

Country Name: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects		
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	
	Publications	<p><i>JCR Objects</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Belling, Veronica. <i>From Cemetery to Cyberspace: The Riddle of the Holocaust Era Collection at the University of Cape Town</i>. Proceedings of the 38th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries. Toronto, Ontario, June 15-18, 2003, pp 1-5. [The article offers a detailed list by category of books found in Cape Town.] (2) Information provided by Veronica Belling, Jewish Studies Library, University of Cape Town. (3) Information provided by Jeff M. Fine, Curator, The Beyachad Jewish Museum, Johannesburg. (4) http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/jewish/duker-collections/#nazi, last accessed June 2014. <p>Together with silver objects, approximately 4,500 books were received by the Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg from the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (JCR) in November 1949. Approximately 400 were sent to Cape Town and 42 to the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, in addition to five books that were given to the Landau collection, the original Hebrew and Jewish Studies collection. Most books were kept in Johannesburg but have disappeared since then and can presumably be found in private ownership. It is assumed that some of these books were sent to synagogues and school libraries. However, Yiddish books could have also gone to the library of the South African Yiddish Cultural Federation, which no longer exists.</p> <p>The Jewish Studies Library at the University of Cape Town (http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/jewish/) holds a collection of approximately 160 books (of the approximately 400 originally sent to Cape Town) looted by the Nazis during World War II and distributed by the JCR after the war. The earliest Hebrew book in this collection is a volume of the Hebrew periodical <i>Bikkure ha-Ittim</i>, published in Vienna in 1821. There is also a Hebrew Bible published in Fürth, Germany, in 1851 that has the stamp of the <i>Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage des Reichsinstituts für die Geschichte des Neuen Deutschlands</i>, the Nazi Institute for the Research into the Jewish Question. The core of the library collection consists of twentieth century Yiddish literature.</p> <p>Between July 1, 1949 and November 30, 1950, South Africa's Jewish community received a collection of silver ceremonial objects sent by the JCR (Jewish Cultural Reconstruction). These ceremonial objects are now partially displayed at the Jewish museums in Johannesburg (Beyachad Jewish Museum) and Cape Town and the Durban Jewish Club and are being used in synagogues. A few objects went into private collections. Research conducted by the curator of Johannesburg's Jewish Museum, Jeff M. Fine, has resulted in photographic evidence of 122 of about 198 ceremonial objects received by South Africa.</p>

		The Archives of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg holds archival material documenting how much silver was allocated to South Africa's different communities and to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Holocaust Museum in Johannesburg: according to a record, only 49 objects were warranted for inclusion into a museum collection. The remainder was offered to Hebrew congregations countrywide, of which 122 congregations responded, and no one congregation received more than one item. In addition, the archive also holds a note that indicates that a batch of silver objects reached Cape Town in 1954.
	Information from Other Sources	
	Historical Commission	
Selected Bibliography	→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belling, Veronica. <i>From Cemetery to Cyberspace: The Riddle of the Holocaust Era Collection at the University of Cape Town</i>. Toronto: Proceedings of the 38th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries, June 15-18 2003. 	
Notes		