Abstract: Scholarly life between university and family. The historian Harold Steinacker viewed through his letters to Hildegard Katsch (1916–1930)
Based on the 169 letters of the historian Harold Steinacker to his second wife Hildegard Katsch, which were discovered in March 2021, this article essentially addresses three aspects of Steinacker’s biography in the years 1916–1920/1927–1930: Firstly, his role as a family man after the death of his first wife immediately after the end of WWI, when he found himself in emotional and material distress (from which he found a way out especially with the help of his sons and H. Katsch); secondly, his career as a university professor, which he was able to continue with the support of H. Katsch and which, in addition to teaching and research, was characterised by his efforts to obtain a better paid position at a larger university; and thirdly, the development of his views on contemporary politics which he tried to disseminate in his texts as well as in his lectures.
Keywords: Harold Steinacker – Hildegard Katsch – private letters – University of Innsbruck – historical studies