

Country Name: CANADA

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects	N/A	
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	<p><u>Source:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Artefacts Canada: http://www.chin.gc.ca/English/Artefacts_Canada/index.html, last accessed June 2014. (2) James Adams, "The Hunt Is Now On for Nazi-Looted Art in Canada," <i>The Globe and Mail</i>, 9 February 2014. <p>Canada maintains a national on-line database of cultural and religious objects in Canada's cultural institutions: Canada Heritage Information Network (CHIN), <i>Artefacts Canada National Database</i>. As the result of discussions called for by the Claims Conference/WJRO and the Canadian Jewish Congress (since disbanded with functions assumed by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) and subsequent discussions, this database, which contains listings of Judaica (e.g., a silver Torah breastplate held by the Royal Alberta Museum), there are plans to expand the database to allow institutions to add provenance information to artefact files.</p> <p>A number of Canadian institutions, including the National Gallery of Canada, have posted information on their websites concerning items in their collection that have provenance gaps, in an effort to elicit information that can help determine whether any of the items in question may have been looted. In late 2007 the Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization (CAMDO) conducted a Canadian Heritage-funded survey of its 84 members asking them how many works in their permanent collections had gaps in their ownership history between 1932 and 1945. Ottawa has since provided a grant to CAMDO for both provenance research (the results of which will be posted on a searchable database) and the development of guidelines that small and medium-sized museums can use for Holocaust-era research of their own holdings.</p>
	Publications	
	Information from Other Sources	<p><u>Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Email exchange with Janice Rosen, Archives Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress. (2) Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008. <p>Canada was the recipient of looted Judaica (ritual objects, books, etc.) distributed by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (JCR) in the early 1950s. All together, Canada received 2,031 books and 151 museum and synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. Special attention in the distribution of objects was given to the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Manitoba and to the Dominican Institute of Medieval Studies in Montreal. In addition, one special book, an Usiel Hague book on Jews in China, was presented to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The Canadian Jewish Congress was tasked with distributing these books and ceremonial objects to synagogues throughout Canada. In January 1951 the <i>Congress Bulletin</i> reported that "A number of ceremonial objects, formerly the property of European Jews, have been received by the Canadian Jewish Congress and will be kept by the Congress as a memorial... among the articles are the</p>

		<p>appurtenances of a sefer torah, chanukah lamps, Passover seder plates, havdalah incense boxes and silver ornamentation for Taleissim ... the Congress states that the collection will be kept intact in the headquarters of the Congress in Montreal...” Only a few years later, in May 1956, the <i>Bulletin</i> reported that “many of these objects have been placed on loan in various new synagogues and new community centers across the country... Congress made available some of these objects to the newly built congregations in Canada as a permanent link between these congregations and the Jewish communities in Europe which were destroyed.”</p> <p>There is no surviving inventory that details what was received in terms of books and objects. Most of the objects distributed were silver chanukiot, Torah ornaments, as well as old books, including prayer books. None or few books carried a quality of holiness such as Torah scrolls. About 400 books are still in the collection of the Canadian Jewish Congress, while some might have gone to Montreal’s Jewish Public Library. About 45 European ceremonial collections are also still with the Canadian Jewish Congress, although a few are on loan with various museums.</p> <p>A few years ago, the Canadian Jewish Congress, encouraged by the Conference “A Matter of Justice – Canadian Symposium on Holocaust-era Cultural Property,” attempted to locate original heirs following the few leads available. However, none of the heirs were found.</p> <p>The Aron Museum in Montreal, Canada’s first museum of Jewish ceremonial art objects, holds an extensive Judaica collection, with some objects that surfaced on the antiques market in the aftermath of World War II. In addition, the museum holds looted Judaica pieces that were distributed by the Canadian Jewish Congress on behalf of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction in the aftermath of the Holocaust.</p>
	Historical Commission	No.
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Adams, “The Hunt Is Now On for Nazi-Looted Art in Canada,” <i>The Globe and Mail</i>, 9 February 2014. ▪ Arnold, Janice. “Stern Estate Wins Court Order in Looted Art Case”. <i>Canadian Jewish News</i>, 14 June 2007. ▪ Eisenthal, Bram. “Montreal University Leads Fight to Recover Nazi-looted Artworks”. <i>JTA</i>, 29 March 2006. ▪ Moore, Dene. “Nazi Plunder Unveiled“. <i>The Canadian Press</i>, 20 October 2006. 	
Notes		