

## IV. ARCHIVAL RECORDS

### 1.1. Observations & General Information

There is no one complete listing of archives a provenance researcher should consult in order to study the ownership history of a given object.

A worldwide listing of approximately a thousand “Holocaust Archives or Archives Relevant to the Study of the Holocaust” sponsored by the Claims Conference is currently being used as a basis for a more complete and extensive compilation by the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). See: <http://www.ehri-project.eu/>.

The International Research Portal for Records Regarding Nazi-Era Cultural Property attempts to bring together as much as possible relevant sources in governmental and non-governmental archives. See: <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources/>.

Aryeh Segal’s “Draft Guide To Jewish Archives” provides a general overview of Jewish archives. However, this draft listing is not publicly available. A copy may be obtained from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, which sponsored the guide.

The Princeton University Library provides an overview of “Judaica Libraries, Archives and Research Centers” with links to the relevant websites around the world. The listing may be found at: <http://www.princeton.edu/~pressman/libjew.htm>

Europeana Judaica, an online project by the European Association for Jewish Culture in London, in association with the Jüdische Sammlung der Universitätsbibliothek der Goethe Universität (Frankfurt am Main) and the National Library of Israel, provides online access to the collections of 22 institutions: <http://www.judaica-europeana.eu>

The main institutions with programs to obtain copies of Holocaust-related documentation from around the world (Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Mémorial de la Shoah/Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine) list in the catalogues to their collections archival documents relating to the spoliation of Judaica. For example, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) holds record group RG-17.010M, which contains files from the State Archives of Upper Austria, Linz with selected records of the Jewish Community of Linz, 1938-1945 relating to the registration and expropriation of Jewish property. The USHMM “Archival Guide to the Collections of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum” provides an overview of Jewish studies archival resources available at the museum’s archive. See <http://ushmm.org/research/center/archguide/>. Information on the archival collections of these institutions may be found at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org); [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org); and [www.memorialdelashoah.org](http://www.memorialdelashoah.org).

## 1.2. Selected Archives

In addition, the following is a list of archives known to contain information on the history of the looting of Judaica or on looted Judaica as such. This list is by no means complete, but rather a first attempt to draw together information for a provenance researcher interested in investigating looted Jewish cultural and religious property.<sup>165</sup>

### *Archives in the United States:*

#### **National Archives and Records Administration**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Ardelia Hall Collection, holds records maintained by the Fine Arts & Monuments Advisor in the time period between 1945-1961. In addition, the archive holds several records pertaining to post-war restitution. See for example the file RG 260, Ardelia Hall Collection, Box 283, which discusses restitution matters among members of the State Department, the WJC, and the Committee for Recovery of Jewish Cultural Property [CRJCP].

These records are available online at: <http://go.fold3.com/holocaust/>

Address:

National Archives at College Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
USA  
<http://www.archives.gov>

see also: Bradsher, Greg. *Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland*. National Archives and Records Administration: Washington D.C., 1999, available online at: <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/finding-aid/>

#### **American Jewish Historical Society/Archives**

The AJHS houses the archival records of many of the major Jewish organizations of the United States, especially those focusing on international relief efforts and national communal defense.

Address:

American Jewish Historical Society  
Center for Jewish History  
15 West 16th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
USA  
Tel: 1.212.294.6160 ext. 5100

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<sup>165</sup> Professor Patricia Kennedy Grimsted's "*Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder: A Guide to the Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) and the Postwar Retrieval of ERR Loot*" provides an extensive list of archives. Parts of the guide can be accessed at: <http://www.errproject.org/survey.php>

Email: [reference@ajhs.org](mailto:reference@ajhs.org)  
<http://www.ajhs.org/reference/archives.cfm>

### **The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives**

The Archive holds the archival records of the New York office of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). The bulk of material falls between 1940 and 1980.

An inventory is available at:

<http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/collections/catalog10.html#>

See also the specific file: Supplement, Commission of European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction. *Tentative List of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Axis-Occupied Countries* Vol. VIII, No. 1, 1946, AJA, WJC Papers, Box E10 [116139-240]; and Memo, *Recovery and Distribution of Jewish Cultural Treasures Through the JCR*, September 25, 1950, WJC Papers, Box E10 [116010-012]. The American Jewish Archives also holds Series E “Cultural Department, 1943-1974” which includes the records of New York’s Cultural Department directors, Simon Federbush and Wolf Blattberg, together with reports, publications, and other material pertaining to the activities of the New York branch of the Culture Department.<sup>166</sup>

Furthermore, the Sub-series 2 (Miscellaneous, 1943–1966, 1971) includes files on the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. 1945-1949 (box 13) and 1950-1954 (box 14).

Address:

Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director  
 Kevin Proffitt, Senior Archivist for Research and Collections  
 Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College  
 3101 Clifton Avenue  
 Cincinnati, OH 45220  
 Tel: 1.513.221.1875; for Dr. Zola, ext. 3303, for Mr. Proffitt, ext. 3304  
 Fax: 1.513.221.7812  
 Email: [gzola@huc.edu](mailto:gzola@huc.edu)  
<http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/>

### **Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress holds a vast Hebraic Section including specific files on the exchange of letters between representatives of the Commission of European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, such as “Report on the Operations of the JRSO 1947-1972”, no date [120174-193]

Address:

The Library of Congress  
 101 Independence Ave, SE  
 Washington, DC 20540  
 USA  
 Tel: 1.202.707.5000  
<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

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<sup>166</sup> The Culture Department in New York was established in March 1945 to assist with the reconstruction of spiritual and cultural life of Holocaust survivors, which included the recovery of cultural treasures and communal archives.

### **Center for Jewish History**

The Center holds the archival records of the Leo Baeck Institute as well as of YIVO's Institute for Jewish Research.

Address:

15 West 16th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
Tel: 1.212.294.8301  
<http://www.cjh.org/>

The Center for Jewish History has created an online scrapbook on book stamps from books looted by the Nazis and sorted by Colonel Seymour Pomrenze, one of "the Monuments Men," at the Offenbach Archival Depot. The scrapbook can be accessed at:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/center\\_for\\_jewish\\_history/sets/72157637913299945/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/center_for_jewish_history/sets/72157637913299945/)

A similar project has been initiated by the University of Pennsylvania entitled "Mapping Books. Library Markings from Looted Books". The project aims to place images of bookplates, bookstamps, and other provenance markings online in order to facilitate identification of former owners and libraries: <http://mappingbooks.blogspot.com/2013/10/library-markings-from-looted-books.html>

### **Stanford University Library**

The University Library holds files on the JCR, specifically a document entitled World Distribution of Ceremonial Objects and Torah Scrolls, July 1, 1949 - January 31, 1952 (no date, Salo Baron papers, Box 231, File 18 [117125])

Address:

Stanford Auxiliary Library (SAL)  
691 Pampas Lane  
Stanford, CA 94305  
USA  
Tel: 1.650.723.9201  
Email: [salcirculation@stanford.edu](mailto:salcirculation@stanford.edu)

### **The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History**

#### **Temple University**

Temple University published the Feinstein Center Database of American Jewish Historical Repositories. The database is accessible online: [www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr](http://www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr)

Address:

Dr. Nancy Isserman, Associate Director  
The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein  
Center for American Jewish History

Temple University  
 1515 Market Street, Suite 215  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102, USA  
 Tel: 1.215.204.9552  
 Fax: 1.215.204.5813  
 Email: [isserman@temple.edu](mailto:isserman@temple.edu)

### **Berman Jewish Policy Archive, New York University**

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive provides online access to a number of Jewish communal documents from leading authors, journals, and organizations. Among these records are the “Minutes of Meetings” from the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (1947-1951), an organization that dealt with heirless Jewish cultural property in the American Zone of Germany. To access the record, go to:

<http://www.bjpa.org/Publications/details.cfm?PublicationID=22286>

### ***Archives in Israel:***

#### **The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People**

The Archives holds the records of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO), among other organizational holdings.

Address:

Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

P. O. Box 39077, Jerusalem 91390

Israel

Tel: 972.2.658.6249

Fax: 972.2.653.5426

Email: [archives@vms.huji.ac.il](mailto:archives@vms.huji.ac.il)

<http://sites.huji.ac.il/cahjp/>

#### **Yad Vashem**

##### **The Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority**

The Yad Vashem Archives holds at a minimum hundreds of documents pertaining to Nazi-looted art specifically and many more so pertaining to Nazi looting of Jewish property in general. In addition, Yad Vashem's Holocaust Art Research Center is in its final stages of compiling a bibliography of documents pertaining to looted-art in the Yad Vashem Archives.

Address:

Niv Goldberg

Manager, Holocaust Art Archive & Art Collection Database

Yad Vashem Museums Division

POB 3477

Jerusalem 91034  
 Israel  
 Tel: 972.2.644.3758  
 Fax: 972.2.644.3599  
<http://www1.yadvashem.org/>

***Archives in Germany:***

**Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives)**

The Federal Archives provide online access to archival records that among other topics also deal with the looting of Judaica. Especially record groups NS 30 (Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg) and B 323 (Treuhandverwaltung von Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München) provide information on looted cultural and religious property.

Address:  
 Potsdamer Straße 1  
 56075 Koblenz  
 Germany  
 Tel: 49.261/505-0  
 Fax: 49.261/505-226  
 Email: [koblenz@bundesarchiv.de](mailto:koblenz@bundesarchiv.de)  
<http://www.bundesarchiv.de>

**Landesarchiv Berlin**

The County Archive of Berlin holds records regarding the *Reichskammer der Bildenden Künste* (Reich Office for Fine Arts). This collection includes registration papers for forced auctions, auction catalogues, etc.

Address:  
 Landesarchiv Berlin  
 Eichborndamm 115 - 121  
 13403 Berlin  
 Germany  
 Tel: 49.30.90264 – 0  
 Email: general inquiries at [info@landesarchiv-berlin.de](mailto:info@landesarchiv-berlin.de)  
 ordering of archival documents: [lesesaal@larch.verwalt-berlin.de](mailto:lesesaal@larch.verwalt-berlin.de)

**Staatsbibliothek Berlin (Federal Library Berlin)**

The Federal Library Berlin holds the estate of Dr. Karl Haberstock, Hitler's principal art dealer.

Address:

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

10102 Berlin

Germany

Tel: 49.30.266 – 0

Email: [info@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:info@sbb.spk-berlin.de)

[http://handschriften.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/de/nachlaesse\\_autographen/nachlassliste.html](http://handschriften.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/de/nachlaesse_autographen/nachlassliste.html)

### **Kunsthau Lempertz**

The art-house Lempertz holds the estate of Julius Böhler, who was next to the above mentioned Dr. Karl Haberstock's Hitler's principal art dealer.

Address:

Kunsthau Lempertz

Neumarkt 3

50667 Cologne

Germany

Tel: 49.221.925729-0

Email: [info@lempertz.de](mailto:info@lempertz.de)

<http://www.lempertz.com/sammlungen.html>

### ***Archives in Austria:***

#### **Archive of the Austrian Federal Monuments Office**

The archive of the Austrian Federal Monuments Office holds files relating to restitution and export records. The general and personal restitution records can be consulted at the Bureau of the Commission.

Address:

Irene Skodler

c/o Bundesdenkmalamt, Hofburg

Batthyany-Stiege, A-1010 Vienna

Tel: 43.1.534.15.271

Email: [provenienzforschung@bda.at](mailto:provenienzforschung@bda.at)

<http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/archiv/?lang=en>

### 1.3. Online Archival Records

In recent years, a number of online archival repositories have been launched. All of these repositories primarily deal with looted art and other records relating to the Nazi-Era. However, interspersed is information on looted Jewish ritual and cultural objects.

[For nation specific online repositories, please refer to the individual country segments.]

Among these archival repositories is foremost the *International Research Portal for Records Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property*. The portal is the result of collaboration among archives and research institutions from a variety of countries to provide online access to widely-dispersed records of the Nazi Era: <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources/>

The website of the *European Holocaust Research Infrastructure* provides a portal of Holocaust-related archival institutions and collections which is accessible at <https://portal.ehri-project.eu/countries>.

The *Jewish Heritage Europe* web portal offers a wide range of news, information and resources concerning Jewish monuments and heritage sites all over Europe. It is a project of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe (RFHE). For more information, please see: <http://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu/>

*Yerusha* aims to collect and encourage surveys of Jewish documentary heritage in Europe. *Yerusha*'s goal is to bring together primary sources beyond national boundaries in an attempt to discover new and relevant documents. *Yerusha* will eventually be an online portal of results of already completed surveys. More information may be found at: <http://yerusha.eu/>.

For a more detailed overview of online research databases, please see: <http://art.claimscon.org/resources/overview-of-worldwide-looted-art-and-provenance-research-databases/>

### 1.4. Claims Conference sponsored archival projects: The Virtual Reconstruction of the Records of the ERR

Beginning in spring 2005, the Claims Conference and WJRO began a large-scale project to compile, image, and make accessible the hundreds of thousands of documents of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR). These records have been scattered among a large number of archives throughout the world, principally archives in Kiev, Moscow, Berlin, Koblenz, Paris, Amsterdam, Vilnius, New York, and Washington. A Claims Conference sponsored guide, written by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, the preeminent expert on WWII displaced archives, and entitled *Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder: A Guide to the Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) and the Postwar Retrieval of ERR Loot*, documents the current locations of all ERR records. It further details their contents, and provides links to online sources. The Guide also describes considerable documentation regarding the

subsequent fate, postwar retrieval, and restitution of the ERR loot. As of December 2015, the Introduction to the guide, as well as chapters on the United States, Israel and the Netherlands are available online.<sup>167</sup>

A previous version sponsored by the Claims Conference was published under the title of *Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder: A Survey of the Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)* by the International Institute for Social History, whose own massive Amsterdam and Paris archival collections were plundered by the ERR and whose building on the Keizersgracht in Amsterdam was used for the ERR headquarters in the Netherlands. The ERR Survey in its first edition produced by the International Institute of Social History IISH-IISG, Amsterdam, 2010 may be seen at <http://www.iisg.nl/publications/errsurvey/>.

The guide also references documents that provide an insight into the looting of specific Hebraica and Judaica collections. This is the case in the reference to a letter written by Koeppen to Kurt von Behr on 23 October 1940 ordering that the Hebraica and Judaica from the Rothschild collections are to be sent to the IEJ. (Archival resource at the *Mémorial de la Shoah, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine* (CDJC), Cartons from the Collection: Archives de Nuremberg – Rosenberg, CXL, 85; page 123 in Dr. Grimsted’s survey.) Another example is the reference to an archival record held at the *Politisches Archiv Auswärtiges Amt* (PA AA), section *Sonderkommando Künsberg* files (R 100676: *Einsatzstab Rosenberg*) that refers to a message regarding the transport of Judaica from Kyiv (April 1942 – June 1943).

In addition, the database “Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume” has been made available online at [www.errproject.org/jeudepaume](http://www.errproject.org/jeudepaume). This searchable database of the looting of more than 20,000 individual art objects from Jews in France and Belgium shows that at least half the objects were not restituted to their original owners. The Claims Conference, working with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, presents each of the original ERR registration cards for over 20,000 art objects in electronic form, listing Nazi ERR code numbers, artwork titles, artists, and detailed descriptions of each work. Many entries include photos of the artworks or objects as well as a scan of the original Nazi record. The database can be searched by owner, artist, or collection, or a combination of criteria.

ERR records in the Ukraine:

The largest collection of ERR documents in the world – 140,000 pages - has been made available at <http://err.tsdavo.org.ua>. The Claims Conference arranged for the documents, held by state archives in Ukraine since 1945 (in secret before 1990), to be imaged and adapted for the Internet. Many documents describe individual items. Others list the number of crates from specific museums or libraries, detailing their origin, date of plunder, and where they were stored or relocated by the Nazis.

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<sup>167</sup> <http://www.errproject.org/survey.php>; specifically: [http://errproject.org/guide/ERRguideINTRO\\_10.15.2015.pdf](http://errproject.org/guide/ERRguideINTRO_10.15.2015.pdf), and [http://errproject.org/guide/ERR\\_USA\\_Aug1-15.pdf](http://errproject.org/guide/ERR_USA_Aug1-15.pdf)

ERR records in Germany:

The second largest collection of ERR documents in the world – that held by the Federal Archives of Germany – has been made available at <http://startext.net-build.de:8080/barch/Midosasearch/NS30/index.htm> and [http://startext.net-build.de:8080/barch/Midosasearch/B323-5209 Version online/index.htm](http://startext.net-build.de:8080/barch/Midosasearch/B323-5209_Version_online/index.htm). The Claims Conference sponsored the digitization of the bulk of these records.