### Country Name: GERMANY

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<th>Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country</th>
<th>Yes.</th>
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<td><strong>Existing Projects</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Municipal Library Nuremberg</strong></td>
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The Municipal Library of Nuremberg holds a permanent loan of approximately 8.900.000 works entitled *Sammlung Israelitische Kultusgemeinde* (Collection Jewish Community), formerly *Stürmer-Bibliothek* (Stürmer-library). Julius Streicher either collected these books in the offices of his journal “Der Stürmer” (located at Pfannenschmiedegasse 18) or at his mansion “Pleikershof.” Books belonging to this collection were either outright looted or otherwise misappropriated. Of these 9,000 books, about 4,500 carry the signature “St” (=Stürmer), and can broadly be defined as Judaica. "Anti-semitic writing” accounts for about 15% of this collection and another 1,200 books consist mostly of Judaica. In addition, several thousand books were written by Jewish authors. The Municipal Library of Nuremberg published a list of previous owners, accessible at: [http://www.nuernberg.de/imperia/md/stadtbibliothek/dokumente/suchliste_name-2013.pdf](http://www.nuernberg.de/imperia/md/stadtbibliothek/dokumente/suchliste_name-2013.pdf)

Approximately 2,000 objects are listed on [www.lostart.de](http://www.lostart.de), which includes Judaica such as, for example, a Tanach (Tehilim – Diwrej Hajamim). The Tanach was originally published by Meir ben Josef Meitingen in 1800 and owned by Benjamin Eisenberg. It ended the war in Julius Streicher’s library.

**University of Munich Library**

Sources:


Remnants of the library *Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage* (Research Section Jewish Question) of Walter Frank’s *Reichsinstitut für die Geschichte des neuen Deutschlands* (Reich Institute for the History of the New Germany) can today be found at the University of Munich’s Historicum Library. Frank’s institute was originally headquartered in Berlin. However, in 1936 a branch was opened in Munich, which held the specific section *Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage*. Already by March 1943, through confiscations and looting, the institute had acquired about 27,000 books.

For unknown reasons, in 1945 about 1,000 books of this collection were transferred to the Historicum. The remainder of the library is thought to be lost. Nonetheless some books have surfaced in U.S. university libraries.

Munich’s university library has commenced provenance research and has been able to check about 40,000 books as of 2008. About 1,000 books are currently listed on [www.lostart.de](http://www.lostart.de)

**Bavarian State Library**

Sources:


(3) Email exchange with Stephan Kellner on 17 June, 2008.

The Bavarian State Library has been conducting provenance research since 2004. The library holds several book collections that were originally collected by Nazi agencies/organizations. Most of these books were subsequently categorized as donations to the library. Among these book collections was, for example, the library of the *Ordensburg Sonthofen*, a leadership academy for talent hotbeds within the NSDAP. The Ordensburg Sonthofen library consisted of about 30,000 titles, which in 1946 was handed over to the Bavarian State Library. In addition, the Bavarian State Library was the recipient of books that were collected for Frank’s *Reichsinstitut für die Geschichte des neuen Deutschlands*. When in 1943 precious prints were brought to Passau, several books ended up at the Bavarian State Library.

Moreover, the Bavarian State Library was the recipient of 300 books which were handed over by the military radio station “Radio München,” and of about 150 books that stemmed from the main archive of the NSDAP. In addition, the library was the recipient of the book collection of Rehse, a member of the NSDAP who was appointed to function as the “head of collection” (*Sammlungsleiter*). Via the Library of Congress, which received the bulk of this book collection after World War II had ended, Bavaria’s State Library received parts of this special collection, in 1946 and then again in 1963. (Jahn, p 9-10.)

Lastly the library was the recipient of book collections of known Jewish families based in Munich, such as the families Aufhäuser, Bernheimer, Caspari, Laemmle and Rosenthal.

Special Judaica objects held at the Bavarian State Library include:
- A “Torawimpel” (call number Cod.hebr. 498) originally owned by Abraham Landenberger, also known as Kurt Jakob. Since Landenberger originated from Nuremberg, it is assumed that the *Torawimpel* was connected with a synagogue based in Nuremberg. There are no historical documents explaining how this Judaica object found its way into the Bavarian State Library or if it is looted Judaica.
- The object Mose Isserles, *Se’elôt û-tesûvôt*, Hannover 1710 (call number: 4 A. hebr. 494 o) was originally owned by Moritz Güdemann, who served as Magdeburg’s rabbi in 1862-66 and afterwards as Vienna’s chief rabbi. Most probably his book collection was transferred to a public Jewish library looted in 1938 and sent to the Institute *Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage*.
- A Raschi-commentary (five books of Moses), published in Budapest in 1887, was originally owned by the family Goldberg. The object was probably transferred to the library in 1933.
- The book „Der Retter von Chula. Jüdische Jugend-Geschichten aus dem neuen Palästina“ by Elieser Smolly (call number: Jud. 146 h), published in Berlin in 1934/35, only carries very scant provenance information („Unserm lieben Lev zu Ostern 1936“.) The book was confiscated for the library Ordensburg Sonthofen and in 1945 transferred to the Bavarian State Library.
- Equally there is very little provenance information available for the book „Iber Estreich on politik. Reportage“ (Austria without Politics) by Wachsmans (Paris 1938; call number A.hebr. 979 v). Only a dedication in the front of the book provides information: „Dieses Buch No. 6 ist bestimmt für Herrn Generalkonsul Dr. von Kleinvächter in Freundschaft und Verehrung … Wien, Dezember 1937.” (This book No. 6 is dedicated to Mr. General Consul Dr. von Kleinvächter in friendship and admiration … Vienna, December 1937). The book was probably transferred to the library following Austria’s „Anschluß.“
Since commencing its provenance research, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation; SPSG) has been able to restitute 75 artworks, sculptures and other artefacts. A special project entitled “Beschlagnahmte Bücher: Reichstauschstelle und Preußische Staatsbibliothek zwischen 1933 und 1945. Aspekte der Literaturversorgung unter der Herrschaft des Nationalsozialismus.” (Confiscated Books: the Reichs-Exchange-Center and Prussia’s State Library between 1933 and 1945. The Supply of Literature under National Socialism) researches book acquisitions by Prussia’s State Library during the time period between 1933 and 1945 in addition to the role played by the Reichstauschstelle. The Prussian State Library was, for example, the recipient of books confiscated by the Bücherverwerungsstelle (books evaluation location) in Vienna. Some of the already researched books can be seen in the library’s online catalogue:

http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/

The Staatsbibliothek Berlin receives funding from the Stiftung Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste for its project entitled: “Forschungsprojekt NS-Raubgut nach 1945: Die Rolle der Zentralsstelle für wissenschaftliche Altbestände (ZwA)”. The project, aimed at researching heirless books in the rare book collection, commenced in August 2014 and is anticipated to finish in Februart 2017.

During World War II, the University of Leipzig took an active role in acquiring confiscated book collections, among them books which were looted by the Polizeidirektion (Police Directorate) Leipzig. After the war, the library tried to obtain books from the occupied territories. One of the known cases involves the Geca Kon book collection. The collection was acquired via Austria’s National Library. The University of Leipzig has recently donated the Geca Kon book collection to the National Library of Serbia.

In addition, the University Library was in possession of 12 Torah scrolls that re-surfaced in 1998.
While these Torah scrolls were previously thought to have been looted from Leipzig’s Jewish Community and hidden at the University during World War II, new research contradicts this assumption. Rather, nine of these Torah scrolls were looted from a synagogue in Krosniewice, Poland. Four Torah scrolls were originally owned by the University of Leipzig. They reached the University Library of Leipzig in January 1940. After they resurfaced in 1998 they were buried in part in the Jewish cemetery in Leipzig as well as in Yad Vashem.

University Library Hamburg
Sources:
(3) Email exchange with Maria Kesting [kesting@sub1-hh.sub.uni-hamburg.de], 9 December 2013.

Since 1999, the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg has been conducting provenance research. Confiscated book collections reached the library through the Gestapo. Titles with provenance gaps are listed on www.lostart.de.

Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Klassik Stiftung Weimar
Source:
(1) http://www.klassik-stiftung.de/forschung/forschungsprojekte/?tx_lombkswscientificprojects_pi1%5Bproject%5D=73&tx_lombkswscientificprojects_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_lombkswscientificprojects_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=ResearchProject&cHash=0795c9a9621ce5c36d0f6d7abbb3d5ac, last accessed December 2013.
(2) Email exchange with Rüdiger Haufe, scientific researcher, Anna Amalia Library on 13 December 2013.

The foundation Klassik Stiftung Weimar is systematically checking its acquisitions for looted objects. Thus far, no Judaica objects were among the objects with provenance gaps. The project is expected to come to a close by 2015.

Jewish Museum Frankfurt
Sources:
(2) http://www.juedischesmuseum.de/geschichte, last accessed on 17 June 2008;
The Frankfurt Jewish Museum (Museum Jüdischer Altertümer) was originally one of three independent museums of Jewish art and history established in Germany before 1933. Prior to the Holocaust, the Museum held a vast collection of Jewish artifacts. Today only remnants of this collection are on view at Frankfurt’s reconstituted Jewish Museum. The majority of objects that survived the war were distributed by the JCR (Jewish Cultural Reconstruction). Of the pieces from Frankfurt’s former Jewish Museum, the Israel Museum received 172 objects and congregations throughout Israel another 103 objects. 127 pieces went to museums and synagogues in the United States. The Frankfurt Jewish Community kept 89 objects from its original Jewish Museum.

In regard to the distribution of objects to the United States: The Jewish Museum of New York received priority because of the involvement by the museum’s former curator, Guido Schoenberger.

Frankfurt’s newly constituted Jewish Community tried to assert its right as the legal successor to the destroyed Jewish Community in Frankfurt and thereby wanted to limit the influence of the Jewish successor organizations such as the JRSO and the JCR. In the end, the two sides reached a contractual agreement on the distribution of material possessions such as Judaica objects and real estate.

**Stiftung Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste**

Source:  
(1) [http://www.kulturgutverluste.de/de/projektinformationen/projekte](http://www.kulturgutverluste.de/de/projektinformationen/projekte), last accessed 5 October 2015.

The Foundation supports a number of projects aimed at researching the provenance of Judaica holdings. Among these institutions are:

- a. Braunschweigisches Landesmuseum  
- b. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek Hannover  
- c. Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte  
- d. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz)  
- e. Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum  
- f. Universitätsbibliothek Potsdam  
- g. Institut für die Geschichte der Deutschen Juden  
- h. Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen  
- i. Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin

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<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Looting Cultural Property Databases</th>
<th><a href="http://www.lostart.de">http://www.lostart.de</a></th>
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<td><em>Lost Art</em> provides information on a number of Judaica objects held mostly by German museums and the <em>Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögenfragen.</em></td>
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<td>The City Library Nuremberg provides information on a number of objects that were originally amassed by the “Stürmer” library and are now owned by the Jewish Community. [At the end of WWII, about 8,000 volumes collected by the Nazi-journal “Der Stürmer” and volumes found in Julius Streicher’s country residence, were handed over to the Jewish Community in Nuremberg. The Community subsequently decided to hand the collection to the City Library of Nuremberg as a permanent loan.]</td>
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<td>The Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin (ZLB) also provides information on Judaica, among them an Encyclopedia Judaica (“Das Judentum in Geschichte und Gegenwart”); equally the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von...</td>
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Ossietzky provides information on Judaica with provenance gaps in its collection (Heinrich Heine, “Bekenntnis zum Judentum”).

The Staatsbibliothek Berlin (Preussischer Kulturbesitz), lists various objects, among them items that have already been restituted: “Die erste Jahresversammlung des Vereins von Freunden und Früheren Mitgliedern der Instituta Judaica” (ed. 1884).
(The book was restituted to th “Berliner Missionswerk der Evangelischen Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz”).

The Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen (BADV), the successor to the Bundesamt zur Regelung offener Vermögensfragen (BARoV, active until 2006), lists a number of Judaica objects on www.lostart.de. Information regarding these objects stems from old restitution files, specifically records regarding the Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz (BRüG). Among the “search requests” the BADV lists the following objects on www.lostart.de:

- 222 Judaica and Hebraica books (sig. A.II.4456)
- Fürts, “Bibliotheca Judaica”
- Hamburger, “Real Encyclopedia des Judentums”
- Moses Mendelsohn, “Philosophische Schriften”
- Klatzkin, “Encyclopedia Judaica”
- Klatzkin, “Probleme des modernen Judentums”
- Mandelkern, “Concordanz der Bibel”
- Neubauer, “Geographie des Talmud”
- Schwarz, “Hebräische Handschriften der Wiener Nationalbibliothek”
- Bialik, “Gesammelte Werke”
- Italiener (ed.), “Darmstädter Pessach Haggadah”
- Ginzburg-Stassof, “L’ornement hébraique – Kunstmappe”
- Goldschmidt, “Klagelieder Jeremias”
- “Haggada von Sarajevo”
- Yehuda Halevi, “Kuzari”
- Kubin, “Der Prophet Daniel”
- Siegfried Guggenheim, “Offenbacher Haggada”
- Moritz Oppenheimer, “Bilder aus dem Aljüdischen Famillienleben”
- Oppenheimer, no title
- J.L. Perez, “Gleichnisse”
- “Psalmen”
- Judith Hebbels, “Rosenbaum”
- Schiefler, “Max Liebermann”
- A. Schnitzler, “Der Reigen”
- Steinhardt, “Orgien”
- L. Schwerin, “Das Buch Tobias”
- C. Sternheim, “Drei Erzählungen”
- Franz Werfel, “Paulus unter den Juden”
- Wolf, “Schöpfungsgeschichte”
- Arnold Zweig, “Das Ostjüdische Antlitz”
- Stefan Zweig, “Silberne Seiten mit Illustrationen”
- Stefan Zweig, “Der Zwang”
- Theodor Herzl, “Jüdische Rundschau”
- Fritz Sternberg, “Juden als Träger einer neuen Wirtschaft”
- Sammelband der Prager Kadimah
- “Megillath Esther”
- Abarbanel, “Kommentar zu Moses’ Pentateuch”
- Abarbanel, “Haggada mit Kommentar”
- Abarbanel, “Amsterdamer Haggada mit Illustrationen und Erklärungen”
- Kizur, “Schulchan Aruch”
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- Lazarus Goldschmidt, “Die Heiligen Bücher des Alten Bundes”
- Josef Karo, “Schulchan Aruch mit Deutscher Übersetzung”
- Ozar Kaowski, “Laschon Hamischnah”
- Mikraoth Gedoloth mit allen Kommentaren
- Soncino Pentateuch
- Selichoth, “Bussgebete mit jüdisch-deutscher Übersetzung”
- Talmud Bavli
- Talmud Jerusalem mit allen Kommentaren
- Tur, Choschen Mischpot
- Ze’enah Ure’nah, “Jüdisch-deutsches Andachtsbuch”

According to Andrea Baresel-Brand, the following institutions have reported Judaica objects on www.lostart.de:

a. for Germany ‘found objects’: Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen, Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg, Universitätsbibliothek München / Historicum, Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen (BADV), Referat C 2, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl v Son Ossietzky, Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin (ZLB), Völkerkunde-Sammlung der Hansestadt Lübeck, Preußischer Kulturbesitz / Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

b. for Austria ‘found objects’: Jüdisches Museum Wien

c. ‘search requests’: Völkerkunde-Sammlung der Hansestadt Lübeck, Cohen, Uri Philippus und Eva, Stavenhagen, Dr. Kurt, Glückselig, Samuel (Wien)

University Library Marburg

Source: (1) http://avanti.uni-marburg.de/ub/ns-raubgut/, last accessed June 2014.

“Displaced Books: NS-Raubgut in der Universitätsbibliothek Marburg”
The database offers information on about 7,300 displaced books held by the University Library Marburg, of which 400 were most likely looted.

Adolf Weinmüller Auction House Catalogues

Source: (1) http://www.lostart.de, last accessed June 2014.

Since June 2014, the records of the Adolf Weinmüller Auction House are available online. The available records cover 93 catalogues, with records from 33 auctions in Munich and 18 from Vienna. The records were discovered in 2013 and made available through the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in cooperation with Neumeister Münchener Kunstauktionshaus Munich.

Publications

JCR distribution


Germany received 11,814 books and addition 31 museum and 89 synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II.
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### Source:


Some cultural institutions in Berlin likely hold parts of the original library of Prague’s Jewish Community.

### Jewish Archives

**Source:**


Unlike in many countries occupied by the Nazis, Jewish archives were not deliberately destroyed in Germany itself. In November 1938, the Gestapo ordered the seizure of Jewish archives throughout the Reich. As a result, most Jewish archives were deposited into non-Jewish archives. Some of these archives have not changed location since then.

*Please see section on Russian Federation for Jewish archival holdings at the RGVA archive.*

*See also sections on Israel, Poland and the United States for German holdings.*

### University Library Frankfurt

**Sources:**

3. Email exchange with Rachel Heuberger on 1 September 2008.

The University Library of Frankfurt holds not only the biggest collection of scientific publications on Judaism and Israel but also a vast Judaica collection which was in large part assembled through generous donations by Jews residing in Frankfurt and curated between 1898 and 1933 by Professor Aron Freimann. The collection was saved from aryanizations and other expropriations during the Holocaust.

Due to the library’s close proximity to the *Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage in Frankfurt* and the library’s planned official integration into Rosenberg’s institute – which in practice was never implemented – books looted in all of Europe under the direction of the ERR went into Rosenberg’s institute rather than into Frankfurt’s university library. Nonetheless, a few examples of looted books still entered the university’s library, including books that were integrated into the library after the dissolution of Frankfurt’s Masonic Lodges in 1933, as well as 17 books ”donated” to the library by a Paris-based major general (18 books went to Rosenberg’s institute).
from Other Sources

(1) Email exchange with Bernhard Purin, Director, Jewish Museum Munich. 
(2) Presentation given by Bernhard Purin at the Meetings of the Association of European Jewish Museums in Amsterdam, November 22-26, 2008.

A number of German Jewish museums hold Judaica objects that were in large part acquired in the 1980s and 1990s and are believed to have uncertain provenance:

- **Jewish Museum in Berlin:** In the 1980s, the Jewish Museum in Berlin acquired the collection of Zvi Sofer, the former cantor of Hannover. In the 1950s and 1960s Mr. Sofer had collected a number of Judaica objects, which he purchased, among other places, at antiquity stores in northern Germany.
- **Jewish Museum in Frankfurt:** In the 1980s, the Jewish Museum of Frankfurt acquired a number of pieces of Judaica from auction houses such as Parke-Bernet and Christie’s.
- **Jewish Museum Westfalen in Dorsten:** The museum acquired Judaica in the 1980s mainly from antique stores or via Christie’s in Amsterdam.
- **Jewish Museum Franken – Fürth and Schnaittach:** The museum holds the collection “Gundelfinger,” which was donated to the museum in 1998. In 2001, a Torah-plate was restituted to the heirs (Dottheim Brooks). According to Bernhard Purin, who was instrumental in the restitution of this object, three more items currently held in the museum have the same provenance. The collection was originally amassed by a returning emigrant who had started to collect Judaica in the area around Nuremberg shortly after the end of the war. On the other hand, the collection in Schnaittach was most likely amassed by its director in 1938 through spoliation and looting. In 1952, Guido Schoenberger, a JRSO representative, confiscated some of these objects and sent them to the Jewish Museum in New York and to the Skirball Museum. Nonetheless, according to Bernhard Purin, it seems likely that the Schnaittach collection still holds looted objects.
- **Jewish Culture Museum Augsburg:** The museum administers a precious collection of south-German rimmonim and Torah plates which were handed over to the Jewish community in Augsburg shortly after the end of the war. Since a number of synagogue objects in South Germany were in private ownership, it is plausible that some objects might have uncertain provenance.

During the conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums in Amsterdam (2008), Bernhard Purin noted that the Jewish Museum Munich was created from a private collection in the 1980s but is doing research on what happened to objects that were in the synagogues of Munich. Provenance research into the records of the confiscations of the collections of 180 Jewish art collections in Munich has been initiated.

Judaica of uncertain provenance is not only a concern for Jewish museums in Germany, but also for some of its local museums, which equally have Judaica objects that similarly entered their collections without necessarily any scrutiny.

**Historical Commission**

> Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.

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