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| Country Name | RUSSIAN FEDERATION |
| Existing Projects | Yes The International Information-Documentation Center on Problems of Displaced Cultural Valuables of the Russian State Library of Foreign Literature is conducting provenance research. For more information, see: http://www.libfl.ru/ |
| Known Objects | Yes |
| <i>Information taken from looted cultural property databases</i> | <p>1) <u>Source</u>: Displaced Cultural Valuables http://www.libfl.ru/restitution/index-eng.html, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>Displaced Cultural Valuables, Library of Foreign Literature: The database allows searching in 10 different categories regarding library collections relocated to Russia, but it is unclear whether the listings include Judaica, although separate catalogues prepared with the assistance of the Library of Foreign Literature certainly do (see information taken from publications below).</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: www.lostart.ru, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>The website of the Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography of the Russian Federation entitled “Cultural Valuables – Victims of War” has a database detailing the cultural property from Russia missing as a result of the Second World War. Among the works missing from libraries, museums, and archives are some items of Judaica - for example, the archives of the Astrakhan Jewish Committee for Assistance to Refugee Jews (Астраханский еврейский комитет помощи беженцам-евреям).</p> |
| <i>Information taken from publications</i> | <p>A. Torahs and Religious Books and Manuscripts (see also organizational archives)</p> <p>1) <u>Source</u> <i>Catalogue of Manuscripts and Archival Materials of Jüdisch-Theologisches Seminar in Breslau Held in Russian Depositories</i>. Project Heritage Revealed. Moscow: Rudomino, 2003. http://www.libfl.ru/restitution/catalogs/index.html</p> <p>This catalogue of Hebrew manuscripts and other items taken from the Breslau Archive held in the Russian State Library and other Russian repositories was produced with the assistance of Project “Heritage</p> |

Revealed” of the Research Project on Art and Archives, Inc. (sponsored by Ronald S. Lauder and Edgar Bronfman).

2) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. Hoogewoud, F.G. Ketelaar, Eric. *Returned from Russia. Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues*. United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007 .

3) Source:

Akinsha, Konstantin. Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. “The Sárospatak Case: Rare Books Return to Hungary”. *Art and Antiquity and Law* Vol. XI, Issue 3, September 2006, p 223.

4) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. “Sudeten Crossroads for Europe’s Displaced Books. The ‘Mysterious Twilight’ of the RSHA Amt VII Library and the Fate of A Million Victims of War.” Prepared for publication in the conference proceedings based on a shorter presentation at the international conference in Liberec organized by the Documentation Centre of Property Transfers of Cultural Assets of WW II Victims, 24–26 October 2007.

In the summer of 1946, 344 Torahs were turned over by the Special (*Osoby*) Archive (TsGOA, TsKhIDK 1982-1989), now part of the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA), to the State Historical Museum (GIM). So far as is known, no research has been conducted so far that would indicate their fate or present location. These Torah scrolls originated from foreign Jewish communities.

In addition, Russia holds Torahs in Nizhny Novgorod. Some scholars have suggested that the Torahs in Nizhny Novgorod originated from Hungary (see also section on Hungary). However, other researchers believe that they may have originated from local Russian synagogues. Russia holds some rare books, possibly also religious texts, from Hungarian Jewish collectors, such as from Baron Kornfeld, in regional libraries, mostly in the regional library on the Volga. Additional books from the Kornfeld collection are located in the Nizhny Novgorod Art Museum.

5) Source:

Testimony by Ambassador Edward B. O’Donnell, Jr. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues U.S. Department of State. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Schneerson Collection and Historical Justice, April 6, 2005

<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/44447.htm>, last accessed on 21 February 2007

6) Source:

Slater, Grant. “U.S. court rules for Chabad”. *JTA* 18 June 2008

(<http://www.jta.org/cgi-bin/iowa/news/print/20080618ChabadRussia06172008.html>,

last accessed on 20 June 2008)

7) Rickman, Greg J. "Russia should return the Schneerson collection." *JTA*, 7 July 2009.

The Russian State Library, the former Lenin Library, holds the Schneerson Library, a collection of some 381 religious transcripts, 12,000 books and 50,000 rare documents maintained by the first five Lubavitcher Rebbes dating to 1772. After the October Revolution, the Bolshevik government seized the library and stored the texts in the Lenin Library, later known as the Russian State Library. The Russian State Military Archive (RGVA) holds an archive of the successive Lubavitcher Rebbes that the then Rebbe took from Moscow in 1917 to Rostov-on-the-Don and subsequently to Riga and Warsaw, where it was seized by the Nazis and then subsequently taken by the USSR and shipped back to Moscow.

In 2004, the Lubavitch organization brought a lawsuit in California aimed at retrieving the collections. A year later, in 2005, all 100 members of the U.S. Senate and more than 350 members of the U.S. House of Representatives signed a request to have the collections returned.

B. Archives of Jewish Organizations (see also Torahs and religious books and manuscripts)

8) Source:

"Guide to Jewish Archives in Moscow. The Jewish Holdings of the Center for Preservation of Historico- Documentary Collections (former "Special Archives") in Moscow",

<http://www.research.co.il/moscow.html>, last accessed on 13 February 2008

[Please note that Patricia Kennedy Grimsted critiques the online listing prepared by Yoram Mayorek in her book *Returned from Russia* by stating that "although available on the Internet since 1999, it has not been updated subsequently, despite the changed name and disposition of the archive and the many fonds restituted to their countries of origin in Western Europe." (p 109)]

9) Source:

In 2006, the Project "Heritage Revealed" of the Research Project on Art and Archives, Inc. (sponsored by Ronald S. Lauder and Edgar Bronfman), published a third catalog of looted Jewish property held in Russia:

Manuscripts and Archival Document of the Vienna Jewish Community Held in Russian Collections (Moscow)."

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| | <p>http://www.libfl.ru/restitution/catalogs/index.html, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>10) <u>Source</u>: Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. Hoogewoud, F.G. Ketelaar, Eric. <i>Returned from Russia. Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues</i>. United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007. See particularly Grimsted's article "From Nazi Plunder to Russian Restitution," pp 3-134.</p> <p>11) <u>Source</u>: http://www.jtsa.edu/x2024.xml, last accessed on 8 September 2008. <i>Jewish Documentary Sources Among the Trophy Collections of the Russian State Military Archives: A Guide</i> (in Russian), edited by David Fishman, Mark Kupovetsky and Vladimir Kuzelenkov (RSUH), 211 pp., 2005. <i>Jewish Documentary Sources in Moscow Archives: A Guide</i> (in Russian), edited by Mark Kupovetsky, Evgenii Starostin and Marek Web (RSUH, JTS, YIVO), 503 pp., 1997.</p> <p>[Please note that Patricia Kennedy Grimsted critiques the publications by Project Judaica in her book <i>Returned from Russia</i> by stating that "a guide to the RGVA Jewish-related holdings appeared in 2005, sponsored by the Jewish studies programme at the Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU). After almost eight years in preparation (mostly by graduate students at RGGU) the guide is disappointing. Unfortunately, RGVA did not have the resources or appropriate specialists to correct the text before publication. The compilers did not have adequate migration details for many of the fonds, and the survey annotations lack reference to pre-war descriptions available for some of the collections, such as published catalogues of Hebrew manuscripts. Although issued in 2005, the listings were not updated with respect to restitution transfers of original files to France, Belgium and the Netherlands in 2000-03. Nor do they include references to microfilms retained from some of those files now available at RGVA in Moscow. The guide, despite its limitations, nevertheless provides the most complete available coverage of many RGVA fonds of foreign Jewish provenance." (p. 109)]</p> <p>The Jewish holdings of the Special (<i>Osoby</i>) Archive (TsGOA, TsKhIDK 1982-1989), now part of the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA), Moscow, include looted material such as a collection of historical archives of Jewish international organizations, of Jewish political organizations and parties as well as papers of Jewish intellectuals: Holdings originally included part of the archive of the Alliance Israelite Universelle (series of records from the Paris headquarters, the Vienna Allianz and the Alliance from Brussels), of the B'nai Brith Order (archives of lodges from Germany, Austria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and Czechoslovakia), and of the Zionist</p> |
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organizations and parties (from France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Greece). Most material that was or is currently held in the Moscow archive was initially gathered by the National Socialist movement in their effort to create a Research Institute on the Jewish Question in Frankfurt and, to a lesser degree, for possible display in the projected *Führermuseum* in Linz.

Generally speaking, most Jewish holdings that were or are kept in the archive were looted by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, and France, but there were or are also smaller holdings from Holland, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

See Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. Hoogewoud, F.G. Ketelaar, Eric. *Return from Russia. Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues* (United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007) for the current status of Jewish archives that have been returned to France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In addition, many of the Jewish archives still held in Moscow are under negotiations for return.

Grimsted lists the following Jewish-related fonds of French provenance and claimed by France which have not yet been returned and are currently held in the RGVA (p 184):

| Title | Moscow fond no. | Number of files | Dates | Description/Finding Aid |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| American Joint Distribution Committee, Executive Office for Europe, Paris (1913-41), Includes correspondence with JOINT branches in 25 countries | 722k | 685 | 1922-1941 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 32-55 |
| American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, Berlin-Paris (1922-40) | 723k | 1305 | 1922-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 35-37 |
| Association des juifs polonaise en France, Paris | 45k | 17 | 1938-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 102 |
| Matériel documentaire de caractère politique, économique et militaire appartenant à des fonds divers (Collection of Documents on Political, Military, and Economic Matters from records of Various Organizations (may relating to Jews) (includes one file of papers of Marc Bloch) | 116k | 2,081 (6 opisi) | 1678-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 134-38 |

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| | Délégation permanente en France de l'Agence Juive pour le Palestine, Paris | 1226k | 48 | 1924-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 41 |
| | Exekutivkomitee des Jüdischen Weltkongresses, Paris | 1190k. | 948 | 1896-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 39-40 |
| | Fonds de reconstruction de la Palestine Keren Haïsof de France | 115k | 121 | 1924-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 103-4 |
| | HIAS-ICA Emigration Association (HICEM, Paris) | 740k | 2483 | 1906-1941 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 37-39 |
| | Jüdische Telegraphen Agentur (ITA), Paris | 674k | 197 | 1918-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 31-32 |
| | Société sioniste 'Fonds nationale européen Keren Kaemet Israël' (KKL), Paris | 44k | 935 | 1909-1940 | <i>Dok. Evreev.</i> , pp. 25-26 |
| | <p>C. Art Objects</p> <p>12) <u>Source</u> <i>Catalogue of Art Objects from Hungarian Private Collections</i>. Project Heritage Revealed. Moscow: Rudomino, 2003. http://www.libfl.ru/restitution/catalogs/index.html, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>This catalogue of artworks taken from Hungarian Jews that are currently in Russia is not of Judaica as such, although it includes some paintings by Jewish artists such as Max Liebermann. The catalogue was produced with the assistance of Project "Heritage Revealed" of the Research Project on Art and Archives, Inc. (sponsored by Ronald S. Lauder and Edgar Bronfman).</p> <p><i>See also Germany.</i></p> | | | | |
| | <i>Information taken from other sources</i> | | | | |
| | Historical Commission | | | | |
| | No. | | | | |
| | Notes | | | | |
| | <p>On April 15, 1998, the Federal Law on Cultural Valuables Displaced to the U.S.S.R. as a Result of World War II and Located on the Territory of the Russian Federation (Federal Law N 64-FZ of) was passed. It was subsequently amended and signed by President Putin on May 25, 2000 (Federal Law N 70-FZ). The law basically nationalizes the cultural treasures brought to the USSR after the War but provides for the</p> | | | | |

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| | <p>potential restitution of cultural treasures under specified conditions to governments of countries, primarily those that fought against the Nazi regime and those that were victimized by the Nazis.</p> <p>Looting and “confiscation” of Jewish property took place well before the National-Socialist regime came into power. Numerous Judaica and Hebraica were confiscated, and Yiddish publishing houses etc. were closed by the Bolshevik regime.</p> <p>Silver and gold taken from Jews by the Nazis and their allies was often melted down. Presumably some of the state collections returned to the Soviet Union or still remaining elsewhere contain items that had been in Russian Jewish private hands and not nationalized prior to the War, but the research on this question has not been done.</p> |
| <p><i>Selected Bibliography</i></p> | <p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Akinsha, Konstantin. Kozlov, Grigorii. <i>Beautiful Loot: The Soviet Plunder of Europe's Art Treasures</i>, New York: Random House, 1995. ▪ Arad, Yitzhak. “Plunder of Jewish Property in the Nazi-Occupied Areas of the Soviet Union”. <i>Yad Vashem Studies</i> 29 (2001), pp 109-148. ▪ Dean, Martin C. “Jewish Property Seized in the Occupied Soviet Union in 1941 and 1942: The Records of the Reichshauptkasse Beutestelle”. <i>Holocaust and Genocide Studies</i>, 14, Nr 1(2000), pp 83-101. ▪ Fishman, David. Kupovetsky, Mark. Kuzelenkov, Vladimir. <i>Jewish Documentary Sources Among the Trophy Collections of the Russian State Military Archives: A Guide</i> (in Russian), 2005. ▪ Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy, F.J. Hoogewoud, and Eric Ketelaar (eds.) <i>Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues</i>. United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007. ▪ Kupovetsky, Mark. Starostin, Evgenii. Web, Marek. <i>Jewish Documentary Sources in Moscow Archives: A Guide</i> (in Russian), Moskva: Rossiiskii gos. gumanitarnyi universitet, 1997. ▪ “Mehr Transparenz bei Rückgabe von NS-Raubkunst gefordert“. <i>Der Spiegel</i>, 20 November 2006. ▪ Myers, Steven Lee. “In Moscow, a Proud Display of Spoils of War”. <i>New York Times</i> 17 May 2007. ▪ Naumann, Michael. “Schlechter Stil. Das Berliner Kirchner-Bild gehört den Erben: Die Kritik an der Rückgabe ist infam“. <i>Der Tagesspiegel</i> 29 April 2007. ▪ Rudolph, Sabine. “Von Nazis enteignet, bis heute in Russland. Victor Klemperers Inkunabelsammlung“. <i>Osteuropa, Kunst und Konflikt. Kriegsfolgen und Kooperationsfelder in Europa</i>, 56. Jahrgang, Heft 1-2, Januar/Februar 2006, pp 141-154. ▪ Shneer, David. “Who Owns the Means of Cultural Production? The Soviet Yiddish Publishing Industry of the 1920s”. <i>Book History</i> 6 (2003), pp 197-226. <p>In addition, there is literature specifically on the holdings of the Special</p> |

(Osoby) Archive (TsGOA, TsKhIDK (1982-1989), now part of the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA) in Moscow:

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- Reinalter, Helmut. *Die deutschen und österreichischen Freimaurerbestände im Deutschen Sonderarchiv in Moskau (heute Aufbewahrungszentrum der historisch-dokumentarischen Kollektionen).* Schriftenreihe der Internationalen Forschungsstelle „Demokratische Bewegungen in Mitteleuropa 1770-1850“, vol. 35. Peter Lang: Frankfurt (Main), 2002.
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- Scheel, Klaus. “Deutsche Beuteakten im Sonderarchiv Moskau. Vorgeschichte und Bestände.“ *Neuordnung Europas. Vorträge vor der Berliner Gesellschaft für Faschismus- und Weltkriegsforschung 1992-1999.* Werner Rör (ed.), Berlin, 1996, pp 415-429.
- Trentmann, Frank. “New Sources on an Old Family. The Rothschild Papers at the Special Archive, Moscow, and a Letter from Metternich”. *Financial History Review* 2, number 1 (1995), pp 73-79.
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| | <p>Staatsarchiv. Ein Erfahrungsbericht“. <i>Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte</i> 40 (1992), pp 311-319.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zarusky, Jürgen. “Bemerkungen zur russischen Archivsituation“. <i>Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte</i> 41 (1993), pp 139-147. |
| <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"> ▪ Konstantin Akinsha, Art Historian, Contributing Editor for ARTnews ▪ Karina Aleksandrovna Dmitrieva, Director, Head of the Rare Books Department, and Director of International Information and Documents, Centre on the Problems of Displaced Cultural Valuables, Russian State Library of Foreign Literature ▪ Ekatarina Genieva, Director General, Russian State Library of Foreign Literature ▪ Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Research Associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University and Honorary Fellow of the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam) ▪ Yoram Mayorek, former Director, Central Zionist Archives |