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| Country Name | ITALY |
| Existing Projects | |
| Known Objects | |
| <i>Information taken from looted cultural property databases</i> | |
| <i>Information taken from publications</i> | |
| <i>Information taken from other sources</i> | <p>1) <u>Source</u>: Email exchange with Mr. Dario Tedeschi, President of the Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome, looted in 1943, on 8 October 2007, 11 April 2007 and 13 November 2008.</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: Sarfatti, Michele. The work and the findings of the ‘Commissione Anselmi’ on Italian Jewish Assets, 1998-2001; http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_yad/departments/institute/pdf/7.pdf, last accessed on 1 May 2008</p> <p>3) <u>Source</u>: Tedeschi, Dario. “Research of the Roman Jewish Community’s Library Looted in 1943.” <i>Jüdischer Buchbesitz als Raubgut</i>. Dehnel, Regine (ed.) Zweites Hannoversches Symposium. Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann, 2006, pp 243-252.</p> <p>In winter of 1943, the libraries of the Jewish Community and of the Italian Rabbinical College in Rome were looted, presumably by the <i>Spezialkommando Italien</i> (special command Italy) of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR). At that time both libraries were located in a building belonging to the Jewish Community. The libraries contained very rare, sometimes unique and most precious pieces, manuscripts and prints, among them work by Bomberg, Bragadin, Giustiniani from the 16th century. Among the pieces were printed texts from Constantinople, produced at the beginning of the 16th century and other texts from the 1700s and 1800s originating from Venice and Livorno. Most of the books were written in Hebrew, only a very few in Italian or in other languages. The libraries disappeared without a trace, except that at the end of the war, parts of the Italian Rabbinical College’s library were found in a warehouse in Offenbach.</p> <p>As a result of the Anselmi Commission, the Italian government returned the Kaumheimer collection (mentioned on pages 146 and following pages of the report) to the original heirs.</p> |
| Historical Commission | <p>1) <u>Source</u>: Sarfatti, Michele. “The work and the findings of the ‘Commissione Anselmi’ on Italian Jewish Assets, 1998-2001.”</p> |

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| | <p>http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_yad/departments/institute/pdf/7.pdf, last accessed on 1 May 2008.</p> <p>The “<i>Anselmi</i>” Commission was installed on 17 December 1998 and headed by Tina Anselmi, former Senator for the Christian-Democratic Party. On 10 April 2001 the Commission submitted its <i>Rapporto Generale</i> (General Report). Few of the recommendations put forward by the Commission were followed up on.</p> <p>The <i>Rapporto Generale</i> is available online at: http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html, last accessed on 27 August 2008.</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome, looted in 1943 (Commissione per il recupero del patrimonio bibliografico della Comunità ebraica di Roma, razziato nel 1943)</p> <p>Email correspondence with Dario Tedeschi on 13 November 2008.</p> <p>The Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome, looted in 1943, was established in Italy in 2002 at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, with the aim to retrieve the books that were plundered by Nazis in 1943. The Commission’s work proved to be harder than initially expected and as a consequence no concrete outcomes followed. One of the premises the commission was working with, was that parts of the library ended the war in former Soviet territory. Consequently, research was carried out in the “Rudomino” All State Russian Library. However, since only partial access to documents was granted, this research also ceased without any concrete results. The Commission is expected to release its final report shortly.</p> |
| Notes | <p>1) <u>Source</u>: http://www.ucei.it/fondazione/fondazione/attivita_svolte.asp, last accessed on 22 February 2007.</p> <p>The <i>Fondazione per i Beni Culturali Ebraici in Italia</i> works to preserve and restore Judaica, including religious texts etc. One of their projects is aimed at cataloging and researching Torah scrolls in Italy, especially to ensure the proper restoration of Torah scrolls that are in bad condition.</p> |
| Selected Bibliography | <p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Ancient Book Returned to Rome’s Jewish Community”. <i>Jerusalem Post</i> 23 May 2005. ▪ Andreasi-Bassi, Patrizia (ed.). <i>I beni culturali della Difesa, la difesa dei beni</i> |

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| | <p><i>culturali, exhibition catalogue 1998</i>. Rom: Edizioni De Luca, 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baistrocchi, Massimo. "Auf der Suche nach verlorener Kunst. Italien, die Restitution und Kulturgüter in Russland". <i>Osteuropa, Kunst und Konflikt. Kriegsfolgen und Kooperationsfelder in Europa</i>, 56. Jahrgang, Heft 1-2, Januar/Februar 2006, pp 355-360. ▪ <i>Commissione per la ricostruzione delle vicende che hanno caratterizzato in Italia le attività di acquisizione dei beni dei cittadini ebrei dap arte di organiismi pubblici e private, Rapporto generale</i>. Rome, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri. Dipartimento per l'Informazione e l'Editoria, 2001 (http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html) ▪ Sarfatti, Michele. "Il contesto del caso Kaumheimer." <i>Geschichte und Region - Storia e regione</i>, a. XI (2002), n. 1, pp 181-192. ▪ Sarfatti, Michele. "Contro i libri e i documenti delle Comunità israelitiche italiane. 1938-1945." <i>La Rassegna mensile di Israel</i>, vol. LXIX, n. 2, May-August 2003, pp 369-385. (http://www.michelesarfatti.it/articoli.php?indice=11) ▪ Tedeschi, Dario. "Research of the Roman Jewish Community's Library Looted in 1943." <i>Jüdischer Buchbesitz als Raubgut</i>. Dehnel, Regine (ed.) Zweites Hannoversches Symposium. Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann, 2006, pp 243-252. |
| <i>List of Experts</i> | <p>→The general contact list of experts in the field may be relevant for the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michele Sarfatti, Director, Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation in Milan ▪ Carlo Gentile, Scientific Researcher, Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome ▪ Dario Tedeschi, President of the Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome, looted in 1943 |