

Country Name: **FRANCE**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects	Yes.	
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	<p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) Site Rose-Valland, http://www.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/mnr/pres.htm, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>In 2004, the French government published the <i>Catalogue des MNR</i> (Musées Nationaux Récupération), a searchable index of over 2,000 works stolen from victims of the Holocaust and in the custodianship of the national museums of France since 1949.</p> <p>(2) Martine Poulain, <i>Livres pillés, lectures surveillées. Les bibliothèques françaises sous l'Occupation</i>. http://www.cfaj.fr/publicat/livres_pilles.html, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>Martin Poulain's book provides two listings: while the first one focuses on book collections that were stolen from individuals, the second one provides a listing of books stolen from institutions.</p>
	Publications	<p><i>French Jewish objects in the United States:</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) Mayorek, Yoram. "The Fate of Jewish Archives During and After the Holocaust". <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 33-38.</p> <p>(2) Mayorek, Yoram. "Zosa Szajkowski and the Transfer of French Archives to the U.S." <i>Arkhiyyon</i> 1999, pp 10-11 (in Hebrew).</p> <p>(3) Kahn, Eve M. „The Man Who Stole Nazi-Era History From the Streets.“ <i>New York Times</i>, 11 June 2015.</p> <p>(4) Leff, Lisa Moses. <i>The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.</p> <p>Some French Jewish archival material disappeared in the United States after the war: Jewish scholar and archivist Zosa Szajkowski was probably the most avid and known collector. In 1945 alone he managed to send thousands of documents to YIVO and the Jewish Theological Seminary.</p> <p><i>See also section: United States</i></p> <p><i>Heirless Jewish Property in France:</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008.</p> <p>(2) http://www.mahj.org, last accessed November 2013.</p>

		<p>(3) Röhling, Kerstin. <i>Restitution jüdischer Kulturgüter nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg</i>. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2004, pp 36, 49.</p> <p>(4) http://www.mahj.org/en/2_collections/index.php?niv=1&ssniv=0, last accessed 24 April 2015.</p> <p>(5) Hand, Séan. Katz, Steven T. (ed.) <i>Post-Holocaust France and the Jews, 1945-1955</i>. New York: NYU Press, 2015.</p> <p>France received 8,193 books, 125 museum and 219 synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. Specifically, the Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme, the successor museum to the Musée d'art juif de Paris, established in 1948 by a private association in order to pay homage to a culture that had been destroyed by the Holocaust, received Judaica objects from the JCR and the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine received books.</p> <p>Restitutions of religious objects, mostly books, were made after World War II had ended. It is important to note that there was no precise plan to loot Jewish religious or ceremonial objects by the German occupation forces, which is why most synagogues survived the war untouched. Exceptions were the synagogues in Alsace and Lorraine, where the main synagogue in Strasbourg was destroyed. Also in Alsace and Moselle looting of Jewish ritual objects actually took place. After the war, some of the prayer books were found in depots and subsequently distributed among the Jewish communities.</p> <p>The one exception to the above was Paris, where the ERR was looting Jewish cultural and religious objects. Among the many Jewish institutions the ERR targeted were also Jewish libraries, such as the Alliance Israélite. In addition, Rosenberg's <i>Möbelaktion</i> (M-Aktion, furniture action) can be blamed for the looting of Judaica from Jewish households. Moreover, ERR activities in France were largely supported by Hermann Göring and enabled a larger scale of looting than in some other Western countries.</p> <p>By the end of Germany's occupation of France in the summer of 1944, approximately 27,788 cultural objects from about 203 Jewish collections had been aryanized and transported to Germany.</p> <p>However, while much material was sent to Germany, most confiscated books remained in France: 1.2 million volumes alone were found in abandoned depots across France at the end of World War II.</p> <p><i>Please see section on Russian Federation for French Jewish Archival Holdings at the RGVA archive.</i></p> <p><i>Alliance Israélite Universelle</i> <u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) Hand, Séan. Katz, Steven T. (ed.) <i>Post-Holocaust France and the Jews, 1945-1955</i>. New York: NYU Press, 2015.</p> <p>(2) Leff, Lisa Moses. „Post-Holocaust Book Restitutions: How one State Agency Helped Revive Republican Franco-Judaism.“ In: Hand, Séan. Katz, Steven T. (ed.) <i>Post-Holocaust France and the Jews, 1945-1955</i>. New York: NYU Press, 2015, pp 71-84.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the holdings of the Alliance were entirely looted during the</p>
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		<p>Holocaust, the institution was still able to re-establish itself one hundred percent due to the distributions made by the French restitution agencies. This was largely due to the fact that the Alliance itself had functioned as a repository for looted books found in France after the Holocaust. While some books were restituted and left the shelves of the Alliance, another 30,000 heirless books, mainly Hebraica and Judaica, remained in the library. As Lisa Moses Leff noted in her article: “In this way, it was the support of the state that the Alliance was able to rebuild its library, making it stronger than ever in spite of having been emptied entirely during the war.”</p> <p><i>Recently discovered Judaica</i> <u>Source:</u> (1) “French Town Unveils Judaica Treasure Hidden During Holocaust” <i>JTA</i>, 22 September 2013.</p> <p>In Dambach-la-Ville, a town near Strasbourg, dozens of precious Judaica objects were discovered during the renovation of a former synagogue. The cache of these objects were hidden before WWII and included 250 mapot and for example a Torah scroll dating back to 1592.</p>
	<p>Information from Other Sources</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> (1) Information provided by Jean-Marc Dreyfus on 16 July 2007 and on 21 March 2012.</p> <p>The MNR catalogue only provides information on fine arts and not Judaica. Thus far no research has been carried out on the spoliation of Jewish ceremonial objects. Also, provenance research in French cultural institutions does not include Judaica.</p>
	<p>Historical Commission</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> (1) http://www.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/mnr/MnR-matteoli.htm, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>The Historical Commission, also known as the <i>Mattéoli</i> Commission (named after its chair Mr. Jean Mattéoli), published its findings in April 2000 on the spoliation of Jews in France by the government of Vichy in cooperation with the German occupation authorities between June 1940 and August 1944. No research was conducted on the spoliation of Jewish cultural and religious property.</p> <p>As a result of the Commission, the Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Spoliation (CIVS) was set up. The Commission has received a number of claims for looted cultural property, including claims for Judaica. However, no Judaica is mentioned in CIVS’s Annual Reports.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> (1) Bajou, Thierry. “The Restitutions of Cultural Assets in France since 2008.” „<i>The West“ Versus „The East“ or the United Europe?</i> The different conceptions of provenance research, documentation and indemnification of looted cultural assets and the possibilities of international cooperation in Europe and worldwide. Borak, Mecislav. Proceedings of an international academic conference held in Podebrady on 8-9 October 2013. Documentation Centre for Property Transfers of Cultural Assets of WWII Victims, Prague 2014, p.76-79.</p> <p>In Spring of 2013, a working group on the provenance of the MNR collection was set up by Culture and communication Minister Aurélie Filippetti. Due to this new</p>

	push, 7 MNR objects were returned in 2013. The working group is expected to release a final report within the next few years.
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aglan, Alya. “L’Aryanisation des biens juifs en France et en Allemagne”. <i>Revue d’histoire moderne et contemporaine</i> vol. 49, no. 4, October/December 2002, pp 154-169. ▪ Andrieu, Claire. <i>Guide de recherche sur les spoliations et les restitutions, realize à l’intention du notariat, s.l., Mission d’étude sur la spoliation des Juifs de France</i>. July 1999. ▪ Bajou, Thierry. “The Restitutions of Cultural Assets in France since 2008.” „<i>The West“ Versus „The East“ or the United Europe?</i> The different conceptions of provenance research, documentation and indemnification of looted cultural assets and the possibilities of international cooperation in Europe and worldwide. Borak, Mecislav. Proceedings of an international academic conference held in Podebrady on 8-9 October 2013. Documentation Centre for Property Transfers of Cultural Assets of WWII Victims, Prague 2014, p.76-79. ▪ Bertrand d’Orleac Laurence. <i>L’Art de la défaite 1940-1944</i>. Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1993. ▪ Cassou, Jean. <i>Le pillage par les Allemands des oeuvres d’art et des bibliothèques appartenant à des Juifs en France</i>. Paris: Éditions du CDJC, Nr. 4, 1947. ▪ Dreyfus, Jean-Marc. <i>Pillages sur ordonnances: Aryanisation et restitution des banques en France 1940-1953</i>. Librairie Arthème Fayard, Paris, 2003. ▪ Dreyfus, Jean-Marc. <i>Des camps dans Paris</i>. Librairie Arthème Fayard, Paris, 2003. ▪ Fohr, Robert. La Broise, Guillaume de (ed.). <i>Pillages et restitutions. Le Destin des oeuvres d’ art sorties de France pendant la seconde guerre mondiale</i>. Paris: Editions Adam Biro, 1997. ▪ Hand, Séan. Katz, Steven (ed.) <i>Post-Holocaust France and the Jews, 1945-1955</i>. New York: NYU Press, 2015. ▪ Hershkovitch, Corinne. “Offene Rechnungen. Die Restitution von Kunstwerken in Frankreich“. <i>Osteuropa, Kunst und Konflikt. Kriegsfolgen und Kooperationsfelder in Europa</i> 56. Jahrgang, Heft 1-2, Januar/Februar 2006, pp 441-446. ▪ Higgins, Charlotte. “Found: Schiele Masterpiece that was Looted by Nazis then Lost for 68 Years”. <i>The Guardian</i>, 22 April 2006. ▪ Kahn, Eve M. „The Man Who Stole Nazi-Era History From the Streets.“ <i>New York Times</i>, 11 June 2015. ▪ Kalfon, Lucien. “Entschädigung in Frankreich. Zur Tätigkeit der französischen Entschädigungskommission“. <i>Osteuropa, Kunst und Konflikt. Kriegsfolgen und Kooperationsfelder in Europa</i> 56. Jahrgang, Heft 1-2, Januar/Februar 2006, pp 433-440. ▪ Kuperminc, Jean-Claude. “Looted French Jewish Archives: The Case of the Library and Archives of the Alliance Israélite Universelle”. <i>Return from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues</i>. Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy, Hoogewoud, F.J. Ketelaar, Eric (ed.) United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007, pp 135-190. ▪ Le Masne de Chermont, Isabelle. Sigal-Klagsbald, Laurence. <i>A qui appartenaient ces tableaux - Looking for owners</i>. Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Paris, 2008. ▪ Le Masne de Chermont, Isabelle. Schulmann Didier. <i>Le Pillage de l’art en France pendant l’Occupation et la situation des 2000 oeuvres confiées aux musées nationaux</i>. Mission d’étude sur la spoliation des Juifs de France. Paris: La Documentation Française, 2000. ▪ Leff, Lisa Moses. <i>The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. ▪ Leff, Lisa Moses. „Post-Holocaust Book Restitutions: How one State Agency Helped Revive Republican Franco-Judaism.“ In: Hand, Séan. Katz, Steven T. (ed.) <i>Post-Holocaust France and the Jews, 1945-1955</i>. New York: NYU Press, 2015, pp 71-84. ▪ Lorentz, Claude. <i>La France et les restitutions allemandes au lendemain de la Seconde</i>

	<p><i>guerre mondiale (1943-1954)</i>. Paris : Direction des Archives et de la Documentation du ministère des Affaires étrangères, 1998.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayorek, Yoram. "The Fate of Jewish Archives During and After the Holocaust". <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: Editions du Nadir de l'Alliance israélite universelle, 2001, pp 33-38. ▪ Mayorek, Yoram. "Zosa Szajkowski and the Transfer of French Archives to the U.S.". <i>Arkhiyyon</i> 1999, pp 10-11 (in Hebrew). ▪ Neumeister, Larry. "Holocaust Victims Sue Over Lost Property". <i>Associated Press</i> 2 March 2006. ▪ Piketty, Caroline. <i>Guide de recherche dans les archives des spoliations et des restitutions, Mission d'étude sur la spoliation des Juifs de France, Paris</i>. La Documentation française, 2000. ▪ Reymes, Nicolas. <i>Bibliothèques pillées: Le pillage des bibliothèques en France pas les Nazis, spoliations et restitutions allemandes, 1940-1953</i>. Mémoire de maîtrise, CRHMSS de l'université Paris -1-Sorbonne, 1996 ▪ Reymes, Nicolas. "Le pillage des bibliothèques appartenant à des juifs pendant l'occupation". <i>Revue d'histoire de la Shoah</i> 168, 2000, pp 31-56. ▪ Röhling, Kerstin. <i>Restitution jüdischer Kulturgüter nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg</i>. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2004. ▪ "Sisley Painting Looted by Nazis Returned to Rightful Heirs". <i>Associated Press</i> 18 June 2004. ▪ Valland, Rose. <i>Le Front de l'art</i>. Paris: Réunion des Musées Nationaux, 1997. <p>Commission Mattéoli: http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/cgi-bin/brp2/search.cgi?d=1&n=20&q=matteoli</p>
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