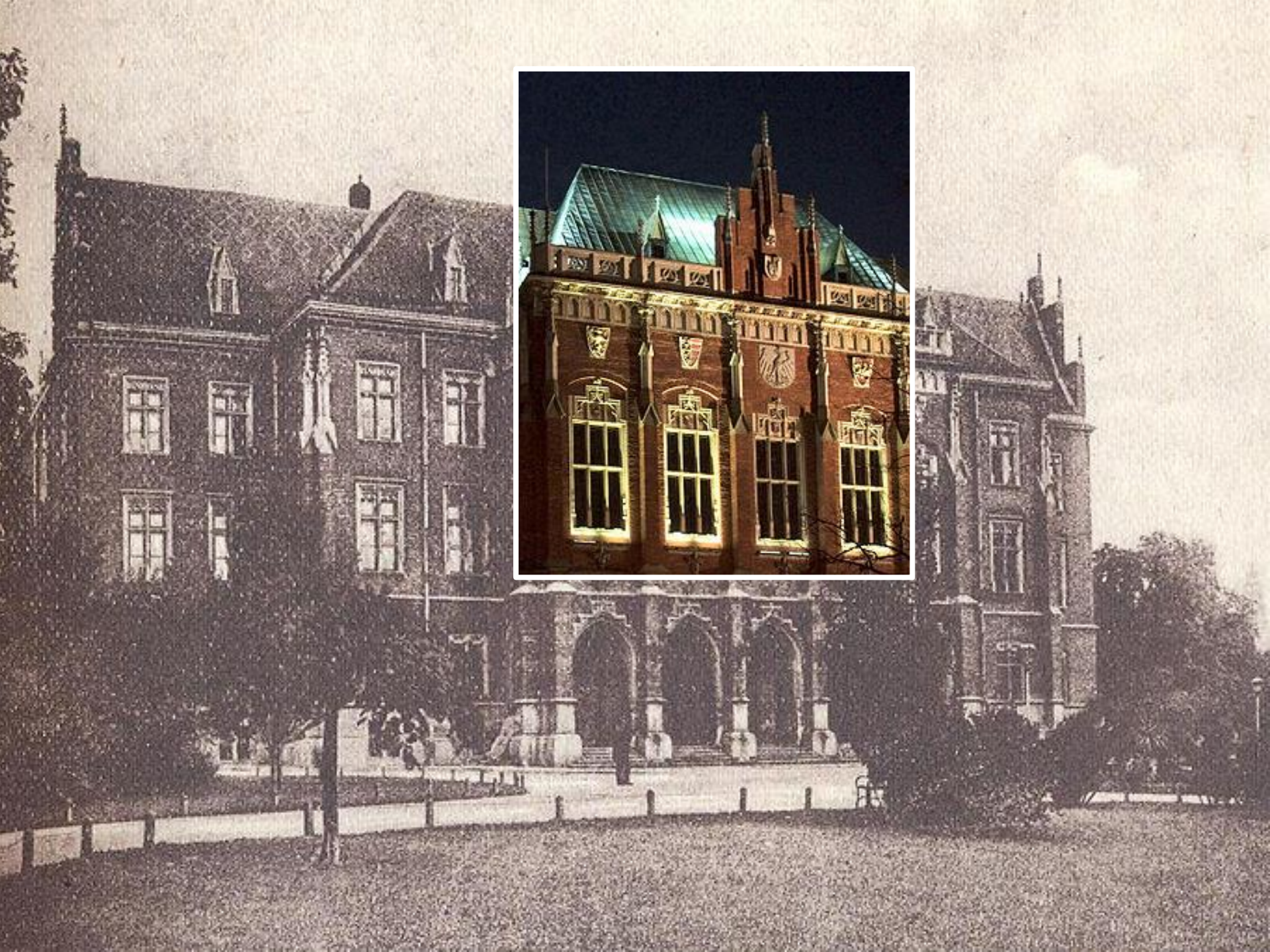
- Beginning
 - Bulgarian Archives State Agency (BASA) is responsible for the conservation and documentation of government and historical records, and allowing public access to them.
 - Collaboration with BG Wikipedia was initiated by BASA's Director, Assoc. Prof. Martin Ivanov, in November 2011,
 - Ivanov was inspired by a lecture about US Archives' collaboration with the US Wikimedian community.



Collaboration with the Bulgarian Archives

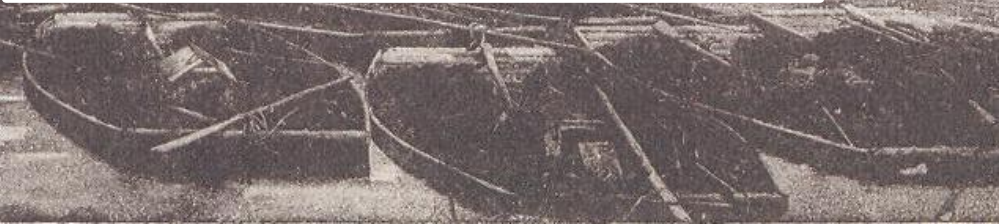
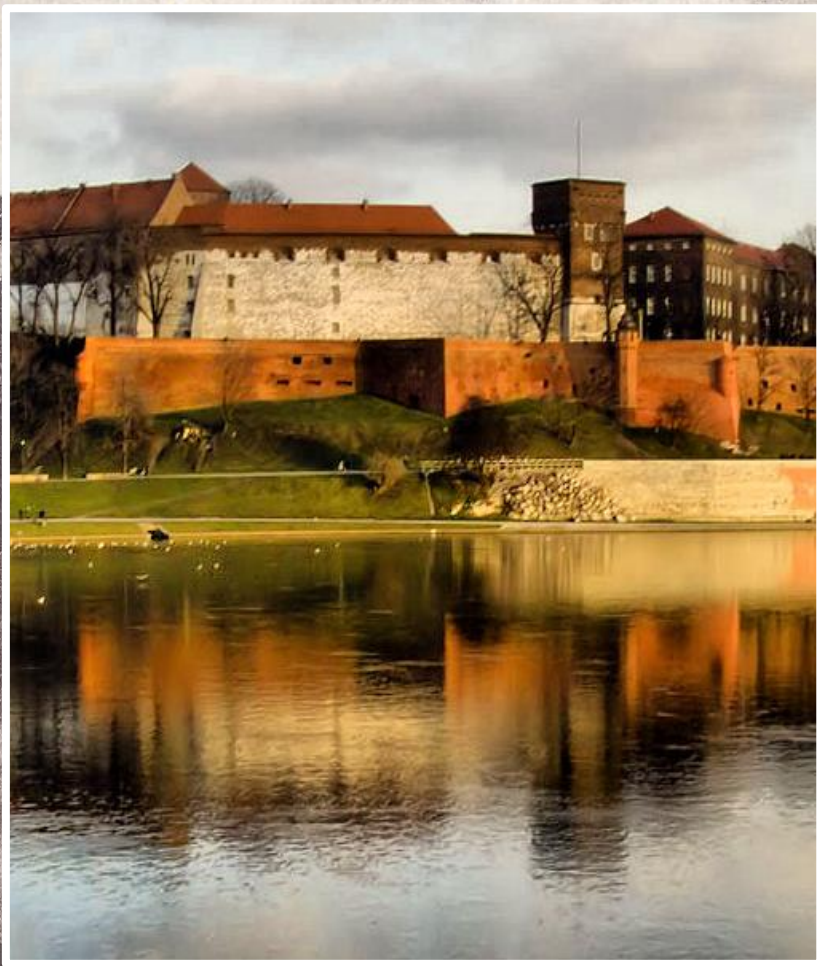
- Timeline





Collaboration with the Bulgarian Archives

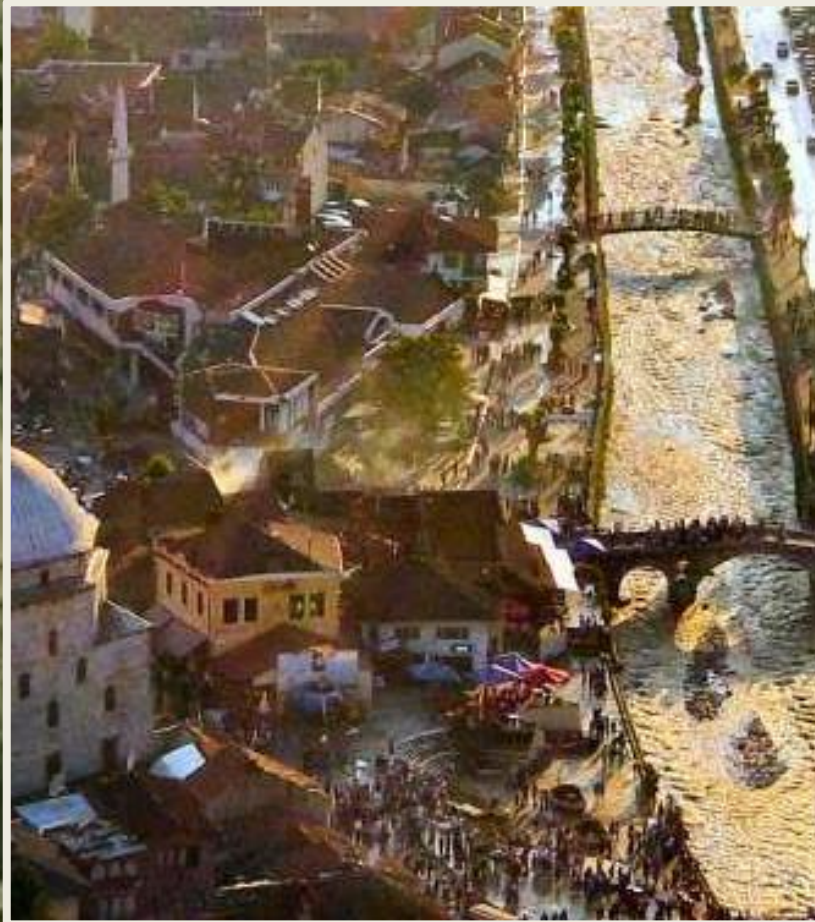
- Archival issues:
 - Late archives digitization in BG
 - Poor document descriptions and metadata
 - Almost all catalogues are on paper and unsearchable
 - Few documents available at a time



Collaboration with the Bulgarian Archives

- Technical issues:
 - Equipment: own laptops, cameras and scanners
 - Good free wifi connection provided by BASA
 - New accounts: '**BASA <account>**' for easier tracking of project-related contributions
- Content issues: What we digitize?
 - Illustrative content: people, places, events, etc.
 - Documents: acts, statutes, newspaper clips, etc.
 - Can be OCR-ed and used as primary sources

Πορταριά στα γρ. ΠΡΙΣΡΕΝΤ
Ορειό του PRISREN



Collaboration with the Bulgarian Archives

- Results:
 - 6100 + scanned and uploaded documents
 - In Bulgarian Wikipedia: 1278
 - In other languages: 908
 - In Wikidata: 252
 - Distinct images used: 1267 (20.50% of all) *
 - Number of new articles created: 119

* Source: *GLAMorous*



1 Месеmврия. Общъ изгледъ



Messemyria.

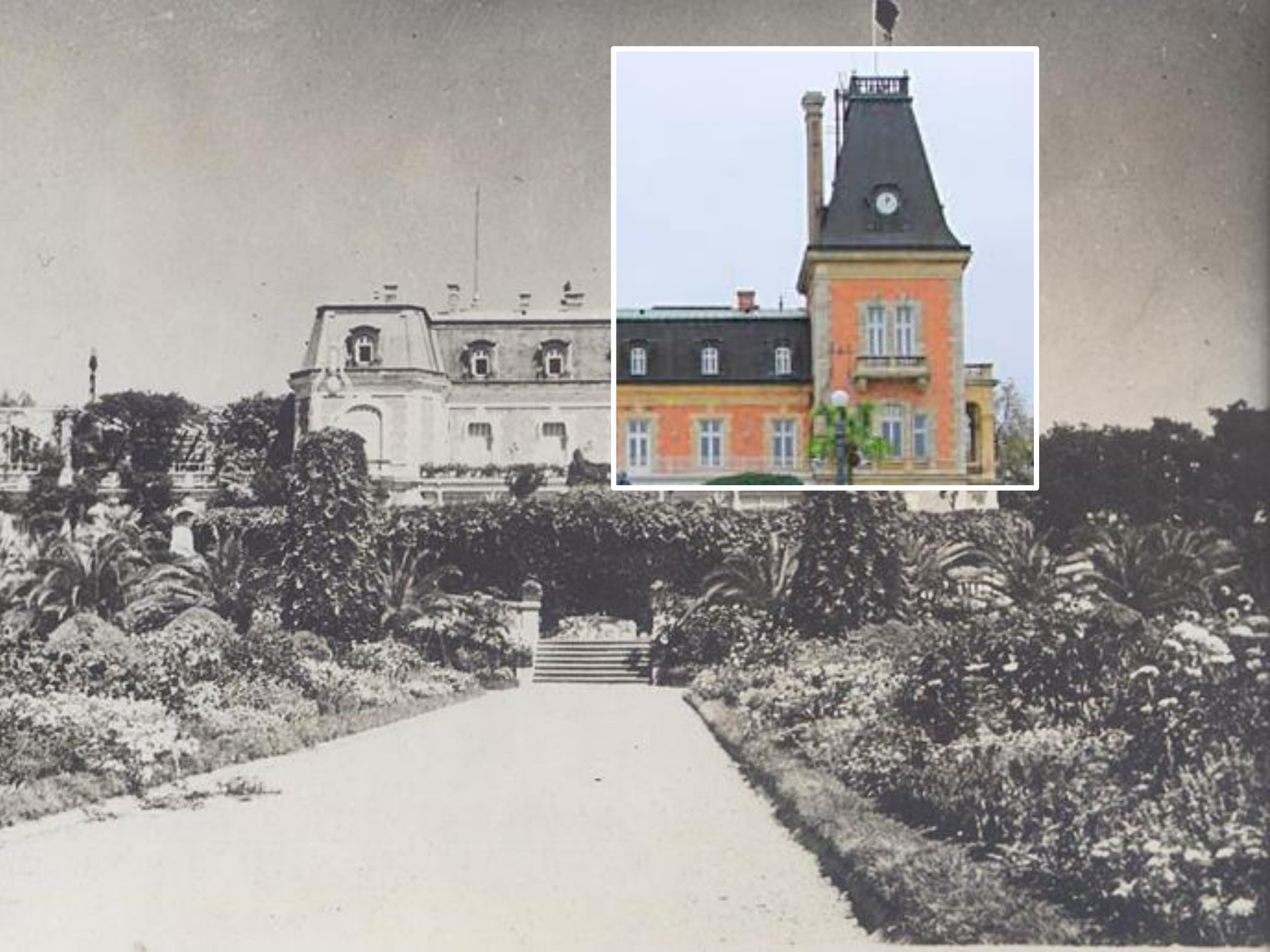
The Archives Challenge

- Idea: To encourage
 - Improvement of the file descriptions in different languages,
 - Addition of more categories and making the documents easier to find,
 - Better utilization of the BASA content:
 - Addition of the images to articles
 - Creation of articles, based on the images.



The Archives Challenge

- Internationalization:
 - The challenge was originally oriented towards the Bulgarian Wikimedia Community.
 - However, we soon made it international by:
 - Promoting it among our friends from Central and Eastern Europe (via the Facebook group)
 - Encouraging users to contribute in English.
 - Creating a coordination page on Meta and getting it translated in German and Spanish.



The Archives Challenge

- Results:
 - 13 participants from 7 language versions
 - Created descriptions: 3202
 - Edited descriptions: 268
 - Added categories: 2387
 - Images added to articles: 597
 - New articles: 94 (454 500 bytes)
 - Pairs of “Then and Now” images: 57



Future plans

- 2016 Edition of the Archives Challenge:

We hope to repeat the successful contest from 2015 by:

- Attracting **more editors** in different languages
- Getting **at least 1/3** of all BASA images used in articles in different languages (currently 1/5)
- Getting more written **articles in foreign languages** (*huge potential here!*)
- **Inspiring other** national archives and wiki communities to organize similar challenges



Future plans

- Planning a PEG grant for a travelling exhibition:
 - Organizing exhibitions major cities in Bulgaria
 - Showing the best examples of the GLAM collab between BG WP and BASA,
 - **Aims:**
 - Deepening the Wikipedia / Archives relation
 - Creating contacts with other GLAM institutions
 - Improving the contacts with local Wikimedians
 - Contacting and educating local media
 - Producing more free content.



Хисаря. „Камилите“

Hissar, Les chameau