

Country Name: ITALY

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
<b>Existing Projects</b>		
<b>Overview</b>	<b>Looted Cultural Property Databases</b>	
	<b>Publications</b>	<p><i>Looted Libraries and Archives</i></p> <p><u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) Bertilotti, Paola. "Italy's Attitude Towards Jewish Cultural Property During and After the Second World War". <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After</i>. Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas. Cohen, Julie-Marthe (ed.) Built Wells: Institute of Art And Law, 2011.</p> <p>The systematic seizure of Jewish art and cultural property began after Nazi Germany occupied Italy. Among the most important private collections that were stolen was the Gino Pincherle Stendhal Library and, for example, paintings belonging to the Pollitzer family. In Trieste, the most important books in the Jewish library were seized and sent to the national and university libraries in Vienna and to the <i>Gaumuseum</i> and <i>Studienbibliothek</i> of Klagenfurt (p. 266). Books that remained in the Jewish Community were mostly stolen by individuals. In Fiume, the German police ransacked the chief rabbi's personal library and burned down the Jewish Community's library and synagogue in January of 1944. Also the archives and library of the Jewish Community of Merano were completely destroyed. In the Salo Republic (successor to Mussolini), German forces did not systematically confiscate Jewish libraries and archives but seized the most valuable objects.</p> <p>Along with German looting efforts, the Salo regime also took appropriate measures to confiscate Jewish cultural and religious artifacts (p. 267).</p> <p>After the war, Jewish institutions started investigating the fate of looted assets, but often there were no inventories of ceremonial objects or catalogues of holdings within libraries (p. 272). However, a lack of adequate legislation enacted by Italian authorities after the war also prevented the restitution of Jewish assets.</p> <p><i>Library Jewish Community Rome</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) 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) Sarfatti, Michele. The work and the findings of the 'Commissione Anselmi' on Italian Jewish Assets, 1998-2001; <a href="http://www.michelesarfatti.it/testi-online/">http://www.michelesarfatti.it/testi-online/</a>, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>(3) 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>(4) Final report of the Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome, looted in 1943: <a href="http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_fi_nale_attivita_Commissione2.pdf">http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_fi_nale_attivita_Commissione2.pdf</a> (last accessed on 31 May 2011)</p> <p>(5) Frank, Michael. "The Mystery of the Missing Jewish Books of Rome. Tracing the fate of 25,000 volumes lost to the Holocaust." <i>Tablet Magazine</i>, 3 November 2015 (<a href="http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/194543/missing-jewish-books-of-rome">http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/194543/missing-jewish-books-of-rome</a>)</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 16<sup>th</sup> century. Among the pieces were printed texts from Constantinople, produced at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> 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>The Commission was able to trace the fate of few manuscripts looted from the Jewish Community library as well as from the Rabbinical College in Rome: The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York holds two manuscripts (acquired by the JTS in 1965), and the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati holds an other two manuscripts.</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> <p><i>Jewish Museum, Rome</i>  <u>Source:</u>  (1) <a href="http://lnx.museoebraico.roma.it/">http://lnx.museoebraico.roma.it/</a>, last accessed 24 April 2015.</p> <p>The Jewish Museum of Rome does not seem to conduct provenance research on its collection.</p>
	<b>Information from Other Sources</b>	
	<b>Historical Commission</b>	<p><i>Anselmi Commission</i></p> <p><u>Source:</u>  (1) Sarfatti, Michele. "The work and the findings of the 'Commissione Anselmi' on Italian Jewish Assets, 1998-2001." <a href="http://www.michelesarfatti.it/testi-online/">http://www.michelesarfatti.it/testi-online/</a>, last accessed June 2014.)</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:</p>

		<p><a href="http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html">http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html</a>, last accessed June 2014; see also:  <a href="http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_finale_atti_vita_Commissione2.pdf">http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_finale_atti_vita_Commissione2.pdf</a>, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p><i>Commission Bibliographic Heritage</i>  <b>Source:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) 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, razzato nel 1943)</li> <li>(2) Email correspondence with Dario Tedeschi on 13 November 2008.</li> </ol> <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.  The Commission's final report can be viewed at:  <a href="http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_finale_atti_vita_Commissione2.pdf">http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/USRI/confessioni/rapporto/rapporto_finale_atti_vita_Commissione2.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Selected Bibliography</b></p>	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Ancient Book Returned to Rome's Jewish Community". <i>Jerusalem Post</i> 23 May 2005.</li> <li>▪ Andreasi-Bassi, Patrizia (ed.). <i>I beni culturali della Difesa, la difesa dei beni culturali, exhibition catalogue 1998</i>. Rom: Edizioni De Luca, 1998</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Bertilotti, Paola. "Italy's Attitude Towards Jewish Cultural Property During and After the Second World War". <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After</i>. Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas. Cohen, Julie-Marthe (ed.) Buihth Wells: Institute of Art And Law, 2011.</li> <li>▪ <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  (<a href="http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html">http://www.governo.it/Presidenza/DICA/beni_ebraici/index.html</a>)</li> <li>▪ Frank, Michael. "The Mystery of the Missing Jewish Books of Rome. Tracing the fate of 25,000 volumes lost to the Holocaust." <i>Tablet Magazine</i>, 3. November 2015  (<a href="http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/194543/missing-jewish-books-of-rome">http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/194543/missing-jewish-books-of-rome</a>)</li> <li>▪ Sarfatti, Michele. "Il contesto del caso Kaumheimer." <i>Geschichte und Region - Storia e regione</i>, a. XI (2002), n. 1, pp 181-192.</li> <li>▪ 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.  (<a href="http://www.michelesarfatti.it/articoli.php?indice=11">http://www.michelesarfatti.it/articoli.php?indice=11</a>)</li> <li>▪ Tedeschi, Dario. "Research of the Roman Jewish Community's Library Looted in 1943." <i>Jüdischer Buchbesitz als Raubgut</i>. Dehnel, Regine (ed.) Zweites Hannoversches</li> </ul>

	Symposium. Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann, 2006, pp 243-252.
<b>Notes</b>	<p><u>Source:</u>  (1) <a href="http://moked.it/fbcei/">http://moked.it/fbcei/</a>, last accessed on 24 January 2014.</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>