

Country Name: **UNITED KINGDOM**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects		
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	<p><u>Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) http://www.culturalpropertyadvice.gov.uk/search_spoliations/index.html?report=lg , last accessed June 2014. (2) Keen, Michael. <i>Jewish Ritual Art in the Victoria and Albert Museum</i>. London: HMSO, 1991. <p>The National Museums Directors Conference established a searchable listing of material with incomplete provenance for the period 1933 to 1945. The Victoria and Albert Museum, Department of Metalwork, Silver & Jewelry, lists two Judaica objects with gaps in their provenance: a Torah Pointer (yad) and a Jewish wedding ring.</p> <p><u>Source:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Central Registry of Information on Looted Cultural Property 1933-1945; www.lootedart.com, last accessed June 2014. <p>The Central Registry of Information on Looted Cultural Property 1933-1945 provides online information on looted cultural and religious Judaica. <i>See also the sections on Austria, Czech Republic and Hungary.</i></p>
	Publications	<p><i>JCR distribution</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008. (2) Herman, Dana. "A Band Plucked Out of the Fire': The Distribution of Heirless Jewish Cultural Property by the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. 1947-1952." <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After.</i> Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas. Cohen, Julie-Marthe (ed.) Bultth Wells: Institute of Art And Law, 2011. (3) Gallas, Elisabeth. <i>Das Leichenhaus der Bücher. Kulturrestitution und jüdisches Geschichtsdenken nach 1945.</i> Schriften des Simon-Dubnow-Instituts, Band 19, Göttingen: Vandenhock & Ruprecht, 2013, p. 181. (4) Email exchange with Elizabeth Selby, Social History and Collections Manager, Jewish Museum London, May 2015. <p>The United Kingdom received 19,082 books, 245 museum pieces, 66 synagogue pieces and 12 Torah scrolls from the JCR after World War II. The Jewish Museum in London is one of the institutions holding these items. Other institutions include the Jewish Historical Society, Jews' college, the Wiener Library and for example the Society for Jewish Studies. Most items held by these institutions were received in 1952, which included 19,000 volumes and over 300 ceremonial objects. The Wiener Library alone received six hundred volumes from the library that had belonged to the Central Union of Jews in Germany, the "Jüdischer Zentralverein."</p> <p>According to an email exchange with the Jewish Museum in London, the museum does not conduct provenance research (including on objects received through the JCR).</p>

	<p><i>British Library</i> Sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) http://www.bl.uk/, last accessed June 2014. (2) Information provided by Oliver Urquhart Irvine, Cultural Property Manager, British Library. <p>The British Library possesses eleven or twelve thousand books seized from German libraries and institutions between June 1944 and 1947. Nearly half these confiscated books came from a single library, that of the German Army's Kriegsschule (known in the British Library as the Hanover Military Library). After the war, the library, then part of the British Museum, was offered the books by Brigadier H. B. Latham on behalf of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Cabinet and the Minister of Defence in July 1946.</p> <p><i>Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust</i> Sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) http://www.czechtorah.org/return.php; and http://www.czechmemorialscrollstrust.org/, last accessed June 2014. (2) http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org/community/reviving-scrolls-on-loan-worldwide/, last accessed March 2014. (3) Veselská, Magda. "The Selling Off of Items from the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague after the Second World War, with Particular Focus on the Sale of Torah Scrolls in 1963-1964". <i>Judaica Bohemiae</i> 42 (2006). (4) Jewish Heritage E-Report, 16 September 2008. <p>A U.K. based trading firm, Artia, was instrumental in the selling off or relocation of several Torah scrolls as well as other religious objects that had survived the war in the Michle repository in the Czech Republic and were subsequently placed in the State Jewish Museum in Prague. Some of these items were sold or given by Artia to foreign synagogues, organizations and individuals. For example, in May 1960, 1 Torah scroll, 1 binder and 1 mantle were given to the Johannesburg Jewish Community. This was followed by the sale of 1 Torah scroll and 1 Torah mantle to the Association Culturelle Israelite de Monaco for the value of \$200. In addition, in April 1963 a scroll was sold to the Johannesburg Jewish Community.</p> <p>Negotiations during the Communist era that lead to the purchase of the Torah scrolls were held by Rabbi Harold Reinhart and philanthropist Ralph Yablon, and U.S. born art dealer and representative of Grosvenor Gallery in London Eric Estorick. The biggest sale, however, took place in 1963/64, when Eric Estorick approached the State Jewish Museum about buying Torah scrolls. He in turn approached London's Westminster Synagogue with the possibility of purchasing scrolls. The State Jewish Museum and the Czechoslovak state agreed to the sale of thousands of Torah scrolls, and subsequently up to 1,564 Torah scrolls and 400 Torah binders representing hundreds of Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia were sold to London for the price of \$30,000 or CZK 180,000. [Despite numerous surviving documents, it is unclear how many Torah scrolls were actually sold. The numbers range between 1,200 and 1,564.]</p> <p>From Westminster Synagogue in London, where the scrolls were renovated under the auspices of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, over 1,400 of the scrolls have been entrusted on loan to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations around the world, of which more than 1,000 are in the U.S.A. However, all Torah scrolls remain the property of the Trust. While the majority of the scrolls are currently entrusted to synagogues and other Jewish institutions, some were placed with universities and</p>
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		<p>libraries, including the Royal Library Windsor and the White House. In September 2008, a newly designed Czech Scroll Museum was opened at London's Kent House displaying some of the remaining scrolls lying on the original wooden racks where they were placed when they arrived, along with some of the Torah binders that were tied around the scrolls.</p> <p><i>See also the section on the Czech Republic.</i></p>
	Information from Other Sources	Several academic libraries hold vast Judaica collections. Among them are Cambridge University Library, as well as Trinity College and Girton College libraries and the Bodleian Law Library at Oxford University.
	Historical Commission	No, but in June 1998 the National Museum Director's Conference (NMDC), chaired by Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, established a working group to examine issues surrounding the spoliation of art during the Holocaust and World War II period. In November 1998 the NMDC published a Statement of Principles and Proposed Actions and set up an independent Spoliation Advisory Committee to advise on and monitor their implementation. In February 2000 the UK government created the independent Spoliation Advisory Panel to resolve claims for works of art in UK public collections. The reports of the Spoliation Advisory Panel can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/ , last accessed June 2014.
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alberge, Dalya. "Courtauld Returns Looted Art to Nazi Victims". <i>The Times</i> 25 January 2007. ▪ Hamilton, Fiona. "Gallery May Give Up Art 'Looted by Nazis from Jewish Owners'". <i>The Times</i> 29 March 2007. ▪ Herman, Dana, <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008. ▪ Gallas, Elisabeth. <i>Das Leichenhaus der Bücher. Kulturrestitution und jüdisches Geschichtsdenken nach 1945.</i> Schriften des Simon-Dubnow-Instituts, Band 19, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013. ▪ Keen, Michael. <i>Jewish Ritual Art in the Victoria and Albert Museum.</i> London: HMSO, 1991. ▪ <i>Nazi Looted Art. Britain and Post-War Restitution.</i> The Holocaust Educational Trust, November 1998. ▪ National Museums Directors' Conference: Spoliation of Works of Art during the Holocaust and World War II Period http://nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html 	
Notes	In June 2010, the British Foreign Secretary announced the appointment of Sir Andrew Burns to the new post of United Kingdom Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues.	