

Country Name: **BULGARIA**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects	N/A	
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	N/A
	Publications	<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) Paunovsky, Vladimir. "The Bulgarian Archives and the Jewish Cultural and Historical Heritage: A Brief Survey." <i>Preserving Jewish Archives as Part of the European Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Conference on Judaica Archives in Europe for Archivists and Librarians</i>. Kuperminc, Jean-Claude. Arditti, Rafaële (ed.). Potsdam, 1999, 11-13 July, Paris: Éditions du Nadir de l'Alliance israélite universelle, 2001, pp 114-118.</p> <p>Due to the lack of a Jewish library within the boundaries of contemporary Bulgaria, the Jewish Research Institute at the Central Consistory of Jews was founded in 1947. An infusion of money allowed the purchase of several hundred manuscripts as well as 6,000 books in Hebrew, Ladino and Bulgarian. Some dated back to as early as the 16th and the 17th centuries. On 21 October 1951, however, as a result of insufficient money for maintenance purposes, the Council of Ministers decided to move the institute into the system of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, first to the Institute of Bulgarian History and, from January 1964 onwards, to the Institute of Balkan Studies. Religious objects, on the other hand, were kept at the Central Sofia Synagogue. Today most of these pieces may be found at the General Religious Council of Israelites and at the Jewish Museum of History in Sofia, founded in 1993 (under the guidance of the National Museum Centre at the Ministry of Culture). During the 1960s and 1970s, as a result of death, departure, but also defection, some of the Hebraica was moved from the Ashkenaz synagogue to the library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 1980, the collection became part of the Central Record Office.</p>
	Information from Other Sources	.
	Historical Commission	
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bar-Zohar, Michael. <i>Beyond Hitler's Grasp. The Heroic Rescue of Bulgaria's Jews</i>. Avon, Massachusetts: Adams Media Corporation, 1998. ▪ Paunovsky, Vladimir. "The Bulgarian Archives and the Jewish Cultural and Historical Heritage: A Brief Survey". <i>Preserving Jewish Archives as Part of the European Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Conference on Judaica Archives in Europe for Archivists and Librarians</i>. Kuperminc, Jean-Claude. Arditti, Rafaële (ed.). Potsdam, 1999, 11-13 July, Paris: Éditions du Nadir de l'Alliance israélite universelle, 2001, p 114-118. 	
Notes	There is no object database, but the Bulgarian Commissariat of Jewish Affairs undertook house-by-house expropriations of Jewish property in the summer of 1943 and recorded inventories of looted items, including household items such as sofas, rugs, or table lamps. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) holds copies of these inventories for Sofia on about 200 reels of microfilm, organized by street address.	

	There was very little restitution of household goods, which possibly included Jewish cultural and ceremonial objects, following the end of World War II. Cultural objects that were not looted during the war were sometimes lost in the early years of Bulgarian socialist transformation.
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See also: Greece and Macedonia