

Jewish Cultural Reconstruction

Minutes

1947-1951

New York

MINUTES

Meeting of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, held on Wednesday, June 13, in the office of the Conference on Jewish Relations.

PRESENT:

Salo W. Baron, Chairman	Prof. Michael
Dr. Arendt	Prof. Pinson
Dr. Joshua Bloch	Dr. Weinreich
Mr. Finkel	Dr. Weinryb
Prof. Freimann	Dr. Wischnitzer
Dr. Kober	Mrs. Wischnitzer
Prof. Alexander Marx	Dr. Israel S. Chipkin

The meeting came to order at 4:15 P.M.

Prof. Pinson was elected to serve as the Secretary of the Commission.

Prof. Baron presented a statement of the progress of the Commission and reported the following:

The Commission has received an appropriation of \$2,000 from the Joint Distribution Committee for the employment of research fellows. In addition the JDC promised the aid of their personnel abroad and also offered to help secure the cooperation of the UNNRA.

Prof. Baron presented Dr. Hannah Arendt, who had been appointed to a full time research fellowship to supervise the research staff of the Commission and to take personal charge of matters pertaining to Western Europe; Dr. Adolph Kober had been appointed part-time fellow for matters pertaining to Central Europe. Prof. Michael moved that both appointments be ratified; the motion was carried.

The Chairman then outlined the immediate problems to be taken up by the Commission to be:

- 1) The enlargement of the membership of the Commission
- 2) The setting up of three sub-committees to carry on the work of the Commission.
 - a) Research Committee, to supervise the work of the fellows.
 - b) Committee on Cooperation, to establish and maintain contacts with other agencies engaged in such work.
 - c) Legal Committee, to study the legal aspects of Jewish reparations claims for cultural reconstruction.

The Chairman further reported that contacts have already been established with a similar committee in Jerusalem, at the Hebrew University, and with a committee in London, headed by Dr. Cecil Roth. Throughout all negotiations with other organizations, Prof. Baron reported, the non-partisan and scholarly character of this Commission has been maintained and it has been recognized as such.

Dr. Arendt presented a report of the following work under way by the fellows:

- 1) A list of European libraries for which catalogues are available.
- 2) A list of Jewish periodicals in Western and Central Europe.
- 3) A clipping department. For this work the American Jewish Committee's Library has promised its help.
- 4) A roster of persons formerly connected with Jewish institutions in Europe in cooperation with various Landsmannschaften and other organizations of European Jews in the U.S.
- 5) Questionnaires have been drafted that are being sent out to these organizations.
- 6) Contacts have been established and some measure of cooperation already established with:
 - a) American Jewish Committee
 - b) American Jewish Congress
 - c) National Refugee Service
 - d) Federation of Central European Jews
 - e) Refugee Committee of Geneva

Dr. Wischnitzer moved that the Chairman be empowered to appoint the three committees suggested in Prof. Baron's report.

Prof. Pinson moved an amendment to add a fourth committee to consider the Jewish aspects of general re-education programs on the European continent.

The motion was carried as amended.

The Chairman reported that Prof. Kallen had agreed to serve as chairman of the Committee on Cooperation. To the Research Committee he designated Prof. Marx as chairman, and Dr. Wischnitzer as secretary, with Prof. Freimann, Dr. Weinreich, Dr. Weinryb and Dr. Bloch as additional members.

The following were named to the Legal Committee:
Prof. Michael, Chairman, Prof. Maurice Finkelstein, Prof. Laserson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Koppel S. Pinson
Secretary

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Aldine Club, 200 Fifth Ave. New York

June 17, 1947.

Present: Salo W. Baron, Wolf Blattberg, Michael Friedlaender, Max Gruenewald, Eugene Hevesi, Arthur Liverhant, Jerome Michael, Ahron Opher, Israel Rappoport, David Rosenstein, Leo W. Schwarz and Herbert Strauss.

The meeting was called to order by Professor Michael at 4:40 P. M.

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. were accepted as read.

The secretary was given official copies of the Incorporation Certificate and the revised by-laws.

It was suggested by the American Friends of the Hebrew University that Mr. M. Finkel be replaced by Mr. Leo W. Schwarz.

Professor Baron reported on his letter to Jerusalem concerning the representation of the Hebrew University.

A motion was made to replace Mr. Finkel by Mr. Schwarz. Motion adopted.

Prof. Michael discussed the temporary substitution of directors and pointed out that directors must act in person and that substitution is illegal.

Prof. Baron suggested that an increase be made in the number of directors and a decrease in the quorum to 1/5 of the directors. Messrs. Blattberg and Rappoport agreed with this proposal. Prof. Michael moved that the by-laws be changed to read "1/5 of the members, not less than six."

Prof. Baron and Mr. Gruenewald discussed this proposal from the standpoint of the Council for the Rights of Jews from Germany.

Prof. Michael's motion was seconded; that an amendment be submitted to the next meeting of the members of the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. to the effect that the number of directors be increased and that the quorum of the directors be decreased to 1/5, not less than six. Motion carried.

Prof. Baron reported on J.D.C.'s agreement to join the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. and on the J.C.R. invitation extended to the British Board of Deputies to join.

Prof. Baron reported on negotiations with the Joint and with the Jewish Agency on the question of budget. Money from public funds are necessary as J.C.R. Inc. does not envisage any reimbursement. Distribution in kind is planned policy. Profs. Baron and Michael and Mr. Rosenstein met with Joint and Agency spokesmen and outlined a budget of \$12,000 (six months basis), asking Joint and Agency to grant this sum.

Profs. Michael and Baron reported on a planned mission to Germany, stating that the mission will include 1) executive director and 2) scholars.

Prof. Michael moved that the officers of the Corporation be authorized to undertake necessary business as dealing with the State Department, the German mission, etc. Motion carried.

Prof. Baron reported on the Hebrew University's request for \$10,000 shipping expenses for ownerless books now in Czechoslovakia. The budget of the J.C.R., however, does not include shipping costs.

For two years the Commission on Jewish Cultural Reconstruction prepared the way and is continuing its services.

Dr. Schwarz reported on the European situation and stressed the need for quick action. He suggested that other organizations contribute towards expenses.

Prof. Baron reported on the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction.

Mr. Hevesi suggested selling part of the ownerless property, such as duplicates, in order to meet budgetary needs.

Prof. Michael moved the formation of an executive committee of seven members in accordance with the seven members of the Corporation. Prof. Baron suggested an executive committee composed of those willing to work. Dr. Hevesi suggested that organizations be considered in the selection of its members.

Prof. Michael suggested the formation of an interim executive committee of six members until the next meeting of the members of the Board, these to be nominated by the Chairman of the Board. Approved.

Prof. Michael discussed the representation of J.C.R. Inc. on the Board of the Jewish Reconstruction Commission. Profs. Michael and Baron and Dr. Federbusch were nominated at the last meeting of the Commission. Prof. Baron suggested Profs. Michael, Wechsler and Baron. No decision was reached.

Mr. Rappoport suggested that the Alliance Israelite Universelle be invited to join the J.C.R. Inc.

Prof. Baron reported on the London Committee affiliated with the Jewish Historical Society of England and suggested the formation of a subcommittee on applications.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to a notice dated October 1, 1947, a copy of which precedes the Minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., was held on Tuesday evening, October 7, 1947, at the office of the American Jewish Conference at 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The following directors were present at the meeting: Messrs. Salo W. Baron, Max Gruenewald, David Rosenstein, Leo W. Schwarz and Jerome Michael. There were also present Messrs. Wolf Blattberg, Maurice Halpern, Milton Himmel-farb and Joshua Starr.

Mr. Michael, the chairman of the Board of Directors, acted as chairman of the meeting and Mr. Starr acted as secretary of the meeting.

A quorum of the Board being present, the chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 p. m.

The minutes of the last preceding special meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 17, 1947, having been previously circulated among the directors, on motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes of that meeting was dispensed with and they were approved as circulated.

At the chairman's request, Dr. Baron, the president of the Corporation, reported on the activities of the Corporation since the last meeting of the Board.

Dr. Baron first reported that, pursuant to the authorization of the Board, the Corporation had entered into a contract with The Jewish Restitution Commission whereby the Corporation was appointed The Jewish Restitution Commission's agent in relation to confiscated Jewish cultural property, and he presented a copy of the agreement to the meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, the making of the contract between this corporation and The Jewish Restitution Commission and the contract itself were in all respects ratified and approved.

Dr. Baron next reported that, pursuant to the terms of the agreement between this Corporation and The Jewish Restitution Commission, the Corporation had received a check for \$10,000 from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine to cover the estimated budget of this Corporation for the next six months.

Dr. Baron then reported that as the result of negotiations conducted by Dr. Arthur Bergmann, acting on behalf of the Hebrew University and this Corporation, the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia had, with the consent of the Czechoslovakian government, delivered to Dr. Bergmann, as the representative of this Corporation, some fifty thousand books

which during the war the Germans had sent to Theresienstadt to be catalogued and which were still in Czechoslovakia at the cessation of hostilities in Europe. Dr. Baron stated that with the aid of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency these books had been shipped to the Hebrew University pursuant to an arrangement between the University and this Corporation whereby the University is to hold them and to catalogue and care for them as the agent of this Corporation pending a decision by this Corporation as to their ultimate disposition. He said that the books had already arrived in Jerusalem.

Mr. Schwarz, who in addition to being a director of this Corporation is the Executive Director of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, confirmed Dr. Baron's report regarding the arrangement between this Corporation and the Hebrew University.

Dr. Blattberg asked whether the necessary steps had been taken to vest title to these books in the Corporation. The chairman answered that, as he understood it, the Czechoslovakian government had given the books to the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia which, as Dr. Baron had stated, with the permission of the Czechoslovakian government had delivered them to Dr. Bergmann as the agent of this Corporation, for shipment to the Hebrew University.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the arrangements made by this Corporation with the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia and with the Hebrew University were in all respects ratified and confirmed.

Dr. Baron also reported that the Joint Distribution Committee had nominated two persons to serve as members of the Board of Directors of this Corporation; that the Jewish Agency had not yet done so because of the absence of its officials during a large part of the summer; and that the Board of Deputies of British Jews had accepted the invitation of this Corporation to become one of its members. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Board of Deputies of British Jews was declared to be a member of this Corporation.

Dr. Baron finally reported that he had made an arrangement with Dr. Joshua Starr to act as the Executive Secretary of this Corporation and, upon motion duly made and seconded, the arrangement was ratified and confirmed and Dr. Starr was appointed the Executive Secretary of the Corporation.

The chairman presented to the meeting a draft of a letter to Hon. Charles E. Saltzman, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, requesting that this Corporation be permitted to send a small mission into Germany and Austria for the purposes of taking possession of the confiscated Jewish cultural property which the Office of Military Government of the United States is at this time willing to turn over to the Corporation, of consulting with the United States authorities with respect to other Jewish cultural property, and of negotiating with the lawful owners of such property for the purchase

or other acquisition thereof. Upon motion duly made and seconded the officers of the Corporation were authorized to transmit the letter to the State Department.

The composition of the mission to be sent to Germany was then discussed. It was agreed that Dr. Starr should be a member of the mission and Dr. Jacob Zuckerman and Mr. Benson J. Saks were suggested as possible members of the mission. Mr. Schwarz expressed the opinion that, in view of the limited resources of the Corporation, the task of the mission should be carefully defined. He emphasized the urgency of removing the books stored at Offenbach from Germany in order to assure their safety. He also emphasized the importance of including in the mission some person familiar with the procedures of the Office of Military Government and of the United States Forces in Germany and Austria, and in that connection he recommended that an effort be made to induce the Joint Distribution Committee to permit Mr. Joseph Fink to serve as a member of the mission. In the same connection Mr. Rosenstein expressed the opinion that Mr. Louis Wolinsky, the Director of the Ort in Europe, could be very helpful to the mission. Dr. Blattberg suggested the possibility that qualified Europeans could be found to act as members of the mission and it was agreed that the letter to the State Department should be so worded as to provide for that contingency. Mr. Rosenstein recommended that at first the mission be composed of two persons and that the mission should be enlarged from time to time if found to be necessary.

On motion duly made and seconded, Messrs. Baron, Michael and Schwarz were appointed a committee to select the personnel of the proposed mission with power to act.

On behalf of the American Jewish Committee Mr. Himmel-farb transmitted a plan presented to Judge Proskauer by Dr. Solomon B. Freehof for financing the work of the Corporation. Dr. Freehof proposed that such books as the Corporation may recover should be brought to the United States and here sold on the understanding that the purchasers would give them to designated institutions. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the president of the Corporation should advise Dr. Freehof that no decision regarding the ultimate disposition of recovered books could be made until policies governing their disposition were formulated after consultation with the directors of The Jewish Restitution Commission, but that in the meantime effective measures would be taken to safeguard the books.

Discussion ensued of the proposal of Mr. Gruenewald that German Judaica be sent to the United States to create a library to meet the needs and interests of German Jews now living in this country. Mr. Gruenewald was of the opinion that this would elicit financial support for the work of the Corporation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved That the funds of this Corporation be deposited in THE PUBLIC NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, which is hereby designated a depository of this Corporation, and be subject to be withdrawn by checks, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, notes or other orders or instruments for the payment of money, made or drawn in the name of the Corporation signed by any two of the following officers or agents, to wit: Salo W. Baron, President; David Rosenstein, Treasurer; Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board; and Ahron Opher, Secretary, who are hereby authorized to sign, make, draw, cash, collect, negotiate, endorse and/or deposit, in the Corporate name, all checks, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, notes or other instruments or orders for the payment of money payable by or to this Corporation, or officers or agents thereof as such, and the said Bank is hereby authorized to pay such checks, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, notes or other orders or instruments for the payment of money, and charge same to the Corporation's account and also to receive the same for credit to said account or for the credit of or in payment from the payee or any other holder, who so signed or endorsed, even though the signer or endorser or one or more of the signers or endorsers be the payee(s) or holder (s) thereof, without inquiry as to the circumstances of their issue or the disposition of their proceeds, whether drawn to or endorsed to or by this Corporation or to the individual order of, or tendered in payment of individual obligations or deposited in the individual accounts of, the officers or agents above named, or other officers of this Corporation, or cashed or the proceeds disposed of otherwise by them. The said Bank is hereby further authorized and requested to pay any such instrument or other order for the payment of money without regard to any notation thereon indicating that it is in payment of a certain account or claim and said Bank is expressly relieved from any duty on its part to pass upon the regularity of such notation or any part thereof, or to make any inquiry in respect thereto, and from any and all liability arising from any omission, change or alteration in such notation.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Secretary of this Company be and hereby are directed to deliver to the said Bank a certified copy of these resolutions together with a certificate setting forth the names and certifying to the signatures of the respective officers and agents of this Corporation authorized by these resolutions, and that the said Bank may recognize and deal with the said officers and agents whose names are set forth in said certificate and otherwise act upon the authority of these resolutions until the receipt by said Bank of a superseding certificate or of a written notice to the contrary purporting to be signed by the President and Secretary of this Corporation; that said Bank may rely upon any such superseding certificate or written notice so received by it and may treat the same as super-

seding or modifying the resolutions hereinabove set forth if said Bank believes in good faith that said certificate or notice is authentic and was duly executed by such officers of this Corporation but that said Bank may nevertheless continue (after receiving such superseding certificate or notice) in good faith to act upon the authority of these resolutions and pay or accept, or otherwise deal in any way with, any check, note, draft or other order for the payment of money signed as hereinabove provided in the name of this Corporation and bearing a date prior to the date when, as stated in said superseding certificate or notice, the authority of the person or persons so signing such check, note, draft or other instrument on behalf of this Corporation was changed or terminated; and that, in the event of any controversy, howsoever arising, regarding such or any superseding certificate or written notice, the Bank shall have the right to close the account by mailing or sending to this Corporation the Bank's check payable to the order of this Corporation for the balance in the account, to the last known address of this Corporation as shown on the Bank's records.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Joshua Starr

Acting Secretary

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JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

1841 Broadway, New York 23

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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY 28, 1948

Pursuant to a notice dated January 21, 1948, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., was held on Wednesday afternoon, January 28, 1948, at the office of Professor S. W. Baron, 611 Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University. The following directors were present at the meeting: Messrs. Salo W. Baron, Jerome Michael, Ahron Opher, and Eugene Untermyer. There were also present Messrs: Wolf Blattberg, Arthur A. C. Liverhant and Joshua Starr.

Mr. Michael, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, acted as chairman of the meeting and Mr. Starr acted as secretary of the meeting.

A quorum of the Board being present, the chairman called the meeting to order at 4:50 P. M.

The minutes of the last special preceding meeting of the Board of Directors, held on October 7, 1947, having been previously circulated among the Directors, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes of that meeting was dispensed with, and they were approved as circulated.

At the chairman's request, Dr. Baron, the President of the Corporation, reported that applications for membership had been received from two organizations. Dr. Baron presented a letter, dated October 22, 1947, signed by Jacob Rosenheim, President of Agudas Israel World Organization, which reads as follows: " We beg to propose the inclusion of our organization into the membership of your commission, as we also belong to the Jewish Restitution Commission, and are co-signers of their memorandum of October 15th to General Clay."

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board adopted a resolution admitting the Agudas Israel World Organization as a member of the Corporation. The Executive Secretary was directed to inform the Agudas Israel of this action and to advise them of the understanding that members shall conduct all activities falling within the program of the Corporation through the latter.

Dr. Baron then presented the application of the Restoration Committee of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives of London. He briefly reviewed the history and activities of this Committee.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board adopted a resolution admitting the Restoration Committee of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives of London to membership in the Corporation. The Executive Secretary was directed to notify the Committee of this action.

At the chairman's request, Mr. Liverhant reported on the work and the problems of the Jewish Restitution Commission. The Commission had proceeded on the understanding that General Clay would permit that organization to work in Germany if it were approved by the Departments of State and the Army. The Restitution Law for the U. S. Zone in Germany was promulgated last November. Although the law does not name the successor agency to heirless and unidentifiable Jewish property, there was

reason to expect that the Jewish Restitution Commission would be recognized as the successor organization by the implementing regulations. However, objections to the recognition of the Jewish Restitution Commission had been raised by the Department of the Army, and efforts were still in progress with a view to achieving recognition. The chairman asked whether in view of the opposition to the Commission it might not be advisable for Jewish Cultural Reconstruction to proceed independently with respect to cultural treasures. He requested that the Jewish Restitution Commission bear this possibility in mind.

The chairman called upon Dr. Baron to report on the prospects of sending a mission to Europe. Dr. Baron reported that pursuant to action taken at a prior meeting of the Board, the special committee on mission personnel had met. The sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Baron, Michael and Schwarz, had discussed the personnel that would be needed following the recognition of the Jewish Restitution Commission. In view of the delay, it seemed advisable first to arrange for a military permit for Mr. Starr as the first member of the mission. The JDC had undertaken to obtain the permit. Dr. Baron further reported that a preliminary draft of the terms of reference of the mission had been drawn up, and read the draft. Dr. Baron's report was approved by the meeting, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the aforementioned sub-committee was empowered to fix the terms of reference of the mission as well as to appoint the necessary personnel at the proper time.

In the course of the discussion regarding the contacts to be established by the members of the mission, Rabbi Opher informed the meeting that the Synagogue Council had a representative who was stationed in Germany serving as liaison between the resident communities and AMG. Mr. Blattberg stated that the World Jewish Congress maintained a representative in Paris accredited to UNESCO.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:40 P. M.

Joshua Starr
Executive Secretary

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JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY 18, 1948

Pursuant to a notice dated May 10, 1948, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., was held on Tuesday, May 18, 1948, at the office of Professor S. W. Baron, 611 Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University. The following were present: Messrs. Salo W. Baron, Wolf Blattberg, A. G. Brotman, Solomon Goldsmith, Max Gruenwald, Barnett Janner, Yitzchak Lewin, Arthur A. C. Liverhant, Leo Meyer, Ahron Opher, Israel Rappaport, William F. Rosenbloom, David Rosenstein. Excused were: Simon Federbusch, A. Leon Kubowitzki, Judah L. Magnes, Jerome Michael, Leo W. Schwarz and John Slawson.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P. M. In the absence of Professor Michael, Dr. Baron opened the meeting. The secretary read a communication from Dr. Starr, dated Paris, May 11, 1948, in which Dr. Starr reported on his activities in London and Paris, the reasons for his inability to get into Germany and the problems raised by the transfer of books from Prague. After elaboration of several points by the chairman, it was decided to incorporate this report in the minutes.

Subsequently the chairman reported on the status of the Restitution Commission. According to a cable received by the J. D. C. office, it appears that the Restitution Commission will soon be formally recognized, subject only to the organization of a subsidiary corporation incorporated in Germany to take title to immovable property. There are still many details to be ironed out, but it is hoped that the Commission will be able to start operations within a few weeks.

Dr. Goldsmit raised certain legal problems concerning the new set-up. These were explained by Mr. Liverhant on the basis of suggestions prepared by the working committee of the Restitution Commission.

Mr. Brotman reported briefly about the conditions in the British Zone and the negotiations conducted by the Representative organizations of British Jewry with the British government. A restitution law for that Zone is still under advisement. It is expected that the latter will deviate from both the American and the French models, but it is hoped that a Jewish organization, similar to the Restitution Commission, will be recognized in the British Zone as well.

Mr. Janner, likewise representing the Board of Deputies, suggested that as soon as the Restitution Commission and the JCR begin operations, their efforts be publicized throughout the Jewish

world and particularly among the Jews serving in the armed forces of the occupying powers. Such publicity may elicit much new information about Jewish cultural treasures still held by German individuals or public bodies and thus help in the salvage of these materials.

The chairman reported about the present state of the salvage of Jewish cultural property in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Mr. Schneersohn of the Hebrew University has negotiated with the Polish government about the transfer of a large number of Hebraica and Judaica to Palestine. This transfer is to be effected in connection with the establishment of a chair in the history of the Jews of Poland which is largely to be financed by the Polish Treasury. Unfortunately, because of the unsettled conditions, neither Dr. Magnes nor Dr. Starr were able to discuss the subject with Mr. Schneersohn who is now back in Tel Aviv and his full report is still awaited.

On the other hand, according to Dr. Starr's communication, confirmed by cable from Dr. Joseph Schwarz to Dr. Magnes, 70 cases of books have been shipped from Prague to the JDC warehouse at Antwerp where they are to await shipment to Jerusalem when peace is restored in the Holy Land. Further shipments are expected in the near future. In the ensuing discussion, Messrs. Janner, Dr. Lewin, Dr. Blattberg and others raised questions about the security of these books in Antwerp. On Mr. Janner's motion, it was decided to suggest to the JDC, that these books be properly insured, and that, at least, a certain general inventory be prepared. Dr. Starr could help supervise such work and perhaps enlist the cooperation of Dr. Seeligmann of Amsterdam and others. The chairman was instructed to communicate with Dr. Schwarz to this effect.

The chairman raised the problem of the JCR's budget. The original six-month period covered by the allotment of \$10,000 by the JDC and the Jewish Agency expired at the end of February. In view of the greatly curtailed operations of JCR, however, this amount sufficed to cover the expenses of three more months and there is still a substantial balance in the treasury. As soon as the operations in Germany will begin, however, much larger sums will be required. It was decided to empower the President, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer to prepare a new budget and to submit it in behalf of JCR to the Restitution Commission and the other two operating agencies.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:15 P. M.

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JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

1841 Broadway, New York 23

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 4, 1948

Pursuant to a notice dated October 20, 1948, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held on Thursday, November 4, 1948, at the Harmonie Club, 4 East 60th Street, New York. Present were: Prof. Salo Baron, president; Mr. David Rosenstein, treasurer; Dr. Wolf Blattberg, of the World Jewish Congress; Mr. Rudolph Callman, of the Council for the Protection of Rights of Jews from Germany (London); Mr. Morris Fine, of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Isaac Lewin, of the Agudas Israel World Organization; Dr. Oskar K. Rabinowicz, of the Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives (London); Mr. Eli Rock, of the Joint Distribution Committee; Mr. Abraham Rothfeld, of the American Jewish Conference; Dr. David Werner Senator, of the Hebrew University; and Dr. Philip Friedman, guest.

Prof. Salo W. Baron, president of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, acted as chairman and Mr. Fine acted as secretary.

A quorum of the Board being present, the chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 P. M.

The minutes of the last special preceding meeting of the Board of Directors, held on May 18, 1948, having been previously circulated among the Directors, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes of that meeting was dispensed with, and they were approved as circulated.

Death of Dr. Magnes

The death of Dr. Judah L. Magnes, vice-president of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., was noted and an expression of sympathy unanimously adopted.

Application for Membership

The chairman, Prof. Salo Baron, submitted for consideration the applications of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Wiener Library, both of London, for membership in J. C. R. In submitting these applications, the chairman pointed out some of the criteria for membership, as follows: the representative character of the applying organization within its own country, the degree of representation already enjoyed by the Jewish community of the country in question, and the usefulness of the applying organization in the location and distribution of books. The application of the Anglo-Jewish Association was unanimously approved. The application of the Wiener Library was discussed at length. Dr. Senator moved that it be tabled, giving as his principal reason the special character of the Wiener Library, in comparison with the other organizations

represented in J.C.R. Mr. Fine raised some questions with regard to the representative character of the Library and its permanence. He believed, however, that the opinion of the British community should be decisive. Both Dr. Senator and Mr. Fine expressed their appreciation of the value and importance of the Library as an institution. Dr. Blattberg agreed with Dr. Senator that the motion be tabled. Dr. Rabinowicz spoke up strongly on behalf of the Library, stressing particularly its importance within Great Britain and its role in the cultural reconstruction of European Jewry. He urged defeat of the motion to table and acceptance of the application. Dr. Rabinowicz was supported by Dr. Kallman. A vote was taken and the motion to table was voted 6-3. Several of those voting with the majority pointed out that they did not mean to vote for denial of the application but merely for temporary postponement of the decision.

The chairman reported that he had invited the Interessenvertretung der Juedischen Gemeinden und Kultusvereinigungen of Western Germany to become a member of J.C.R. He pointed out that this action had been taken without prior Board approval on the recommendation of Dr. Joshua Starr, Exec. Sec'y. of J.C.R., who had established contact with the leadership of the German communities, and after consultation with Military Government. He expressed the hope that the Board would ratify this action. After some discussion, the Board ratified the invitation extended to the Interessenvertretung. Regret was expressed that there was no French representation on the Board.

Designation of Directors to JRSO

Mr. Rock reported on the designation of directors of JCR to the JRSO (Jewish Restitution Successor Organization). He said that as far as JCR was concerned, the action of the JRSO was to re-elect the same directors that had been designated by J.C.R. the previous year, subject to the right of J. C. R. to submit changes in the directors to a meeting of the JRSO.

Report of Dr. Senator

The chairman read a letter from Dr. David de Sola Pool. Dr. Pool urged speedy action regarding the distribution of cultural treasures rescued in Europe.

Dr. Senator reported that the negotiations of the Hebrew University for the recovery of the books found in Terezin were still continuing. He reported success in the recovery of some 50,000-55,000 books found in the Sudetenland. These were now stored in Antwerp and Paris awaiting shipment to Israel. Dr. Senator submitted a memorandum which he asked to have circulated among the Board members, dealing with the policy of the Hebrew University on the distribution of Jewish books in Germany, Austria and elsewhere. (A copy of this memorandum is attached.)

Report of Dr. Starr

The chairman read the latest report of Dr. Joshua Starr from Germany. In this connection, he explained the situation with regard to the arrangements for the restitution of property in the American Zone of Germany, which affected the J. C. R. The American authorities have designated JRSO as the successor to all unclaimed and heirless Jewish property in accordance with Military Government Order #59. It was planned that the JDC and the Jewish Agency would serve as the agents for the disposal of economic property, while JCR would administer the cultural property. The JRSO decided to establish its own offices,

while J. C. R. requested Military Government to award the cultural property by administrative action. General Clay sent a strong cable to the State Dept. to recognize J. C. R. as the successor organization for all cultural property. The approval of this recommendation would give J. C. R. title not only to material of German origin, but to all cultural property, which is heirless and unclaimed, thus including property, not covered by the ordinance under which JRSO operates.

The chairman also reported on the recent thinking of the officers of J.C.R. with regard to sending a mission to Germany. Their ideas about this had changed as result of stabilization of the currency, which now made it more expensive to operate in Germany.

There was some discussion of the advisability of requesting Dr. Starr to return for a short period for the purpose of giving first-hand information on the progress in Germany and of explaining plans for the opening of a J. C. R. office there. The budgetary situation of J. C. R. was reviewed with this in mind, the Treasurer pointing out that there was a small balance in the treasury which was sufficient to take care of Dr. Starr's traveling expenses. A motion requesting Dr. Starr's return for the purposes indicated above was duly made and seconded and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Starr's proposed budget for the first six months of 1949 for the establishment of the J.C.R. office in Germany was read and discussed. In it he asked for \$21,000, to be financed jointly by the JDC and the Jewish Agency. It was suggested that the Hebrew University be asked to provide a field man for the purpose of cataloguing the books and other cultural treasures. Dr. Senator, at this juncture, brought up the question of reimbursing the Hebrew University for the expenses it incurred in connection with the work of rescuing cultural treasures in Poland and Czechoslovakia, which it had defrayed in their entirety. No action was taken.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the budget proposed by Dr. Starr was turned over to a special sub-committee for further consideration, with power to act.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris Fine
Secretary Pro Tem

11/16/48

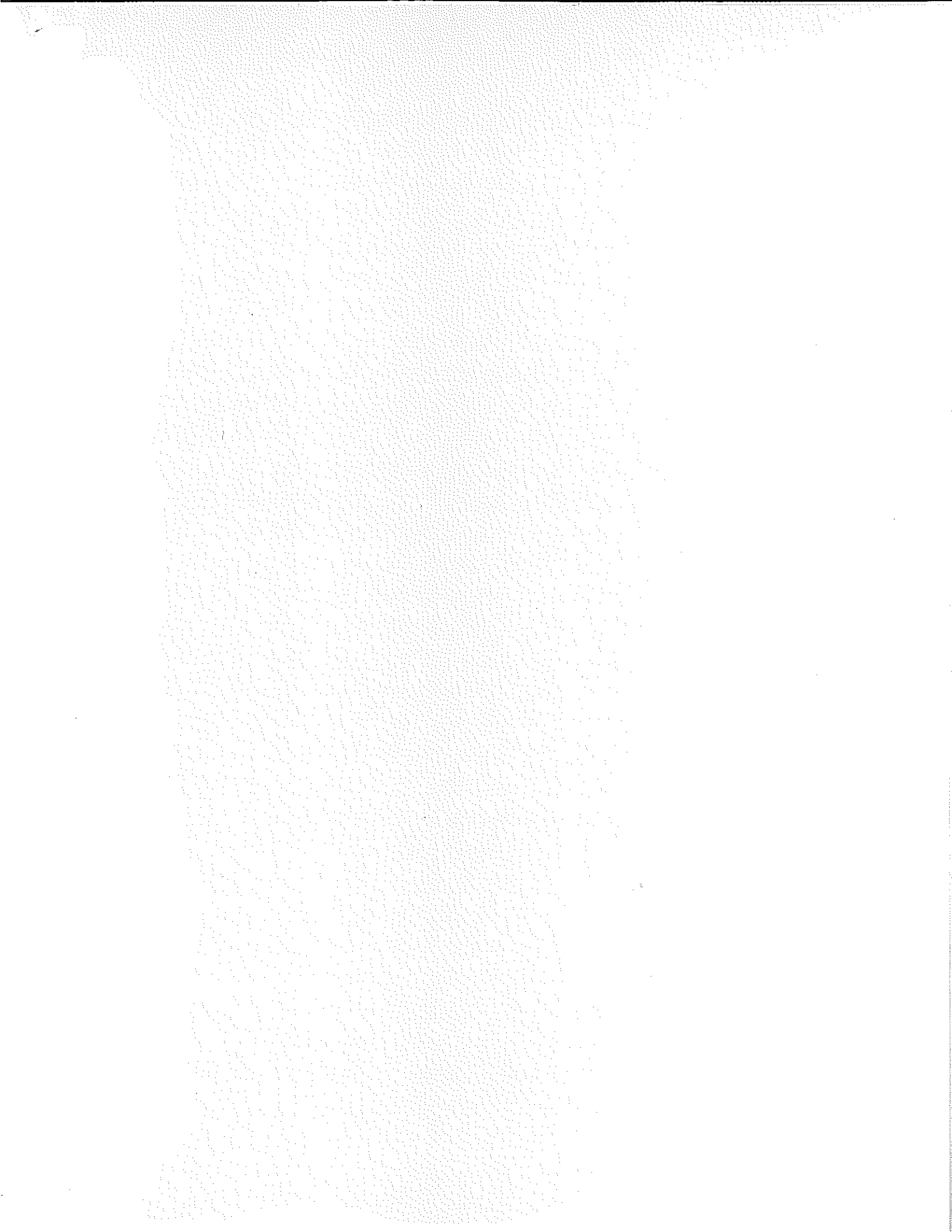
January 15, 1948

Jewish books in Offenbach, Germany, and other localities
of Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and other countries.

THE POLICY OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

1. Historical justice requires that the scholarly work of destroyed Jewish institutions of learning and Jewish communities be continued in Jewish institutions throughout the world, but especially in the Holy Land, where the Jewish tradition of learning has now its main living centre. Not only the Hebrew University, but each of the large number of religious and cultural institutions in Palestine need these books and manuscripts of extinct Jewish institutions and communities for their own development and for the development of the Jewish tradition.
2. There is now in Palestine a wider circle of scholars and students concerned with Jewish and Hebrew materials than in any other Jewish centre. Not only the Hebrew University and the large numbers of yeshivot, seminaries and schools, but also - a point of great importance - many communities, groups and individuals in the Holy Land require these books for purposes of their daily life. The great tradition of Jewish learning is being developed not only in the institutions of Palestine, but it is becoming more and more a part of the life and thought of the whole Jewish community.
3. Jews all over the world, regardless of party affiliation, have welcomed and have furthered the transfer to Palestine of large numbers of Jewish settlers. They all agree that the great bulk of displaced Jews, now languishing in refugee camps, should have the opportunity of making their home in the historic Holy Land. It is imperative as well that the refugee books and manuscripts of despoiled Jewish institutions and communities, also find their home in the Holy Land. The large majority of the Jews who have been saved would thus be enabled in their new home to renew and to deepen their religious and cultural life.
4. It can therefore be readily understood why the Hebrew University urges the transfer to Palestine of those books and manuscripts which are regarded as essential by the University. The Hebrew University is confident that the other institutions represented in Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. will be ready to grant priority in this respect to the Hebrew University, which represents not only itself but also all the institutions of learning and the communities of Palestine. The Hebrew University may be trusted also to have full understanding for the needs of Jewish institutions throughout the world.
5. To this end, the Hebrew University submitted on November 3rd, 1947, a statement of policy to the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. in words to this effect:
 - (a) If there be sufficient time at its disposal, the mission abroad proposed by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. would sort out these books in Germany and allocate them to the various countries and institutions, in accordance with the basic policy of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.

- (b) If retaining these books in Germany for a longer period would endanger the position, we propose the transfer to Palestine of these books en bloc, on the assumption that the bulk of these books would remain in Palestine in any event. The Hebrew University is ready to establish a special department within the National and University Library for dealing with all these questions. This department would engage in the sorting and cataloguing of the material. The Hebrew University would honour the claims of all lawful owners and would dispose of these books and manuscripts in accordance with the decisions of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. It would be helpful if Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. were to send a representative to Palestine to collaborate in this work.
- (c) The policy of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. should be based on the following three principles:
1. Books of a general Jewish interest should go to the National and University Library in Jerusalem, to be held in trust for distribution to the University and other institutions of a religious or cultural character in Palestine.
 2. Material of special interest to the Jews in English speaking countries should be distributed there, taking into account the special interests of particular groups, such as the Sephardim, the Jews from Germany, etc.
 3. In case of differences of opinion concerning important books or manuscripts, a Board should be constituted representing the Hebrew University, the claimant and a third person, to be chosen jointly by both sides and the decision of this Board is to be regarded as final.



JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 5, 1949

Pursuant to a notice dated April 25th, 1949, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held on Thursday, May 5, 1949 at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University, New York.

Present were: Dr. Salo W. Baron, President; Dr. Wolf Blattberg, World Jewish Congress; Mr. Rudolph Callman, American Federation of Jews from Central Europe; Mr. David E. Goldberg, Hebrew University; Dr. Max Gruenewald, American Federation of Jews from Central Europe; Dr. Isaac Lewin, Agudas Israel; Mr. Judah Shapiro, Joint Distribution Committee. Also present was Dr. Joshua Starr.

Professor Baron acted as chairman and Dr. Starr acted as secretary. A quorum of the Board being present, the chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 P. M.

The minutes of the last special preceding meeting of the Board held on March 14th having been previously circulated among the directors, upon motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes of that meeting was dispensed with and they were approved as circulated.

The Chairman pointed out the need for electing a Secretary of the Board. Dr. Gruenewald was duly nominated and elected to that office with power to sign checks drawn on the account of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Chairman placed before the meeting a proposal for the formation of an executive committee to which the Board of Directors could delegate its powers. He suggested that the committee consist of one representative of each of the nine members of the corporation maintaining offices in New York, these representatives to be designated by the respective organizations. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adopted a resolution to constitute such an executive committee.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the President of the Corporation was authorized to vest the following power of attorney in Dr. Bernard Heller as Field Director;

I, SALO W. BARON, President of JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC., a membership corporation organized and existing under the laws of New York, do hereby certify as follows:

That BERNARD HELLER has been duly appointed Field Director of the Corporation by the Board of Directors thereof;

That by virtue of the authority conferred upon said Bernard Heller as Field Director by the Board of Directors he is empowered to execute and deliver on behalf of the Corporation any and all documents and agreements relative to the administration of Jewish cultural property and properties in

May 5, 1949

any country in Europe and the movement thereof from any country in Europe to another country in Europe or to a country outside of Europe and to agree to such terms and conditions on behalf of the Corporation with regard to such administration and movement as to him may be deemed necessary or appropriate.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I, as President of the Corporation, have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Corporation this 7th day of May, 1949.

President

Dr. Starr reported that on April 5th, after consultation with JRSO, he had signed an agreement with OMGUS covering the disposition of five cases of Hebrew manuscripts and rare editions, which have been in the custody of the Hebrew University since 1947. He read the text of the agreement as follows:

ADDENDUM I

to Memorandum of Agreement of 15 February 1949
Subject: "Jewish Cultural Property"

1. Pursuant to the intent of the basic agreement of 15 February 1949 that JCR, Inc. will act as trustee in receiving certain Jewish Cultural Property for the Jewish people and in distributing it to such public or quasi-public religious, cultural or educational institutions as it sees fit to be used in the interest of perpetuating Jewish art and culture; there are transferred hereby to the JCR, Inc., approximately 366 manuscripts, as listed on the attached inventory and custody receipt of 24 July 1947, American Consul General, Jerusalem, Palestine, comprising all cultural properties moved in one single shipment from Offenbach Archival Depot, Germany, to Jerusalem and placed in custody of Dr. I. Joel, Acting Librarian, Hebrew University, on 22 June 1947.
2. In full recognition of the value of these manuscripts and with the knowledge that a number of them are identifiable, JCR, Inc., hereby agrees to undertake to give appropriate notice to owners of identifiable works that the works will be delivered to the rightful owner by JCR, Inc., the rightful owners agreeing to pay cost of shipping and insurance in transit.
3. JCR, Inc. also agrees to furnish to OMGUS, Berlin, Germany, copies of the letters of notice issued to the identified owners and to furnish reports to OMGUS at 90-day intervals as to deliveries which have been made.
4. Manuscripts whose source is unidentifiable included in this shipment, to be determined and agreed by a designated representative of JCR, Inc., and a representative to be designated by the U. S. Military Governor will be transferred to JCR, Inc. on simple memorandum receipt with the sole proviso that the properties are to be utilized for the maintenance of the cultural heritage of the Jewish people.
5. The identifiable manuscripts included in this shipment, to be determined and agreed upon by a representative of JCR, Inc. and a representative to be designated by the U. S. Military Governor will be transferred on custody receipt providing that the JCR, Inc. will maintain these works, will seek the rightful owners, and will deliver them to properly identified claimants as stated in paragraph two above, or will deliver any of them to a rightful owner

May 5, 1949

(cost of shipping and insurance to be borne by the owner) on instruction from the U. S. Government.

6. JCR, Inc. agrees to accept full custody of these properties as soon as access thereto can be gained in Jerusalem, and immediately thereafter initiate action to locate the owners of the identifiable works.

Date April 5, 1949

(signed)

O. R. McJunkins
Authorized Representative
U. S. Military Governor

Place Berlin

(signed)

Joshua Starr
Authorized Representative
JCR, Inc.

Consented to and Approved on
behalf of JRSO, Inc.

by

(signed)

Saul Kagan
Authorized Representative,
JRSO, Inc.

.....

The meeting discussed the advisability of having the manuscripts screened in Jerusalem rather than in Washington or elsewhere. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a resolution was adopted instructing the Executive Secretary to inform OMGUS through the JRSO that JCR preferred to have this work conducted in Jerusalem, if possible. As an alternative, JCR would be willing to have the property shipped to the Library of Congress pending the clarification of the ownership of a number of items.

At the request of the chairman, Dr. Starr presented a schedule of distribution of unidentifiable German books at Offenbach:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Items</u>
W. Germany	16	3,312 (1)
Great Britain	22	3,858
S. Africa	13	2,273
Palestine	47	8,906
W. Hemisphere	46	9,073
Total	<u>144</u>	<u>27,422</u>

(1) Limited to popular material; normally 4 copies of each title.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, this schedule was approved and the Executive Secretary was instructed to submit a copy to JRSO for confirmation.

May 5, 1949

Dr. Starr further reported that on April 22nd, he had dispatched to the port of Hamburg five freight cars containing 497 cases of books and periodicals (77,603 items). This shipment, consigned to JCR in New York, consists only in part of an allocation for libraries and schools in the Western Hemisphere. In addition to material allocated, the shipment comprises material which is being merely transferred to the New York depot of JCR to await allocation to various countries in addition to the U. S.


The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from Dr. Leo Baeck dealing with certain collections formerly belonging to Jewish institutions in Germany which are no longer in existence. Dr. Baeck's proposal to entrust one or more of these collections en bloc to designated research bodies organized by German Jewish emigres has aroused both agreement and opposition within the Board. Following a discussion of this proposal, the Chairman concluded that it would be best to ask the spokesmen of the opposing views to present their arguments in fuller detail so that the Board could make its decision at the forthcoming meeting.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a communication from the State Department requesting information regarding the heirs to private and institutional collections removed by the Germans from the Baltic countries and now stored at Offenbach. The Chairman stated that three of the rightful owners of a part of the collection had been located and assumed that the bulk of the books were heirless. With the approval of the Board, the Chairman instructed the Executive Secretary to ask the State Department for a reply to the letter of JCR offering to take custody of the Baltic collections for the purpose of making restitution wherever possible as well as for the distribution of the heirless property.

The Chairman reported on steps taken to investigate unreported Jewish cultural property and collections in the hands of the Gemeinden in Germany. He stated that it had become essential for the Council for the Protection of Rights of Jews from Germany to present a memorandum to JCR on methods to be pursued in arranging for the recovery of such property and on available personnel and funds for the purpose. Dr. Gruenewald and Mr. Callman agreed to arrange for the preparation of such a memorandum.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


JOSHUA STARR

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Prof. A. Marx, Chairman; Prof. L. Finkelstein; Rabbi I. E. Kiev;
Prof. A. M. Margalith; Dr. Moses Munk

Ex officio: Prof. S. W. Baron; Dr. J. Starr

The Committee met on May 8, 1949 in the office of the Chairman, Professor Marx, who called the meeting to order at 10:30 A. M.

1. Allocation and shipment. Dr. Starr presented schedules of distribution of unidentified property comprising Hebrew and Yiddish books (A), and German Judaica (B). A copy of the former had been circulated by mail, and Schedule B is shown below:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Items</u>
W. Germany	16	3,312 ⁽¹⁾
Great Britain	22	3,858
S. Africa	13	2,273
Palestine	47	8,906
W. Hemisphere	46	9,073
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	144	27,422
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(1) Limited to popular material; normally 4 copies of each title.

Dr. Starr reported that the first JCR overseas shipment had left Offenbach, on April 22nd, bound for New York. The five carloads contain the following material:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Items</u>
1. Hebraica	234	38,379
2. Hebrew and Yiddish newspapers	51	747
3. German Judaica	46	9,073
4. German Periodica "	79	23,311
5. Hebraica (from Stürmer plant)	83	5,932
6. Yivo property and material for deposit with Yivo	4	161
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	497	77,603

Categories 1 and 4 are listed in detail: for category 5 the list covers 68 cases. The Hebraica were packed as indicated in Schedule A, and category 3 was packed alphabetically by author, except for a small percentage of misplaced items.

Dr. Starr further reported that the remaining periodica would also be shipped to New York to await direct allocation to interested libraries in all countries, and that a similar procedure would be followed in respect to the residue of the rare book collection, after the selection made by Mr. Shunami in behalf of the Jewish National and University Library.

2. Operations in New York. Dr. Baron requested the Committee members to give some thought to the finding of qualified personnel and to the other problems involved in the care and distribution of the books after delivery to a depot to be established in New York. Inasmuch as the JCR budget would not provide for the transportation and handling of shipments from the German port to the beneficiary institutions, it was recommended that a charge of twenty-five cents per book be assessed on those institutions. In accordance with Rabbi Kiev's suggestion, items returned to JCR after delivery would be credited at the same rate.

Dr. Margalith pointed out that, in making allocations, it will be essential to provide multiple copies for class use, as distinguished from filling gaps in library holdings. Supplementing this recommendation, Dr. Munk proposed that the distribution list adopted by the Committee at the meeting of February 6, be enlarged to include the smaller yeshivot. The Committee agreed that libraries attached to institutions of learning should receive allocations for their circulating collections, which would also be made available to readers outside of the student body. Dr. Finkelstein proposed that the unallocated residue be stored and utilized as future needs might require.

3. Sifre Torah. Dr. Munk asked what disposition was to be made of Sifre Torah. In answer to the question, Dr. Baron reviewed the successive plans which had been considered, and stated that it had been found most economical and practical to ship the scrolls to the JDC in Paris. This office has undertaken to employ scribes to select those which were fit for use, and to report the result to JCR, which would control their distribution.

4. Subcommittee. At the suggestion of Dr. Baron, the chairman announced that he would call a meeting of the subcommittee to consider candidates for the work to be done in New York by JCR, and to prepare recommendations based on the questionnaires returned by the libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P. M.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 7, 1949 *file*

Pursuant to a notice dated May 26, 1949, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 7, 1949 at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University, New York.

Present were: Dr. S. W. Baron, President; Dr. G. Scholem, Vice-President; Dr. W. Blattberg (World Jewish Congress); Dr. S. Goldsmith (Agudas Israel); Dr. M. Gruenewald (American Federation of Jews from Central Europe); Mr. H. Salpeter (Hebrew University). Also present was Dr. J. Starr.

Dr. Baron acted as Chairman and Dr. Starr acted as Secretary. The chairman called the meeting to order at 4.15 P.M.

1. Minutes

The Chairman stated that Dr. I. Lewin had written to him, requesting a correction in the minutes of the Board meeting of May 5, in regard to an additional allocation of books in the field of rabbinics for institutions in Israel. Following some remarks by Dr. Goldsmith on the matter, the Chairman explained that Distribution Schedule A, as adopted, provided to a certain extent for the shipment of certain categories of material from New York to Israel and elsewhere. The minutes of the meeting in question having been previously circulated among the directors, upon motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes of that meeting was dispensed with and they were approved as circulated.

2. Distribution of Ceremonial Objects in Israel

The Chairman placed before the Board a letter from Mr. Maurice M. Boukstein, dealing with the transfer of ceremonial objects allocated by JCR for synagogues in Israel. As Mr. Boukstein wrote, "the Jewish Agency should be authorized by J.R.S.O. to request the Ministry for Religious Affairs to assume the burden of distributing the religious ceremonial objects to be sent to Israel by J.C.R. This arrangement would result in the Ministry of Religious Affairs doing the job, as was intended by J.C.R., and at the same time, also indicate the connection of the Jewish Agency with the matter." Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the procedure suggested by Mr. Boukstein.

3. Hebrew Name for JCR

The Chairman reported that the adoption of a Hebrew name for JCR had been under consideration, particularly because of the need for a suitable bookplate, which will be pasted in the books

distributed. Dr. Scholem proposed the name תקומה לתרבות ישראל and a discussion ensued. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the adoption of a name was entrusted to a committee consisting of Messrs. Baron, Scholem and Starr.

4. Budget for July-December 1949

The Chairman presented the budget for JCR operations in New York and the field for the second half of 1949. Upon motion duly made and seconded, this budget, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, was approved, and the officers of JCR were authorized to negotiate with JRSO for the necessary appropriation.

5. Report of Executive Secretary

Dr. Starr reported that, in compliance with the agreement between JCR and OMGUS, operations at the Offenbach Depot were concluded on May 31. The shipments to six destinations comprised some 1400 cases, with the various categories packed separately and the contents recorded in detail. The entire stock of Torah scrolls, in 35 cases, was placed in the custody of the JDC European Headquarters (Paris), which has undertaken to report to JCR the results of its examination of this material. As one of the destinations, the JCR Depot in Brooklyn holds close to 500 cases of books and periodicals, for distribution in the Western Hemisphere, and in certain categories for allocation to other parts of the world as well. Rabbi S. Rochman, who has worked at Offenbach for a considerable period, has been engaged to administer the depot in Brooklyn.

In accordance with a supplementary agreement between JCR and OMGUS, the President designated Dr. K. Wormann and Dr. I. Joel of the Jewish National and University Library as the agents of JCR in negotiations regarding the manuscripts and rare editions, which have been in the custody of the Library in Jerusalem since 1947.

During the ensuing months JCR operations in Europe will be continued chiefly at Wiesbaden, where the heirless cultural property is stored. As Field Director, Dr. Heller has been instructed to allocate the ceremonial objects (apart from those classified by Mr. Narkiss as suitable for museums) as follows: Israel - equipment for 62 synagogues (listed in a communication from the Minister of Religious Affairs), but not to exceed 40% of the stock in each category; Western Europe - 25%; Western Hemisphere - 25%; Great Britain - 5%; South Africa and other countries - 5%.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the report of the Executive Secretary was approved, and a vote of thanks to him and his associates, adopted in recognition of the magnitude and complexity of the achievement of the field staff since last February. The Board further resolved to empower the Advisory Committee to proceed with the distribution of the books allocated for the Western Hemisphere, instructing the Executive Secretary to canvass the votes of Board members on matters of special importance, without waiting for a Board meeting.

6. Proposals for Provision for Libraries
Specializing in German-Jewish History

The Chairman placed before the Board a communication from Dr. Leo Baeck, dated April 12, requesting specific consideration for the interests of Jewish emigre scholars from Germany, now continuing their research in German-Jewish history in England, the U. S. and South America. In reply to Dr. Baeck's letter Dr. Scholem had written to Dr. Baron, under date of May 31, questioning the advisability of expanding the distribution list, as Dr. Baeck's proposal would require. It would be preferable, Dr. Scholem wrote, for the Society for Jewish Study to join forces with the Jewish Historical Society of England or a similar body, and to benefit by the allocation made to that institution. He also recommended that a corresponding arrangement be made in New York.

In the course of the extended discussion, Dr. Gruenewald stated that he recognized the importance of adhering to the principle that no emigre society be granted the right of successor to the property of a body destroyed by the Nazis, unless its status as such could be established beyond reasonable doubt. In his opinion, however, there would be moral justification for making an exception in behalf of the scholarly circle in London headed by Dr. Baeck. As for the project of a German-Jewish memorial collection in New York, Dr. Gruenewald cited a proposal submitted by Dr. E. Tauebler, with the approval of President Nelson Glueck of the Hebrew Union College, for the establishment of such a collection under the auspices of the Jewish Institute of Religion. The position taken by Dr. Gruenewald was commented upon, and Dr. Baron pointed out that, in view of the recognized functions of the Advisory Committee, the proposal involving the Jewish Institute of Religion should be first considered by that Committee, and its recommendation referred to the Board for action.

7. Administration of Baltic Collections

The Chairman reported that OMGUS had requested JCR to take custody of the identifiable books from the Baltic countries for a two-year period, with the responsibility of finding the owners or heirs and making restitution. He pointed out certain objections to the proposed agreement, which had been conveyed to JRSO in Germany. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the President of JCR was authorized to arrange for more acceptable terms, and at his discretion to instruct the Field Director to sign an agreement governing the disposition of the Baltic collections.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6.20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Starr
JOSHUA STARR

BUDGET
July-December 1949

Expenditures

Europe

Field Director	\$ 3,000.	
Administrative Officer	2,000.	
Assistant	1,800.	
Transportation	3,000.	
Travel and Per Diem	3,500.	
Office	<u>500.</u>	
Total		\$13,800.

Headquarters

Executive Secretary	\$ 3,600.	
Depot Manager	2,000.	
Depot Assistant	1,500.	
Stenographer	1,500.	
Storage and Handling	1,000.	
Office, telephone, etc.	<u>1,000.</u>	
Total		\$ 10,600.
		<u>\$ 24,400.</u>

Assets and Income

Estimated Cash Balance as of June 30, 1949	\$ 3,300.	
Payment for handling charges (30,000 volumes)	<u>7,500</u>	
Total		<u>\$ 10,800.</u>
Balance required		\$ 13,600.

SEP 28 1949

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

September 27, 1949

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.
From: Hannah Arendt

I am submitting for your consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. I call your attention in particular to the recommendation regarding the Hermann Cohen collection.

May I ask you to signify your acceptance of this particular recommendation or to offer an alternative suggestion?

A response card is enclosed for your convenience.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 19, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Rabbi I. Edward Kiev, Chairman; Professor Louis Finkelstein, Dr. Franz Landsberger, Dr. Stephen S. Kayser, Dr. A. M. Margalith, Rabbi M. L. Munk, Dr. David de Sola Pool, Dr. Guido Schoenberger, and Dr. Rachel Wischnitzer.

Ex officio: Prof. Salo W. Baron and Dr. Hannah Arendt.

The Committee met on September 19, 1949, at 4:30 in the afternoon, in the office of Prof. Baron, Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University.

1. Ceremonial Objects which Arrived in New York

- a. The Committee agreed to establish a sub-committee which should be responsible for the evaluation and selection of museum pieces for allocation.
- b. In view of the fact that the museum pieces outnumber the synagogue pieces almost in the proportion of 9 to 1, the Committee decided a revision of the original division of the objects.
- c. The question of duplicates was raised and it was decided to proceed as in the case of books, that is, to make it impossible for an institution to receive duplicates. The special difficulties in deciding what a duplicate is in the case of an art object were recognized.
- d. Recipients of museum pieces.-- The art objects which arrived in this country are for distribution not only to the countries in the Western Hemisphere but also to Great Britain and So. Africa. It was agreed that Great Britain should receive her usual share of 5%-7% of the total, that is, 250-350 objects. So. Africa, Canada and Argentina should receive 5% each of the material in New York, that is (if the present categories are not radically changed), about 150 items each.
- e. Recipients in the United States.-- The Committee agreed that the Jewish Museum in New York and the Jewish Museum in Cincinnati should have first call. It was recognized that Yeshiva University has a special claim and should follow immediately after these top priorities.

A list of other prospective recipients, who should be notified, will be drawn up by the sub-committee. The following institutions were mentioned: The Jewish Center Lecture Bureau for its exhibits, the Jewish community centers in Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco.

f. The proposition to allocate museum pieces to non-Jewish institutions (the Committee considered a request by the Jewish Cultural Foundation of New York University) was accepted in principle; however, the Jewish institutions should be served first. It was agreed that a certain portion should be held back for the purpose of later distribution.

g. Synagogue Objects.-- First priority will be given to congregations of recent arrivals from Central Europe and to recommendations by the United Jewish Appeal.

h. A handling charge of 60¢ per item will be asked from the recipients in order to cover the cost of transport from Germany.

Repair of museum and synagogue pieces shall be undertaken by the recipient, who may avail himself of the services of the Jewish Museum.

It should be noted that there is considerable breakage among the objects to be distributed.

i. Every recipient shall sign an agreement by which it agrees to pay handling charges, to take good care of the objects and to indicate their origin in a label, on the index card, and in the inventory.

In the case of synagogue objects, a lock-tag was considered and decision postponed.

2. Hermann Cohen Collection

This is the first of the German Jewish institutional units which are now being sorted in Wiesbaden. In view of the fact that it consists primarily of books of non-Jewish content, philosophy and Christian theology, it was decided to allocate it to the Hebrew University.

However, 400 non-Jewish periodicals and 100 Jewish periodicals of this unit might be separated and otherwise allocated, if they have no marginal notes by Hermann Cohen and if they are duplicates in the collection of the Hebrew University.

3. The Stuermer Collection

Apart from about 2,000 items requested by the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Jewish Institute of Religion and Yivo, the whole collection was allocated to Yeshiva University, which will keep it intact as a unit.

4. Smaller Libraries

A list of smaller libraries which have applied to Jewish Cultural Reconstruction for allocation of books was submitted to the Committee. The following requests were recognized:

- a) National Jewish Welfare Board - a small reference library of Halakhic literature, specifically Responsa
- b) Jewish Education Committee - a small number of specific titles
- c) Jewish Community Center, Washington, D.C. - one set of the basic classics in Hebrew
- d) Bureau of Jewish Education, Louisville, Ky., for a Jewish community library - one set of the basic classics in Hebrew and some fiction in Hebrew and Yiddish
- e) Jewish Federation and Council, Kansas City, Mo., for local needs - one set of the basic classics in Hebrew and some fiction in Hebrew and Yiddish
- f) Hebrew Convalescent Home, New York - some Yiddish novels.

The application from 10 Yeshivot will be considered by a special sub-committee consisting of Rabbi Munk, Dr. Kaminetsky and Dr. Arendt.

5. Applications from Abroad

The Committee agreed to fill at least part of the needs of the Jewish communities in Switzerland and Sweden from the Brooklyn depot, because they have been left out of the original allocation from Germany. It was also decided to re-consider the needs of these communities as soon as new collections are made available to JCR.

The great need for Talmudic literature by the Jewish communities in Morocco was stressed, and it was decided to ask the JDC office in Paris to consider the needs of these communities from the JDC reservoir in France and to place the Moroccan communities on the list of recipients for further distribution.

6. Soviet Russian School Books

It was agreed to divide the contents of the two cases of Soviet Russian school books between the Jewish Education Committee and Yivo.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt

J. H.

**JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.**

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Directors
From: Dr. Hannah Arendt

I am ~~submitting for~~ your consideration the vote of the Advisory Committee (Minutes of meeting of September 19, 1949) advising allocation of the Stuermer collection to the Yeshiva University.

The Stuermer collection consists of approximately 7,000 items of rabbinic literature and other Hebraica. A total of about 2,000 items have been requested by the Jewish Theological Seminary, ~~and~~ the Jewish Institute of Religion, and Yiddish Scientific Institute.

In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, this collection should be kept intact.

Yeshiva University has accepted to receive the books, to keep the collection as a unit, and to honor, under an amicable arrangement, the requests from the other institutions.

May I ask you to please signify your acceptance of this recommendation or to offer an alternative plan on the enclosed card?

November 4, 1949

The American Jewish Committee

NOV 15 '49

LIBRARY

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

Oct. 17-1949 file

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 17, 1949

Pursuant to a notice dated September 28, 1949, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation was held at 9 P.M. on October 17, 1949, at the Harmonie Club, 4 East 60th Street, New York City.

The following persons were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, President; Prof. Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Dr. Simon Federbusch, Vice-President; Dr. Max Gruenewald, Secretary; Dr. Wolf Blattberg, Mr. Rudolf Callman, Rabbi Hirsch Freund, Dr. Isaac Lewin, Dr. Ben Halpern, and Mr. Eli Rock.

Dr. Bernard Heller, former Field Secretary

Ex officio: Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary.

Jerome Michael, the chairman of the Board of Directors, acted as chairman, and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary, of the meeting.

1. Minutes

The reading of the Minutes of the last meeting of June 7, 1949, was dispensed with. The Minutes were approved as circulated.

2. Election of Officers

Re-elected were: Salo W. Baron, President; Jerome Michael, Chairman of Board of Directors; Leo Baeck, Simon Federbusch, Gershom Scholem and Alan M. Stroock, Vice-Presidents; David Rosenstein, Treasurer; and Max Gruenewald, Secretary.

The question of an increase in the number of vice-presidents was raised and discussed. The Chairman read to the meeting the following paragraph from the By-Laws of the organization:

"In case of the death or absence of the President, or of his inability to act from any cause, one of the Vice-Presidents, in the order of their seniority, shall perform the duties of the office of President."

In view of the fact that the Vice-Presidents do not represent member organizations but are elected as individuals, and in view of the fact that they have no duties except in case of an emergency, it was decided not to add any more vice-presidents to those who were already re-elected.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, gratitude of the Board to the President of the organization, Professor Baron, and to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Professor Michael, was unanimously and warmly expressed.

3. Problems of Allocation and Distribution

It was decided that the allocation of German Jewish institutional collections now in process of distribution should not follow schematically the rule under which the 250,000 books of the Offenbach Depot had been distributed, namely, 40 percent each to Israel and the Western Hemisphere, and the rest to other countries, but that the destination of each collection should be considered separately after pertinent information has been received from Wiesbaden.

The allocation of the Hermann Cohen collection to the Hebrew University was ratified.

It was decided to honor the repeated applications from Switzerland for the distribution of books among the Swiss Jewish communities. Dr. Gruenewald proposed that the remnants of the Fraenkelsche Stiftung, Breslau, should be allocated to Switzerland, on condition that this collection be kept intact, and not distributed among Jewish communities in Switzerland, but since the Advisory Committee had recommended that these be distributed among Switzerland, Sweden and, possibly, Italy, this proposal was referred to the Advisory Committee for re-consideration.

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on distribution of ceremonial objects, as set forth in the minutes of the Committee's meeting of September 19, 1949, were reported to the Board of Directors, and adopted.

Dr. Lewin raised the question of allocation of books to the Israeli Yeshivot. He complained that distribution had not yet started. Professor Baron stressed the autonomy of the local groups. There was general regret, however, that communications with New York headquarters were slow and that reports to New York about local distribution from the recipient countries were frequently not made.

Upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was decided that the President and the Secretary of the organization should take all steps which they deem appropriate to bring about speedy distribution and to insist on reports from the recipient countries.

Dr. Lewin stressed the great needs of individual rabbis for rabbinic literature which is now being distributed from the Brooklyn depot. Professor Baron recommended once more the establishment of a circulating library to fill the needs of individual rabbis. He also stressed the difficulties involved. Dr. Lewin agreed to survey the situation and to find out what library or institution would accept this charge.

4. Future Operations in Germany

The Board authorized a preliminary investigation in Germany to find out whether a systematic search of hidden caches for Jewish cultural treasures -- books and art objects -- would yield adequate results.

5. Individual Claims

Professor Baron reported that the Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives, in London, had decided that the trusteeship of books received and allocated to institutions should not be limited to any period. This is in contradiction to the JCR decision to reserve for itself the right to ask for the return of a book from a recipient during a period of two years.

In the discussion it was pointed out that if the civil law of any country or the good will of a particular recipient should enable a former owner to reclaim his property, there would certainly be no objection. But the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction could assume no obligation whatsoever beyond the two-year limit, especially since it is not conceived as a permanent organization.

The Board decided that the member organizations of JCR should be informed that they have no right to deviate from the rulings of the Board of Directors without having previously brought the matter to the Board's attention.

In this connection, the establishment of a rabbinical court to review doubtful claims was discussed and Rabbi Freund of the Synagogue Council was asked for eventual implementation.

6. Public Announcements

In view of the fact that member organizations have made public announcements in which they claimed credit for operations which had been carried out by JCR, and in view of the further fact that statements of policy which deviated from the rulings of the corporation were published by member organizations as if they were rulings of the corporation, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was decided that no member organization should have the authority to make public statements without the approval of the Board.

7. Designation of Three Directors to Represent Jewish Cultural Reconstruction on the Board of Jewish Restitution Successor Organization

Professor Baron and Professor Michael were re-elected as representatives of JCR on the Board of Directors of JRSO. They were also empowered to designate a third representative in the near future.

8. Smelting of Ceremonial Objects

Regret was expressed that the Board had not been informed of this operation in time and that no formal vote had been solicited.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt
Hannah Arendt

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

Oct-17-1949 *feb*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION
October 17, 1949

Pursuant to a notice dated September 28, 1949, copy of which precedes the minutes, the Annual Meeting of this corporation for 1949 was held at 8:15 P.M. on Monday, October 17, 1949, at the Harmonie Club, 4 East 60th Street, New York City.

The following members of the corporation were represented at the meeting by their respective representatives:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction	Salo W. Baron Jerome Michael
Agudas Israel World Organization	Isaac Lewin
Council for the Protection of Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany	Rudolf Callman Max Gruenewald
Jewish Agency for Palestine	Ben Halpern (for Chaim Greenberg)
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	Eli Rock (for J. Lookstein and Jonah B. Wise)
Synagogue Council of America	Hirsch Freund
World Jewish Congress	Wolf Blattberg Simon Federbusch

Bernard Heller, former Field Secretary

Ex officio: Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary

Dr. Salo W. Baron, the president of the corporation, acted as chairman, and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary, of the meeting.

As president of the corporation, Dr. Baron rendered his annual report as follows:

1. Annual Report

- A. Financial Statement.-- The financial statement covered the period from October 1, 1947 to June 30, 1949. Total receipts for this period amounted to \$31,131.25, total disbursements \$24,287.32.

During the period from October 1, 1947 to December 31, 1948, the corporation received \$10,000 and disbursed \$8,226.57. The disbursements for salaries amounted to \$6,300, traveling expenses to Europe and in Europe itself were \$1,764, and office expenses amounted to \$162.57.

During the first six months of the current year the organization received the amount of \$21,131.25 of which \$4,721.89 were spent on salaries for the New York and European staff; \$4,308.43 on traveling expenses to and in Europe; and \$6,645.01 on freight and storage for 810 cases of books which arrived in New York. (The expenses for shipment of books to America having been much higher than anticipated, the corporation succeeded in getting these costs reduced by more than \$3,000. The reimbursement will appear in the financial report for the period July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950.) New York office expenses and miscellaneous amounted to \$385.42.

- B. Shipments.-- Report on shipments covered the first nine months of the current year. 1,608 cases with more than 250,000 books, pamphlets, etc. were shipped out of Germany to the following countries:

To Israel	285	cases for distribution
" "	33	cases (Mapu unit of the Baltic collection) for a two-year trusteeship of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem
" "	45	cases (Baltic collection) for restitution to identified owners
To Great Britain	104	"
To German Jewish communities	52	"
To South Africa	39	"
To Western European communities	69	" via JDC offices in Paris
For distribution in Western Europe and Israel	35	" with Torah scrolls, via JDC offices in Paris
To Paris	136	" (Baltic collection) for two years' storage in the JDC warehouses
To New York	525	" for distribution in the Western Hemisphere
" "	270	" with periodicals, for worldwide distribution, including Israel

To New York 15 cases for restitution to identified owners

In July and August 1949, 211 cases with approximately 10,400 ceremonial objects were shipped out of Germany. Of these,

87	cases were shipped to Israel
10	Western European communities via Paris
3	Great Britain
3	South Africa
11	New York
72	New York, for world-wide distribution, excluding Israel
25	cases (with objects beyond repair), to Sheffield, Great Britain, for smelting.

In Wiesbaden, awaiting distribution and being processed at this moment, are: (a) approximately 45,000-50,000 volumes from German Jewish institutions, to which JCR received title in September 1949, and (b) 1100 rare books.

Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the President's report was unanimously accepted.

2. Election of Directors

The following persons were respectively nominated as directors of the corporation by the following members of the corporation and were duly elected as such:

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Members</u>
Simon Federbusch Wolf Blattberg	World Jewish Congress
Rudolf Callman Max Gruenewald	Council for the Protection of Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany
Solomon Goldsmith Isaac Lewin	Agudas Israel World Organization
Maurice Boukstein Chaim Greenberg	Jewish Agency for Palestine
Salo W. Baron Jerome Michael	Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction
Chaim Raphael (Alternate	Anglo-Jewish Association

Members will be designated American Joint Distribution
in the near future Committee

There being no other business to come before the meeting,
upon motion duly made and seconded, it was adjourned .

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

November 17, 1949

MEMORANDUM

NOV 21 1949

To: Members of Board of Directors
From: Hannah Arendt

The Kirchheim collection, formerly the property of the French Jewish community, has been sorted in Wiesbaden and is now ready for shipment. Attached is a list of the main subject divisions.

This is one of the few collections which came into our possession intact.

It seems advisable to keep this collection as a unit. The Hebrew University has requested it. The Advisory Committee has voted on this request in the affirmative.

Please cast your vote on the enclosed card.

JCR

KIRCHHEIM COLLECTION

Main Subject Divisions

Hebraica

Bible (text)	36	volumes
Biblical literature	64	
Talmud	26	
Talmudic literature	103	
Halakha	231	
Musar, Derush	75	
Liturgy	40	
History	25	
Hebrew language	23	
Moderh Hebrew literature	40	
Philosophy and Kabbala	33	
Varia	149	
Total	<u>845</u>	volumes

Judaica

Bible (text)	11	volumes
Biblical literature	70	
Religion	44	
Post-Biblical literature	55	
History	117	
Hebrew language	25	
Bibliography	20	
Varia	88	
Periodicals	35	
Total	<u>465</u>	volumes

Non-Jewish Books 153 volumes

Grand total 1,463

November 4, 1949

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

JAN 3 1950
72

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 19, 1949

Pursuant to a notice dated December 2, 1949, copy of which precedes the minutes, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held on Monday, December 19, 1949, at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University, New York.

The following persons were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, President; Dr. Simon Federbusch, Vice-President; Dr. Max Gruenewald, Secretary; Dr. Lewin, Mr. Fine, Dr. Goldsmith, and Dr. Ben Halpern.

Prof. Baron acted as chairman.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with. The minutes were approved as circulated.

Upon the suggestion of the chairman a motion was made and seconded to insert into the minutes words of appreciation in memory of the late Dr. Joshua Starr (see Appendix).

The chairman reported that the Alliance Israelite Universelle has accepted the Board's invitation and designated Messrs. Marcel Franco and Marcel Abraham as members of our Board and Messrs. Saadia G. Cherniak and Jules Braunschvig as alternates.

The chairman brought to the attention of the Board Dr. Hannah Arendt's report which contains amongst other items her findings and suggestions with regard to caches. She also deals with the archives recovered in Germany. The Gesamtarchiv will go to Jerusalem, while the archives from other cities according to the suggestion of Dr. Arendt's should find their place in the Memorial Library of the German Jews. The chairman stressed the necessity of microfilming manuscripts and valuable historical material in Germany proper and discussed ways and means of financing microfilming on a large scale in Germany. This question will be referred to the Advisory Committee.

The chairman presented his budget proposals for the period beginning January 1st and ending on June 30th, 1950. A budget calling for a total expenditure of \$21,700 was adopted.

Through a vote by mail it was decided to send to Hebrew University

1. Some 2500 books selected by Dr. Shunami out of the 11,000 Breslau books. Of the remainder of the Breslau books approximately one-half will go to Switzerland and the other half to South America (Argentine).

The American Jewish Committee
JAN 17 '50

LIBRARY

2. The Kirchheim collection

3. Non-German periodicals.

Dr. Gruenewald suggested that a stipulation be made with the recipients of collections to keep them separate. Dr. Lewin pointed out that this purpose could be achieved by printing separate catalogues for those collections. Prof. Baron pointed out the difficulties arising for libraries if they were requested to treat those collections as units. He is confident that the identity of those collections will be preserved, if the recipients will honor the request of the Board to send in itemized receipts.

The chairman proceeded to discuss the Baltic Collection and particularly the method of advertising in the centers of the Jewish world the names (16,000) of the owners. It was decided to disregard the owners of five books and less. The form of the advertisement will be worked out by Prof. Baron and members of the staff.

The chairman brought to the attention of the Board the requests for books made by Brandeis University and by the Department of Germanic Languages of City College. In the following discussion other general institutions were mentioned whose departments serve the Jewish reading public and the needs of Jewish scholars such as the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, New York University, and Columbia University. The chairman expressed the sentiment of the Board that the time has come to consider these general institutions, too, and he will inform the Advisory Committee accordingly.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Gruenewald
Max Gruenewald

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

Appendix to Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 19, 1949

MINUTE FOR JOSHUA STARR

The Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. wishes to record its profound grief over the decease of Dr. Joshua Starr. As Executive Secretary of our organization from its inception until August 1949, he carried the main burden of its administration, negotiations with the military and civil authorities in Germany, as well as the shipment and distribution of books and ceremonial objects. The Jewish Cultural Reconstruction also shares with the rest of the Jewish community the sense of loss of a distinguished young Jewish scholar, editor and communal worker.

FROM: Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.
Circle 5- 7826
Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary

OCT 19 1948

For release Tuesday, October 18

ANNUAL MEETING OF JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

More than 250,000 volumes of Judaica and Hebraica and 10,000 ceremonial objects, representing part of the Nazi loot from Jewish libraries, synagogues and museums in Europe, have been recovered and shipped out of Germany during the past year, it was announced by Professor Salo W. Baron of Columbia University, President of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Inc., at its annual meeting last night at the Harmonie Club.

In 1947, JCR (an offspring of a research organization formed by the Conference on Jewish Relation at the end of the war, for the purpose of recovering Jewish cultural treasures looted by Nazis), was founded and affiliated with the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. In February 1949, JCR was officially recognized as the trustee for all unidentifiable cultural Jewish property placed under the custodianship of the Monuments and Fine Arts Section of the Military Government and stored in the Offenbach depot in Germany.

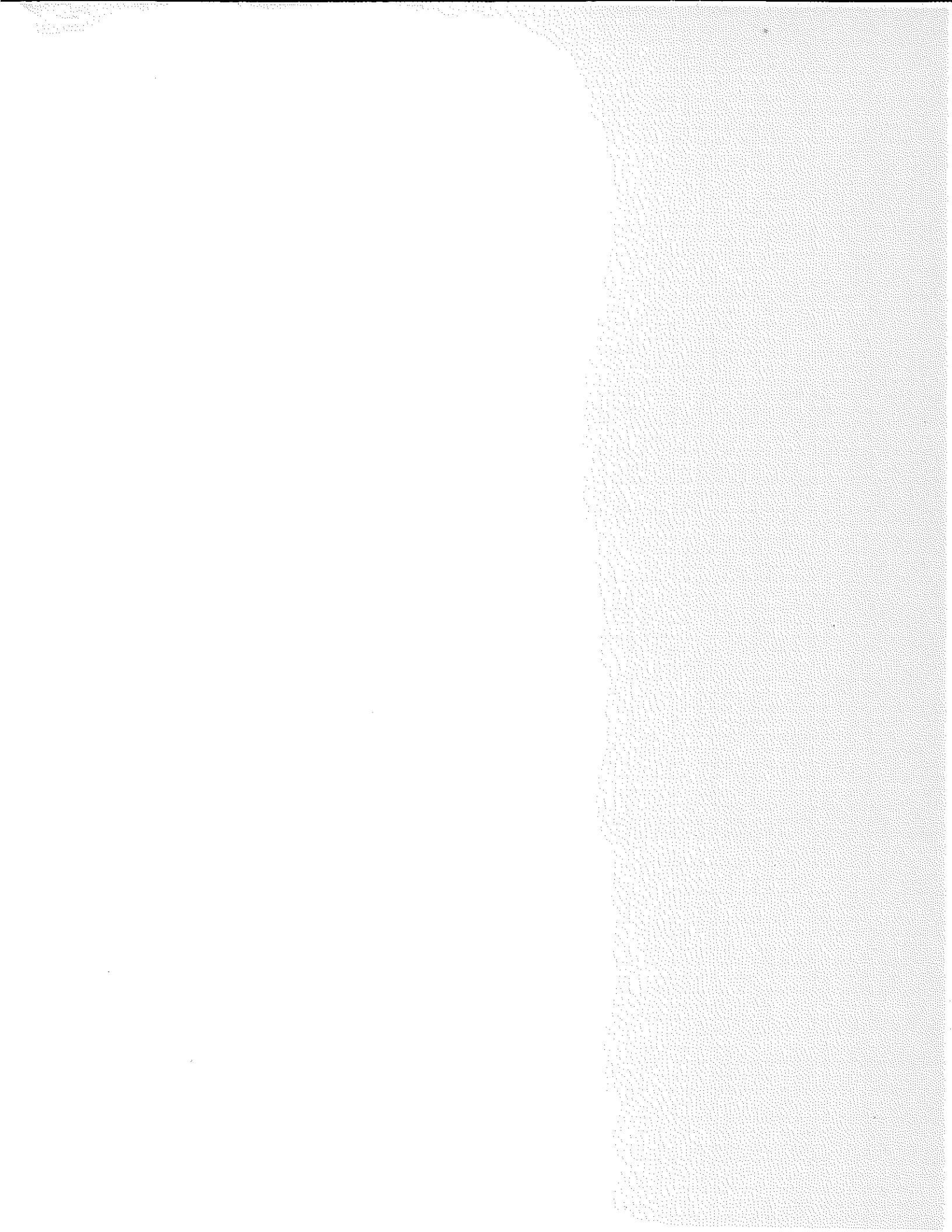
A great many of the recovered treasures bear the signs of spiteful destruction. Several hundred burnt or torn Torah scrolls, some of them more than 200 years old, are now being repaired by the Paris office of the Joint Distribution Committee and placed in newly-built or reconstructed synagogues in Europe and Israel. Many ceremonial objects, including Torah crowns, still bear the distinct marks of Nazi vandalism.

These treasure, among them rare centuries old books and items which, through the war, have become extremely scarce, are being redistributed among libraries and schools all over the world in cooperation with a number of Jewish national and foreign organizations affiliated with JCR and an advisory committee of leading Jewish librarians, art curators and other experts.

There is hardly a Jewish community in the world which will not benefit from the redistribution of these treasures. Through the JDC offices in Paris, Jewish communities in Western Europe have received a substantial share which will help them in their struggle for cultural and spiritual reconstruction. The Hebrew University Library and the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, as well as other Israeli libraries and religious institutions are receiving their allotment through the Jewish Agency in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs. Other recipient countries include Great Britain, South Africa, Canada, Latin America, and, last but not least, the United States.

At this moment, additional 50,000 volumes formerly belonging to German Jewish communities now extinct, are being processed by the JCR staff in Germany, and made ready for shipment and re-allocation.

Among the officers re-elected for the coming year are Prof. Salo W. Baron of Columbia University, President; Prof. Jerome Michael of Columbia Law School, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Rabbi Leo Baeck of London, Prof. Gershom Scholem of Jerusalem, and Dr. Simon Federbusch and Alan M. Strocck of New York, Vice-Presidents; David Rosenstein, Treasurer; and Dr. Max Gruenewald, Secretary.



JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 12, 1950

Pursuant to a notice dated March 21, 1950, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., was held at 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 12, at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Columbia University, New York.

The following persons were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, President; Prof. Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Dr. Max Gruenewald, Secretary; and Dr. Wolf Blattberg, M. Jules Braunschvig, Dr. Solomon Goldsmith, Mr. Ben Halpern, Dr. Bernard Heller, and Dr. Isaac Lewin.

Ex officio: Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary.

Prof. Jerome Michael acted as chairman, and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary of the meeting.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of December 19, 1949 were corrected as follows and, as corrected, were approved:

1. Page 1, last paragraph -

"1. Some 5,000 books selected by Dr. Shunami out of 11,000 Breslau books. The remainder will go to Switzerland" (instead of "Some 2500 books selected by Dr. Shunami out of the 11,000 Breslau books. Of the remainder of the Breslau books approximately one-half will go to Switzerland and the other half to South America - Argentine").

2. Page 2, second paragraph, first sentence -

"The chairman proceeded to discuss the individually owned books" (instead of "The chairman proceeded to discuss the Baltic Collection").

II. Report on Germany

A final report submitted by the Executive Secretary on her special mission to Germany to investigate unreported Jewish cultural property had been circulated among the members of the Board of Directors prior to the meeting and was approved as circulated.

The Amity of Jews Committee

MAY 2 1951

LIBRARY

Prof. Michael pointed out that the time for filing claims to confiscated property expired on December 31, 1948 in the American zone and would expire on June 30, 1950 in the British zone and in Berlin. It was therefore suggested (a) that claims to Jewish cultural property be filed immediately in the British zone and in Berlin, and (b) that Mr. Ferencz, General Director of JRSO in Germany, who is expected for a brief stay in the United States at the end of the month, be invited to discuss with Profs. Baron and Michael the possibility of obtaining an extension of the period for filing claims in the American zone.

It was decided that present operations in Wiesbaden, i.e., the processing and shipment of the collections of German Jewish institutions and of individually owned books, should be terminated not later than June 30, 1950.

In view of the steps taken by the Executive Secretary during her stay in Germany to recover additional Jewish cultural treasures, the Board unanimously expressed its sentiment that operations of JCR be continued until the end of the year but with a reduced staff and reduced expenses.

III. Microfilming Program

A memorandum on the microfilming program, drawn up in agreement with, and following the suggestions of, the Advisory Committee, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Prof. Baron emphasized the importance of the program, which could encourage Jewish research in all countries of the world.

Prof. Baron proposed the microfilming of the following types of material:

- a. All archives of former German Jewish communities, which may eventually be turned over to JCR, before they are sent out of Germany.
- b. All Hebrew manuscripts which are legitimately in the possession of German libraries.
- c. The catalogues and repertories of the Jewish Divisions of German archives. The archival material in German state and municipal institutions is too immense to be microfilmed. Since, as distinguished from manuscripts, printed catalogues are not available, and since, moreover, not all important documents are listed in the catalogues, an intelligent selection of archival material would require very large funds for expert research in Germany.

In conclusion, Prof. Baron stressed the fact that through the microfilm program scholars would get access to the stacks and manuscript divisions of German libraries, which might be of considerable help in the discovery of formerly Jewish owned items which may have found their way illegitimately into German institutions.

The Board approved in principle the microfilming program and recognized its importance for the cultural life of the Jewish people. It was decided (a) that the project be developed in the light of available funds, (b) that JRSO be approached for a Mark subsidy, and (c) that the New York office of JCR be authorized to endeavor to secure the necessary funds and to propose a detailed plan for the execution of the program.

IV. Confirmation of Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

1. Non-Jewish Libraries.-- The list of non-Jewish libraries in the United States to be included in the allocation of books, as drawn up by the Advisory Committee, was confirmed. Top priorities should go to the Jewish Divisions of the New York Public Library and of the Library of Congress. All other libraries are to be treated on an equal basis. The attention of the Board was called to the aid rendered JCR by the American Occupation authorities in Germany, i.e., in the final analysis, by the American taxpayer.

The following non-Jewish libraries abroad were approved as recipients: The British Museum and Manchester University in Great Britain, the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. It was decided that the Bibliotheque Nationale be approached through the offices of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, and the British Museum and Manchester University through the Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums and Archives in London.

2. Distribution of Ceremonial Objects.-- The recommendations of the Advisory Committee to give top priority for museum pieces to the Jewish Museum in New York and the Jewish Museum in Cincinnati, and to give second priority to the Yeshiva University and the Jewish Welfare Board's Traveling Exhibit, were confirmed. It was also confirmed that recent immigrant congregations from Central Europe should have priority for synagogal items.

3. Morocco.-- The recommendation of the Advisory Committee to ship a maximum of 500 books from the Brooklyn depot to Morocco, was confirmed.

Mr. Braunschvig called the attention of the Board to the needs of a newly established Hebrew school in Casablanca, for a teachers' library. The information was sympathetically received and the Executive Secretary was requested to find out if available stocks in Brooklyn or in Wiesbaden would permit the allocation of an additional 500 Hebraica to the Hebrew school in Casablanca.

V. Latin American Countries

Dr. Blattberg complained that a number of Latin American countries which had already been recognized as recipients of books had not yet received any communications from the offices of JCR. It was decided that Dr. Blattberg and Dr. Arendt should straighten this matter out together.

VI. German Jewish Memorial Library

Dr. Gruenewald called the attention of the Board to the fact that the German Jewish Memorial Library, as incorporated into the Institute of Jewish Religion, would not be visible as an entity if present procedures are continued. He suggested either that separate space within the Institute's library be found, or that the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe be permitted to rent space where these books could be kept separately. In addition to the material received by the Jewish Institute of Religion, he applied for the remaining approximately 2,000 German Judaica which have not yet been distributed from Brooklyn. He expressed the desire of the Federation to treat this collection as a nucleus which should be further supplemented.

Prof. Baron explained that, according to the rules of allocation through JCR, no new library should be established with distributed material. JCR is chiefly interested in the permanence of the recipient institutions. JCR had hoped that separate cataloguing, separate trays, and possibly distinct labels to be put into the books of the German Jewish Memorial Library, would be enough to indicate its separate existence. However, he assured Dr. Gruenewald that JCR will ratify any reasonable agreement between the Jewish Institute of Religion and the German group, that is, any agreement which would assure permanence, budget requirements, and the physical security of the books (fireproof building, etc.)

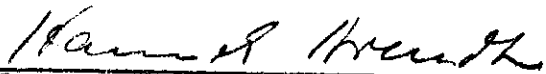
It was decided that if such an agreement is reached between the Jewish Institute of Religion and the German group, no new session of the Board of Directors should be necessary to ratify it, but it should be submitted to a vote by mail.

VII. Rabbinic Court

Reference was made to previous discussion of the establishment of a rabbinic court through the good offices of the Synagogue Council of America at the Board meeting of October 17, 1949 (minutes, p.3). Dr. Heller was asked to take the matter up with the Synagogue Council and to make specific propositions to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted


Hannah Arendt

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

APR 19 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Hannah Arendt
Executive Secretary

Report of My Mission to Germany
respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors
for the meeting on April 12, 1950

My trip to Germany was based on the assumption that Nazi-confiscated Jewish cultural property must have found its way into German libraries, museums and archives and that it could be discovered only through active cooperation of the German personnel in charge of such institutions. My task therefore was (a) to get as much information as possible with respect to the whereabouts of Jewish communal cultural property, and (b) to try to enlist the cooperation of German librarians, museum-officials and archivists.

a) Because of material conditions in Germany (destruction of buildings, return of large material from war-time caches, and great turn-over of personnel) it is impossible as yet to assess how much material will eventually turn up. The unpacking of cases will in many instances be a matter of years. However, it seems as though more archives and more ceremonial objects were saved than books, largely because the German-Jewish book collections were more strictly centralized in Berlin while synagogue silver and archival material more frequently found their way into local institutions. Discoveries which I made myself or which were made in connection with my trip have been reported in the field reports and will not be repeated here.

b) Largely because of material conditions but also for other technical and psychological reasons, I am now even more convinced than I was before that we depend upon the good will of German personnel to a very large extent and that all other methods of investigation are impractical. To quote but two examples: (1) it took our library investigator more than four weeks of hard work to discover a few archives in Bavaria where Jewish confiscated material had been deposited during the Nazi regime. One single letter to the general director of Bavarian archives resulted in a reply which gave a probably complete list of such localities without omitting a single "discovery" of the investigator. (2) I discovered the valuable Frankfurt art-collection through contacting the respective museum-directors and without using any detective methods.

I. Negotiations with German Librarians and Museum Officials

1. Libraries.-- In order to establish contact with German librarians, I first visited Prof. Eppelsheimer in Frankfurt and Dr. Gustav Hofmann in Munich. The former enjoys the highest reputation in Germany today (he never was a Nazi), and the latter is the

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Président of the German Librarians Association which covers the three western zones.

The outcome of these negotiations was an appeal to be published in the bulletin of the Librarians' Association, asking all librarians to search for confiscated Jewish material and to continue this search throughout the process of reorganization of the libraries. Special attention will be given to specific Nazi collections (special institutes which were or were not connected with the universities or seminars, which had been headed by outspoken members of the party, etc.) which in many instances were put into caches during the war together with the normal library material.

This appeal, for which I submitted a draft, asks only for centralization of information through Jewish Cultural Reconstruction; that is, every new discovered item should be reported to our office in Wiesbaden. The reason why restitution is not mentioned is that the restitution law is so different in the three western zones that we shall be confronted with a different situation in each of them. Moreover, centralization of information is a first and the most important step.

2. Museums.-- I tried to achieve two different purposes: (a) to find out what had happened to outstanding Jewish art collections, and (b) to find out which part of the synagogue silver has survived. The results of these efforts have been reported in the field reports. We now know the whereabouts of the Frankfurt, Mainz, part of the Berlin, and the Buchau collections; synagogue silver, as a rule, was concentrated in Berlin, but important parts have survived, especially in Hamburg, Altona, and the British section of Berlin.

I saw a great many museum directors and officials of the German Monuments and Fine Arts Sections. Unfortunately, no over-all organization like the Association of German Librarians exists. In a number of cases, synagogue silver has gone to the local museums after the pogroms of 1938. This material can be located best through the Monuments and Fine Arts Sections, which are in charge of supervising local museums.

In Bavaria, the head of the Monuments and Fine Arts Section has issued a circular letter to all the local museums in Bavaria asking them to report what they have and to watch the unpacking of cases. The same is true for Baden. In a number of other instances we have been contacting these authorities ourselves, usually with reference to somebody who is either well known to them or has some authority over them.

As far as the Occupation authorities are concerned, the whole restitution process of art objects will come to an end in the very near future. A new, purely German body, is now in formation which will continue to search and to reconstitute art objects found in museums. I visited most of the professors, museum directors, etc. who will eventually sit on this body, and established a preliminary contact with them. Its president will probably be Staatssekretär Dr. Sattler of Munich, with whom we are in contact.

3. Archives.-- Archives are a special problem, because they do not always fall under the authority of the Kultusministerium, but in most instances under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior. JRSC has claimed the Bavarian material, but we are not yet certain if we shall be able to ship archives out of the country. For this and other reasons, we decided to wait and see how restitution in these instances will be handled, to claim in the future only archives prior to 1870, and to restrict our activities to correspondence in which we ask for information. Such letters have been written to other Laender in the American zone, but it is generally agreed that the main bulk of surviving archives is located in Bavaria.

II. Negotiations with German Government Officials

Dr. Hofmann, President of the German Librarians' Association and General Director of the Bavarian State Library, pointed out to me at once that for operations on this scale the active support of the Kultusministerien would be needed. Western Germany is now divided into eleven Laender, and since the Bonn government does not have a Kultusministerium of its own, Dr. Hofmann's recommendation meant that we should contact eleven Laender Ministerien. Fortunately, the Kultusministerien are incorporated into a central body called "the Permanent Conference of the Kultusministerien," which meets every two or three months. The President of this corporation is Dr. Hundhammer the Kultusminister of Bavaria.

After oral negotiations with several people in the Bavarian Kultusministerium, and especially Staatssekretär Dr. Sattler, I submitted a memo to Hundhammer in his capacity as President of the Permanent Laender Conference, in which I proposed the following steps:

"1. To publish an appeal to all state and municipal libraries, university institutes, archives, and museums, to make a most careful examination of their stocks and constantly to keep this problem in mind while unpacking the material that comes back from the wartime relocation points.

"2. To issue a decree of the Permanent Laender Conference of Kultusministerien, which would provide a legal basis for this voluntary action and instruct all librarians and archive and museum officials of the three western zones to submit periodic reports; a negative report in negative cases should be specifically required.

"3. All information from the three western zones should be centralized by the German offices of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction in Wiesbaden."

I stressed moreover that

"The scattered bits of information which we have hitherto been able to gather indicate that there is justified hope to recover at least part of the cultural treasures of the German Jews and to make them accessible again to the Jewish educated and scholarly world. Particularly now that relocated stocks

are flooding back into the German libraries and museums and that the libraries of former Party organizations and institutions are being incorporated by the German libraries, a systematic investigation of the German museums, archives, and libraries ought to become feasible."

I submitted copies of this memorandum to a number of other Kultusministerien, but not to all of them, and I paid personal visits to the Kultusminister of Hessen, Dr. Stein, and the chief of the Staatskanzlei in Freiburg, Baden, Clemens von Brentano.

During a second visit which I paid Dr. Sattler, he assured me of his sympathies for these demands which he thought to be very reasonable and practical. As a preliminary step he wanted to form a permanent library commission which then should have the power to issue a decree. Dr. Stein, whom I saw at some later date, was already informed of the formation of such a permanent library commission.

III. French and British Zones

With the exception of Freiburg, I avoided official German government contact in the French and British zones, because the question of restitution in these zones where no successor organizations exist is of a very dubious nature. This is also the reason why I asked in my memo addressed to the three zones only for centralization of information. I had been warned by the Jewish organizations in Germany, especially by those acquainted with conditions in the British and French zones, that even the discussion of restitution could be dangerous. The British and French authorities are generally opposed to handing over cultural items from Germany to international bodies which ship them out of the countries, and the German officials are only too well aware of this opposition.

Jewish cultural treasures are scattered all over Germany even though the bulk of them was found in the American zone. We should be aware, however, that through the confiscation and centralization policy of the Nazis and through war time conditions, hardly anything is being found in its former locality, i.e., books from Hanover may turn up in Munich, and vice versa, etc. It would be of great importance for our operation to enjoy equal status in all three zones.

In order to prepare the ground for future operations in the British and French zones, I got in contact with the British Central Fund in London and, after preliminary discussions with the Fund and with our British member organizations, presented to them a draft agreement which would assure that JCR becomes the cultural agent of the future British successor organization. Since the Central British Fund's memorandum for the formation of a successor organization in the British zone has been drawn up along the lines of the by-laws of JRSO, I drafted a tentative agreement along the lines of our agreement with JRSO.

I also got in contact with Jerome Jacobson, of the JDC Paris, who will be instrumental in setting up a successor organization in the French zone, if that ever comes to pass, and informally proposed to him a similar agreement.

IV. Russian Zone

It is impossible to get anything out of the Russian zone, it is difficult and dangerous to obtain precise information; but it is virtually certain that important parts of German-Jewish communal property are still in existence. I tried to obtain as much information as I could and reported it in the field reports. Moreover, while I was in Hannover I contacted the headquarters of the Socialist party and asked them to pass information on to us and even to try to answer specific questions. We are now in current contact with them and every bit of information which we can get through them or other channels will be valuable even though it has hardly any practical consequences at this moment.

V. German Jewish Communities

Conditions in Germany are uncertain, chaotic and full of surprises; the same, unfortunately, holds true for conditions in the German Jewish communities. Throughout my stay in Germany, I have been trying to find a central body that enjoys enough authority to be able to enter into generally binding agreements. When this failed, I tried to come at least to agreements with the Landesverbände in order to avoid to have to negotiate with every single community. For this purpose I attended two meetings, - one of the Bavarian Landesverband in Munich, and the second of the Interessenvertretung in Stuttgart.

Unfortunately, I must admit that only negotiations carried out on a local level with the community leaders in a given city seem to have any chance to achieve results at the present moment. Promises made by larger bodies are not taken seriously, no matter how solemnly they are being pronounced.

These negotiations are important for three reasons: (a) German Jewish communities hold considerable material of Jewish cultural treasures, which in most instances are not used but allowed to deteriorate and which, moreover, in a majority of cases never belonged to that community, but were found by accident after the war in the neighborhood of the respective towns or cities. (b) To this must be added the fact that the communities in many instances consist of a half-dozen people who do not care and a membership who cares even less. Communal property, therefore, has a deplorable tendency to be transformed into private property. (c) Even in the American zone, where theoretically JRSO is recognized as successor to community property, the German Jewish communities are de facto in a position to interfere with every single claim which we submit. In the French zone they have even the Occupation law on their side. But law or no law, what actually happens time and again is that the municipal authorities, whenever they find any Jewish property, no matter what its nature or its former owner, go directly to the Jewish community leaders whom they know personally and turn the material over to them. Once this has happened, there is no way left but the very uncertain way of negotiations which in a number of cases have led to the desired results.

VI. Future Operations in Germany

Present operations in our Wiesbaden depot, concerning the distribution of the remainders of the German-Jewish institutional collections and the processing of the individually-owned books which have not yet been turned over to JCR, should be terminated on

July 1st. The extent of future operations in Germany will depend to a large extent on the outcome of current negotiations for the establishment of successor organizations in the British and French zones where we know even now of the existence of important cultural material and where a thorough search for material has not yet started.

But even if we consider our future activities only within the framework of present conditions, it seems obvious that the results of my negotiations and the attempt at centralizing all information through our German offices can bring fruits only if we decide to keep a skeleton apparatus until the end of this current year. Moreover, in the American zone important material has been claimed by JRSO during my stay in Germany, especially in Bavaria, Frankfurt and the American sector of Berlin, and a number of German-Jewish communities are beginning to hand their more valuable material over to us. For the orderly reception of this material alone it will be necessary to keep JCR offices alive for the next nine months.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

Memorandum on Microfilming in Germany
submitted to the Board of Directors" Meeting
April 12, 1950

Propositions made in the following tentative outline were discussed with representatives of the major institutes of Higher Learning in this country as well as in Israel. There is general agreement as to the importance of this program.

The following four types of material are being considered:

1. The Hebrew manuscripts which are now in German libraries and of undoubted German ownership. A rough estimate, made according to our Tentative List, indicates that a pre-war total of 2,000 manuscripts existed; according to our information, it is safe to assume that a large majority of these manuscripts have survived the war.
2. Early prints, rare books and periodicals to be found in the Jewish and Oriental Divisions of German libraries. No over-all estimate is possible, nor do we know at this moment how great a percentage of these collections has survived the war.
3. Archival material in the German archives. No over-all estimate is possible. Catalogues exist but are not entirely reliable. There is certainly more important archival material than is indicated in the catalogues and repertories of German archives.
4. Archival material of former German-Jewish communities which is now being claimed by JRSO or handed over to us by present Jewish communities. It has been suggested that this material be sorted in Wiesbaden prior to distribution and that the more important documents be microfilmed.

Propositions: (a) It is suggested that we start with microfilming the Hebrew manuscripts in German possession and the repertories of the respective divisions in German archives. This seems financially the most feasible, because (1) we could draw up an approximate budget, and (2) we would not need experts. This, moreover, would not preclude a larger operation at some later time insofar as a selection of archival material could be made from the microfilmed catalogue-sections.

(b) A selection of manuscripts could be made by our Advisory Committee since printed catalogues exist for almost all collections. However, it seems advisable to microfilm all Hebrew manuscripts, as at least 3 institutions in this country are interested in, and willing to pay for, complete sets.

c. The actual microfilming could be carried through by a German society, which charges between 12 and 15 Pfennig per page and about half of this price for copies. We would need a Marks loan from JRSO of at least 75,000 Marks if we decide to microfilm

200,000 pages in four copies.

d. In addition to the 75,000 Marks grant from JRSO, we may need \$10,000 for administrative expenses. Since 75,000 Marks at the present rate of exchange represent \$15,000, the minimum budget for the program is about \$25,000.

Finances: The following possibilities may be explored:

1. "Sale" of microfilms throughout the world. The great difficulty (but not an unsurmountable one) is that before we start microfilming we must have made up our minds of how many copies we want of each item. "Sale" will be simple if we can "sell" complete sets. Copies of microfilms are cheap only if they are made in one operation. The possibilities of "selling" whole sets throughout the world appear to be rather limited. This, however, should be investigated. We may decide to turn over distribution to an American firm with considerable experience in this field called University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Once we have explored the possibilities of "selling" these microfilms, we may be in a position to ask the JRSO for a loan only. It should be borne in mind that a part of the administrative expenses will be necessary for the continuance of JCR up to the end of the year anyhow, so that the Marks loan remains the main item which we may be in a position to repay in dollars or other currency needed by JDC and JA.

2, The following foundations may be willing to grant us our dollar budget if we obtain the necessary Marks funds from JRSO:

Rockefeller Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, Otto Strauss Foundation, Hofheimer Foundation.

3. The following organizations may be willing to contribute substantially: The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, B'nai B'rith, The American Jewish Committee.

4. I was told by practically everybody with whom I discussed the matter that it should be possible to approach private individuals and ask them for contribution. I do not think, however, that we are in a position to solicit funds.

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JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

Meeting of Board of Directors
April 12, 1950

AGENDA

1. Correction of minutes of meeting of December 19, 1949 -
See attached memo
2. Dr. Hannah Arendt's report on Germany -
See attached report
3. Microfilming program
See attached memo
4. Confirmation of recommendations of the Advisory Committee
 - a. Distribution of books to non-Jewish libraries
 - b. Distribution of ceremonial objects
 - c. Allocation of a maximum of 500 books to Morocco
5. German Jewish Memorial Library
6. Rabbinical Court

The American Jewish Archives
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JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

APR 10 1950

To: Members of Board of Directors
From: Hannah Arendt

Correction of Minutes of Meeting of December 19, 1949

Page 1, last paragraph, should read:

- "1. Some 5,000 books selected by Dr. Shunami out of 11,000 Breslau books. The remainder will go to Switzerland" (instead of "Some 2500 books selected by Dr. Shunami out of the 11,000 Breslau books. Of the remainder of the Breslau books approximately one-half will go to Switzerland and the other half to South America - Argentine").

Page 2, second paragraph, first sentence, should read:

"The chairman proceeded to discuss the individually owned books" (instead of "The chairman proceeded to discuss the Baltic Collection").

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 5, 1950

Pursuant to notice dated May 18, 1950, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held at 4:30 P.M., on Monday, June 5, at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Columbia University, New York City.

The following persons were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, President; Prof. Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Dr. Max Gruenewald, Secretary; Dr. Wolf Blattberg; Dr. Simon Federbush; Dr. Ben Halpern; Dr. Bernard Heller; Dr. Samuel Jaffe; Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary. Also attending were: Mrs. Henrietta Buchman of JDC and Mr. Eli Rock of JRSO.

Prof. Jerome Michael acted as chairman and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary of the meeting.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of April 12, 1950, were approved as circulated.

II. Budget

Prof. Baron presented and analyzed a proposed budget for July-December, 1950. He explained that due to various circumstances, JCR will find it difficult to obtain the necessary funds from JDC and the Jewish Agency. He pointed to the fact that the budget had been cut down to the bare necessities. He also explained that the relationship between JCR and JRSO is that of partners in a joint undertaking and that the request for necessary funds should not be regarded as an appeal to an outside organization. He stated that it was estimated that on July 1, 1950, JCR would have a cash balance of \$4,000 and would have an income of \$6,000 for handling charges of books and ceremonial objects during the second half of the year. Against this estimated income of \$10,000 are estimated expenses of \$20,160, which fall into the following categories:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Expenses for continued activities in Germany, including freight and insurance on shipments from Germany to the United States | \$8,100 |
| 2. Expenses for headquarters in New York | 5,760 |
| 3. Expenses connected with distribution of books and ceremonial objects in the United States | 6,300 |

Prof. Baron pointed out that the budget for the New York office and distribution in the United States is unalterable; that, moreover, the budget for the New York office shows only three items: the salaries

for an executive secretary and stenographer and office expenses of \$600 for six months--a minimum which is possible only because of the hospitality of the Conference on Jewish Relations. The only alterable part of the budget is the \$8,100 for continued operation in Germany. It would not be wise, however, to cut this part of the budget and to stop operations in Germany now for the following reasons: (a) Part of the job would have to be done by JRSO in Germany; (b) the material will have to be sorted in New York on salaries paid in dollars, according to American standards; (c) this material will have to be shipped again from New York to Israel and other parts of the world.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the budget was unanimously accepted.

III. Microfilm Project

Because of the above mentioned budgetary difficulties, a supplementary budget for microfilming purposes had been drawn up and presented to the Board of Directors. This budget was drawn up after careful investigation of various possibilities and after prolonged research and discussion with members of the Advisory Committee as to the probable number of manuscript pages in German institutions worthy of being microfilmed.

The budget called for 30,000 DM for making microfilm negatives of 200,000 manuscript pages plus 15%, amounting to 4,500 DM, for administrative and office expenses, and \$7,900 to cover the estimated cost of 10 positives at \$440 each, i.e. \$4,400, and \$2,500 for salary, ICA travel and other related expenses for one person in charge in Germany. Against these expenses there is an estimated income of \$5,000. Discussion with various libraries have revealed a strong interest in the project and willingness to pay for one set of microfilms of Hebrew manuscripts in Germany.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the microfilm budget was unanimously adopted.

In view of the fact that JDC and Jewish Agency had previously refused to grant JCR the necessary funds for microfilming, the question was raised where the money would come from. Prof. Baron proposed to approach several foundations for a grant to JCR for the microfilming program. He explained that up to now JCR had not explored such possibilities because it had hoped to get sufficient funds to do microfilming as part of its regular activities.

The sum of \$25,000 was mentioned for microfilming of Hebrew manuscripts not only in Germany, but in Austria, Italy and possibly France as well. The \$25,000 would constitute a revolving fund which would be replenished through the sale of complete sets to subscribing libraries.

Dr. Federbush reported that the government of Israel planned to microfilm manuscripts and rare books in all libraries throughout the world. Dr. Arendt said that she had heard about this project and that she had been in touch with Prof. Scholem about it. She said that the committee which the Israeli government intends to form had not yet had

its first meeting. Dr. Federbush expressed the opinion that the projected JCR microfilm project, if carried out, would be a most important achievement. He was in favor of going ahead and possibly relieving the Israeli government of part of the job.

Dr. Jaffe asked what our alternative would be should the foundations reject requests for funds. He advised avoiding flat refusals through an informal approach, if possible through personal connections.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the president was authorized to apply to foundations for a grant of \$25,000 for the microfilming program.

IV. The Future of Our Activities in Germany

The president reported that the original program of handling and distributing some 350,000 books and 10,000 ceremonial objects, turned over to JCR by the military authorities in the American zone, will be completed by August 1, 1950, at the latest, if JCR gets the title to the individually owned books in time. He explained that delay in completing the program was due to the following reasons: (a) some of the books and objects which it had originally been planned to be distributed from New York were being distributed from Wiesbaden in order to save freight expenses; (b) the individually owned books--45,000--have not yet been turned over to JCR.

Future activities are planned as follows:

1. Reception, processing and shipment of newly discovered and claimed material in the American zone.
2. Centralization of information from the three Western zones in Germany.
3. Follow-up of negotiations with German library, museum and archive officials as well as German government officials.
4. Microfilming.

V. B'nai Brith Property

The Executive Secretary reported as follows: Among the cultural property turned over to JCR are 17 cases of unprocessed material from the B'nai Brith lodges in Germany. JRSO is claiming it as heirless property, since none of the German Jewish lodges are in existence. Mr. Goldman, New York President of the World B'nai Brith, claims it on behalf of the World B'nai Brith, as the successor to the property of one of its former branches. A certain Mr. Schoyer of London, now with the Jewish Relief Unit in Berlin also claims it as the trustee of all former lodge property in Germany.

Dr. Arendt proposed that no action be taken with regard to B'nai Brith property until the controversy between JRSO and B'nai Brith is resolved.

She proposed that at that time JCR conform to that agreement. Mr. Eli Rock proposed that the 17 cases of B'nai Brith property be shipped to the Paris warehouse, together with the individually owned books of six and more per owner.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was decided to treat B'nai Brith property like other property identifiable as to ownership and to store it together with the individually owned books in the JDC warehouse in Paris.

VI. JCR Agreement and Non-Jewish Libraries

The Executive Secretary reported on certain difficulties which had arisen with respect to paragraphs #1 and #5 of the JCR agreement with recipient libraries. The large general libraries, such as Columbia University and New York Public Library felt that they could not tie themselves down to conditions which would interfere with their entire routine.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Secretary was authorized to use her discretion in altering or eliminating the paragraphs in question.

VII. Allocation of Ceremonial Objects to General Museums in U.S.

The Executive Secretary reported as follows; Almost all Jewish museums in the United States have by now selected their share of ceremonial objects. Selection for Canada, South Africa and Great Britain were made by the Advisory Committee. Shipment will be made as soon as a distinctive mark has been put on each object and customs formalities arranged. A small number of objects should now be made available to Jewish divisions of general museums in the United States.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Directors empowered the Advisory Committee to recognize non-Jewish museums as recipients of a limited number of objects.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt
per *BJ*
Hannah Arendt

NOV 2 1950

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 9, 1950

Pursuant to a notice dated September 20, 1950, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. was held at 8:00 P.M., on Monday, October 9, at the office of Dr. Salo W. Baron, Columbia University, New York City.

The following members of the Board of Directors were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, President; Prof. Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Dr. Wolf Blattberg, Mr. Saadia G. Cherniak, Dr. Bernard Heller, Dr. Yitzchak Lewin. The following members of the Advisory Committee attended: Prof. Alexander Marx, Chairman, Rabbi Israel Gerstein, Rabbi I. Edward Kiev, Dr. A. M. Margalith, Dr. Michael L. Munk, Dr. Rachel Wischnitzer. Also present were: Dr. Aaron Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress in London, Rabbi Hirsch E. L. Freund of the Synagogue Council of America, and the following members of the JCR staff: Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary, Mr. Ben-Horin, Mr. Henry F. Odell and Rabbi S. Rochman.

Prof. Jerome Michael acted as chairman of the meeting and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 1950, were approved as circulated.

II. Allocation of Frankfurt Material

Dr. Arendt reported that the Frankfurt material consists of 100,000 to 150,000 items, mostly non-Jewish books--unclaimed private property--which were turned over to the Hessen government by the American authorities for distribution to German libraries. According to an agreement reached by Dr. Arendt with Prof. Eppelsheimer, custodian, and Dr. Stein, Minister of Education for Hessen, 50% of these books are to be turned over to JCR, because a large part of this material probably came from private German-Jewish libraries. Prof. Scholem, who was in Germany recently, found the whole collection more valuable and interesting than was anticipated. 5% to 10% of the total are Judaica and will be delivered to JCR; the remaining 90% to 95% will be divided between JCR and the German libraries, under the supervision of Prof. Eppelsheimer. The work will be done in a bunker in Frankfurt under the direction of Dr. Lowenthal, and will have to be financed by a mark budget from JRSO. As to allocation, Dr. Arendt reported that Prof. Scholem claimed all Judaica for the Hebrew University and the entire collection of non-Jewish books, with the exception of periodicals, for Israel.

The American Jewish Committee
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LIBRARY

Prof. Baron pointed out that the sorting of this material will have to be done very roughly since the American authorities will not provide either space or workers for this job.

Upon motion made by Prof. Baron and duly seconded, it was unanimously decided that all Judaica be transferred to HUL; that the non-Judaica, other than periodicals, be divided between Israel and the United States--2/3 to Israel and 1/3 to the United States--and that the periodicals be sent to New York for world distribution, including Israel.

III. Report by Mr. Meir Ben-Horin on His Mission to Europe

Mr. Meir Ben-Horin, recently returned from Europe where he was sent by JCR, reported as follows:

1. Overall Impressions

a. The German officials were in general most cooperative, and this despite the present trend in Germany to be less concerned with Jewish matters than they have been since 1945.

b. JCR did its work in Europe at a most auspicious time; postponement of operations would have led to less effective results.

c. Barring unexpected discoveries, the main job in Germany is nearing completion. The amount of material which has thus far been found in the British and French zones is not very considerable.

2. The Work in Wiesbaden

At the present time 45,000 individually owned and identifiable books are being sorted, listed and prepared for shipment. The work has taken longer than was anticipated because the early listings of names and ex libris found in the books were incorrect.

3. Ministerial Decree

During her trip to Europe, at the beginning of this year, Dr. Arendt submitted a memorandum to Kultusminister Hundhammer in Bavaria, in which she proposed that continued search for Jewish cultural treasures in German institutions should be legalized through a ministerial decree and that all treasures found be reported to JCR. Mr. Ben-Horin followed up this proposal and found that no action had been taken in Munich. In his opinion, Dr. Auerbach, a very important official in Bavaria, who is also in charge of restitution for Bavaria, has blocked the issuance of such a decree, just as he has blocked JRSO's claims to cultural treasures discovered by JCR in Bavaria. In Hessen, on the other hand, Mr. Ben-Horin had been in touch with Dr. Cremer, Director of Westdeutsche Bibliothek, who is ready to recommend to Dr. Stein, the Minister of Education, that the decree be issued in order to stimulate similar steps in other German Laender.

4. Microfilming Project

Mr. Ben-Horin investigated the possibility of microfilming Hebrew manuscripts in Germany. In Frankfurt he found that most of the valuable parts of the library's possessions, including two cases of Hebrew manuscripts, are still unpacked. The Hebrew manuscripts of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek of Berlin are now in Marburg and Tuebingen, while the only list of all the manuscripts is in Berlin. The Tuebingen manuscripts are on dark shelves as part of the Orientalia, and it is very hard to determine which are in Hebrew. In Hamburg and in Munich all manuscripts have been saved and are available for microfilming. Since the Israeli government is looking into the possibility of microfilming all Hebrew manuscripts in Europe, JCR has abandoned its independent microfilming project and decided to make its information available to the Israeli group.

5. Austria

Mr. Ben-Horin expressed the opinion that efforts should be made by world Jewish organizations as well as Austrian Jews to organize a successor organization for Jewish property in Austria, including of course cultural Jewish property. He pointed to Yiddish newspaper articles which supported his position. As far as cultural heirless property is concerned, he referred to Dr. Lowenthal's Report on Austria. (Report No. 20, June 1950).

(For complete details on Mr. Ben-Horin's "Mission to Europe," see Report No. 21, Sept. 1950).

In the name of those present, Prof. Baron expressed his gratitude to Mr. Ben-Horin for the fine work he had done in Germany and for the good report he presented. Prof. Baron also took this opportunity to mention Dr. Lowenthal's trip to Austria. He stated: "We owe Dr. Lowenthal a real debt of gratitude for his discoveries in Austria. Not since the days of the late Dr. Starr has anything as important reached us on Austria. He has found things which were not even known to the Austrian Jews."

A discussion of the Report followed during which Dr. Steinberg raised questions regarding material in the Russian zone, archival material and Jewish cultural property in Trieste. Dr. Arendt explained that there is a considerable amount of important material in the Eastern zone of Germany. The whole Hamburg community library of 30,000-40,000 volumes is in Dresden. In Thuringen there was another big cache from the Rosenberg collection and about 50,000 volumes seem to have been included in the Halle University Library. There were important caches in Silesia, whence important collections had been taken to Poland. Out of approximately 50,000 books of the Breslau Seminary, only 12,000 turned up in Offenbach. JCR has tried to get as much information as possible regarding this material. As to Trieste, Dr. Steinberg

felt that the Israeli authorities, who have consular staffs there, should negotiate with the Trieste authorities to recover whatever material might be there. He stated that he would ask the London committee to look into this matter.

IV. Jewish Trust Corporation

Mr. Ben-Horin reported that the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC) in the British zone was formed in July, 1950. JTC decided that it would not be expedient to recognize JCR as its cultural agency, but decided instead to establish a department of its own for the recovery, handling, processing and distribution of Jewish cultural property. JTC is planning similar procedure in the French zone.

Prof. Baron stated that JCR was not particularly eager to work in the British zone because the available preliminary information shows that there is not enough work to be done for a continuous project such as was organized in Offenbach and Wiesbaden. Furthermore, the British government, unlike the American government, would not provide space or personnel and the project would be very costly. On the other hand, JCR felt that it should offer its services to JTC. While in Europe, Dr. Arendt had submitted a memorandum to the British organizations, outlining a plan of cooperation with JTC based on JCR's agreement with JRSO. On the basis of this memorandum negotiations with JTC had been conducted. Prof. Baron felt that there was no serious objection to JTC establishing its own department, which will probably be headed by Dr. Lowenthal who acquired the necessary experience while in the service of JCR and who is a competent administrator. He suggested that the Board abandon the idea of working in the British and French zones.

V. Successor to JCR in Germany after Jan. 1, 1950

Dr. Arendt stated that after the Wiesbaden depot is closed on January 1, 1951, there will be a number of pending claims for which JCR will need an address. Moreover, JCR has received this year 165 ceremonial objects, 58 Torah Scrolls, several hundred books, several cases of archives and more will be forthcoming. She has therefore communicated with JRSO in Nuremberg and they have agreed to receive shipments to JCR, to forward correspondence and to make shipments for JCR, after January 1, 1951.

Dr. Baron stated that the situation is in many respects unsatisfactory. There are still many valuable Jewish books, ceremonial objects and archives in Germany. He felt, however, that it would not pay to maintain offices in Germany in 1951, 1952, etc., even if JCR could secure a decree. It seems that most of the libraries in Germany are not in a position to find out what they have of Jewish confiscated property. It may take three, four or five years to get this information. He felt, therefore, that it was necessary to close the German offices on January 1, 1951 and the New York offices during the coming year. He mentioned the

possibility of reopening the JCR office in a few years, should the situation warrant it and the general conditions be favorable for such a step. He further proposed that this problem be gone into detail at the December meeting of the Board.

Upon suggestion that the Wiesbaden depot be continued for another six months on a reduced budget, Prof. Baron pointed out: 1) that the Wiesbaden depot will be closed by the military authorities on December 31; and 2) that JCR was operating on a minimum budget, paying the salary of only one man, which budget could not possibly be reduced.

VI. Allocation of Individually Owned Books

Dr. Arendt reported that individually owned books of six or more belonging to one owner have been sorted and set aside for shipment to the JDC warehouse in France. There are 16,500 of these books, belonging to 830 owners. The remaining 25,000 to 30,000 books of five or less per owner, consisting mostly of German Judaica and non-Jewish material, will be ready for shipment as soon as JCR gets title. These will not be sorted according to categories. It was suggested that some of these books be shipped to Australia and that Canada receive an additional allocation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the original plan adopted by the Board of Directors for the distribution of books should also be applied to these books, namely 40% should go to Israel, 40% to the Western hemisphere, and 20% to other countries.

VII. Lists

The members of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee expressed their disappointment at the fact that, with few exceptions, recipient libraries have not sent to JCR the list of books they received, as per agreement.

VIII. Allocation of Archives

Dr. Arendt reported that in Wiesbaden new archival material is constantly being added to the archives originally received in Offenbach. Since the Wiesbaden depot has to be liquidated, this material has to be shipped out. She suggested that in view of the fact that these are odd documents, very much wanted by the National Archives in Jerusalem to complete their collection, all archival material should be allocated to Jerusalem in order to centralize it as much as possible. The situation might be different if JCR should receive the Bavarian Jewish community archives, which are more complete. But this does not seem likely.

Rabbi Kiev suggested the possibility of sending the Wiesbaden material to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. There

they have ample photostatic equipment and an expert in Dr. Selma Stern-Taeubler. He felt that in Cincinnati these archives would be available to scholars much sooner than in Jerusalem, where they will not be accessible for several years. He suggested that this procedure would not necessarily commit the Board of Directors to leave all the archives in Cincinnati permanently.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed that the President be authorized to appoint a committee of three with power to decide on the allocation of the archival material.

IX. Depot with Identifiable Property in Marseille

Dr. Arendt reported that a new situation had developed with regard to identifiable property stored by JDC, France. Originally assurance was given that there would be a sufficient JDC staff to make the necessary distribution to private and other claimants. Thereafter the JDC moved its warehouse to Marseille and this material will be shipped there. It is very doubtful if the JDC staff will be large enough to do this job for JCR. It may therefore be necessary to get a special budget allocation next year for the handling of this material by JCR.

X. Distribution of Ceremonial Objects

Dr. Arendt gave the following report: Ceremonial objects have been distributed to museums in the United States, to Africa, Argentina, England and Canada. About 400 objects are being held in reserve for other Latin American countries.

Distribution of objects to synagogues and congregations in the United States has only partially been decided upon; the immigrant congregations from Central Europe have top priority; the remainder will go to all other congregations. Since JCR cannot handle the distribution to each individual synagogue, Dr. Arendt suggested that the Synagogue Council of America, which represents the organized Orthodox, Reformed and Conservative synagogues, be asked to handle the distribution of ceremonial objects for JCR. Prof. Baron concurred in this opinion, pointing out that the Synagogue Council of America represents the majority of organized congregation in the United States.

Dr. Lewin's suggestions that the Orthodox congregations receive most of the ceremonial objects and that an Advisory Committee take the responsibility for the allocation of ceremonial objects, following a procedure similar to the one used in the allocation of books, was found unfeasible. Rabbi Freund pointed out the many problems the Synagogue Council will be confronted with and the conditions necessary for the execution of this project.

Upon motion made by Rabbi Gerstein and duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted, embodying essentially the suggestions

made by Rabbi Freund:

That Jewish Cultural Reconstruction request the Synagogue Council of America to undertake the distribution of ceremonial objects on behalf of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction to congregations in the United States, other than the immigrant congregations of Central Europe.

That for this purpose, JCR request the Synagogue Council of America to form a special committee consisting of representatives from each of its constituent members--United Synagogue of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations--as well as a representative from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. This body is empowered to invite other organizations to take equal part. While this committee will be fully responsible for the selection of recipient congregations and the allocation of material, the overall policy according to which such selections and allocations will be made has to be approved by the Board of Directors of JCR.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt

Hannah Arendt

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 21, 1950

Pursuant to a notice dated November 28, 1950, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors was held at 4:30 P.M., on December 21, 1950, at Professor Baron's office, Columbia University, New York City.

The following members of the Board were present: Prof. Salo W. Baron, Dr. Wolf Blattberg, Mrs. Henrietta Buchman, Rabbi Simon Federbush, Dr. Max Gruenewald, Dr. Ben Halpern, Dr. Isaac Lewin, Mr. High Salpeter; ex officio: Dr. Hannah Arendt. The following members of the Advisory Committee attended as guests of the Board of Directors: Rabbi I. Edward Kiev, Dr. Michael L. Munk, Dr. Guido Schoenberger. Also present were: Mr. Eli Rock, JRSO, Rabbi S. Rochman, JCR.

In the absence of Prof. Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Prof. Baron acted as chairman of the meeting and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of October 9, 1950, were approved as circulated.

Prof. Baron stated that several letters had come in response to the memorandum which had been sent to the members of the Board and the Advisory Committee on November 28th, and that these will be counted as votes from the Board members and as suggestions from the Advisory Committee.

II. Pending Claims: Ceremonial Objects from Frankfurt

Dr. Arendt reported that the Frankfurt Jewish community, which had originally promised not to enter a claim for the ceremonial objects of the former Jewish Museum, has gained access to the cases, taken some of the items and returned others to the Frankfurt municipality. Meanwhile JCR received a number of requests, from Dr. Nelson Glueck and Dr. Franz Landsberger of the Jewish Museum in Cincinnati, from the Jewish Museum, New York, and from the Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives as well as the Anglo-Jewish Association in England.

Prof. Baron pointed out that the whole discussion of the allocation of these objects may become academic since the Jewish community of Frankfurt no longer seems ready to part with these objects unless they receive photographs and statements by Dr. Schoenberger indicating which belonged to the Gesellschaft.

Dr. Schoenberger stated that it is difficult to distinguish these things from photographs, that as far as he could tell from the photographs hardly any belonged to the city, that those belonging to the city were apparently kept back right from the beginning, that

most of them seemed to have belonged either to the community or to the Gesellschaft, and that the objects which belonged to the community can be selected from the objects themselves rather than from the photographs since they had specific initials and a number following the initials. Some of them, such as the two famous golden cups, undoubtedly belonged to the community. Many others undoubtedly were the property of the Gesellschaft.

Prof. Baron suggested that we write to the Frankfurt community and tell them that, while it is difficult to distinguish Gesellschaft from community property from photographs, to the best of our knowledge practically none of the objects belonged to the municipality. He felt that we should not be too legalistic in this matter, and we should give to the community whatever objects they need and use the others to distribute to museums all over the world.

The discussion that followed pertained to the allocation of these objects. Some members felt that the Bezallel Museum had received not only their just share, but by far the best pieces of the originally recovered ceremonial objects, that furthermore the diaspora countries are as much interested in these objects as is Israel, and that they should therefore be chiefly distributed among museums outside of Palestine. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the Frankfurt Jewish community may be more likely to part with them if they go to Israel and that smaller museums in Israel, aside from the Bezallel Museum, seemed to have received nothing so far.

It was suggested that the original procedure of 40% to Israel, 40% to the Western hemisphere and 20% to other countries be followed, with the possibility of London getting most of the 20%.

It was further suggested that we request Bezallel to send us a report of the objects they received and that when Dr. Maimon comes to this country, we have a conference with him for the purpose of establishing a committee under the supervision of the Ministry of Religion, or the Jewish Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Religion, for the distribution of some of the ceremonial objects to congregations and museums in Israel other than Bezallel.

Dr. Arendt reported that 165 additional ceremonial objects were recovered during last year, some of which were allocated to JTC for German Jewish communities in the British zone. She suggested that the remainder should be allocated to the various communities in Israel.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, this suggestion was adopted.

III. Decree and Successor Address

After hearing Prof. Scholem's written remarks on the usefulness of a decree to be issued by the German Laender governments, ordering that all Jewish property which may be discovered in the future be reported, the Board of Directors decided that JCR should continue its efforts to obtain such a decree, and that the reports should be sent to the JRSO headquarters in Nuremberg and to its designee, should JRSO close its headquarters in Germany.

IV. Berlin

Dr. Arendt reported that JCR has entered a certain number of claims with the Jewish community of Berlin, enumerated in the Annual Report, Appendix V, under the heading "Berlin." JCR has been in contact with this community and during his negotiations, Prof. Scholem was given all kinds of promises which were never kept. Upon Prof. Scholem's suggestion, we sent approximately 600 books by airfreight from Wiesbaden, addressed to Galinsky, and we set aside another 1,000, pending further negotiations. In view of the fact that they never acknowledged receipt of this shipment, the question arose whether to ship the additional 1,000 Hebrews, which are quite scarce. This question had to be decided upon immediately since the Wiesbaden depot was closing.

In the course of the discussion, it was pointed out that the headquarters of the Gemeinde is in the Russian sector and contact is difficult. It was suggested that Rabbi Federbush, who had received the original request for books from Dr. Freier, cable Dr. Freier regarding this matter.

Mr. Rock pointed out that JRSO has had similar difficulties with the Berlin Gemeinde. He felt that the leadership was poor and irresponsible and that relationships between JRSO and the Gemeinde have deteriorated.

It was decided to ship the additional 1,000 books only as a quid pro quo in return for the material which we request, and if agreeable to the JDC of Berlin, these 1,000 books may be shipped to them and they would act as the custodian until such time as they would be authorized to ship them to the Berlin community.

V. Archives

Prof. Baron stated that there were three types of archival material:

- (1) the Gesamtarchiv which will probably go to Jerusalem;
- (2) the Bavarian Jewish Community Archives now held by Bavarian municipal or state archives, which JCR had claimed through JRSO. The Bavarian Jewish communities interfered, with the result that they were neither turned over to us nor to them. This material, however, as well as registers from the Bavarian Jewish communities may be recovered by JCR during the next year;
- (3) a small collection of stray documents which we recovered in Wiesbaden and which should be allocated during this meeting.

Claims for the material mentioned under (3) as well as under (2) had been entered by the Hebrew University, the American Jewish Archives, The Yiddish Scientific Institute, and the American-Jewish Historical Society.

Allocation of the material mentioned under (3) was submitted to a subcommittee in accordance with a previous decision of the Board. The subcommittee recommended the following:

1. In accordance with the request of the American Jewish Archives, presented in their letter of November 7th, 1950, it is recommended that the American Jewish Archives be recognized as the custodian of the archival material now in the German depot of JCR, under the condition that the cost of transportation and the responsibility for sorting and processing of this material be borne by the American Jewish Archives.
2. This decision shall not preclude the final allocation of this as well as other archival material which may still be recovered by JCR. Further disposition and final allocation shall be decided upon at some future time.

The matter was then thrown open for discussion by the members of the Board. It was pointed out that due to difficulties of a practical nature these archives may not be unpacked and processed in Jerusalem for a long time while the American Jewish Archives are fully equipped to handle this material. Furthermore, although it was recognized that the Hebrew University has top priority for all material which is not duplicated in its own collection, the American Jewish Archives also are entitled to a certain priority as part of the German-Jewish Memorial Library. On the other hand, future generations of scholars are much more likely to gather around the Hebrew University than the United States. But it was also stated that for the last two decades scholarship in the study of German Jewish history has been a major concern of Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion, and that at least 6 eminent scholars in this field are working in Cincinnati and New York at the present time.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was passed:

That all archival material should be shipped to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem;

That the Hebrew University be formally requested to classify and catalogue this material as quickly as possible and to provide microfilm copies of the more important documents, particularly for the group of scholars working in Cincinnati.

The following members present voted for the resolution: Dr. S. Federbush, Dr. Blattberg, Mr. High Salpeter, Dr. Ben Halpern, Dr. Max Gruenewald, Dr. Isaac Lewin,

Prof. Gershom Scholem, Dr. Oscar Rabinowicz, Prof. Cecil Roth, (by mail); Anglo-Jewish Association (by cable).

Again for the resolution: Dr. Leo Baeck (by mail).

Abstained: Mrs. Buchman.

VI. Frankfurt Material

According to an earlier decision of the Board of Directors, all of Judaica and two thirds of the non-Jewish material will go to Jerusalem, the remainder to be shipped to the United States, chiefly for Brandeis University and Yeshiva College. The Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives and the Anglo-Jewish Association have protested this decision, stating that 250,000 volumes were lost by the British Museum during the war and requesting that all non-Jewish books which do not go to Israel be sent to the British Museum for a first selection and that the residue only be sent to New York.

Prof. Baron pointed out that our policy has been to assign non-Jewish books to Jewish libraries only and that non-Jewish libraries have been approached with offers of Judaica only. He felt that it would be legitimate to assign Judaica to the British Museum and mentioned that the Bibliothèque Nationale will receive some periodicals from the New York depot, which had been requested via the Alliance Israélite Universelle. Furthermore, British institutions will receive material through the JTC recoveries in the British zone.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was decided that non-Jewish books from Frankfurt should not be sent to Great Britain and that the British Museum should be recognized as a recipient of Judaica only.

VII. Yeshiva University

Prof. Baron reported two serious complaints against the Yeshiva University. In the first place, they have not sorted the books which they received and these books are therefore not available to scholars. This is particularly serious in connection with the Stuermer collection because of a previous understanding with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Jewish Institute of Religion according to which these institutions were authorized to select quite a number of volumes from this collection. Prof. Baron also mentioned that some students of Columbia University are ready to work on this collection as a regular assignment and stressed the importance of this possibility. In the second place, in their releases to the press regarding the Stuermer collection, Yeshiva University not only did not mention Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, but stated that Yeshiva University "acquired" these books, giving the impression that they bought them.

The Board requested that the Secretary write to the President of the Yeshiva University in the name of the Board regarding these matters.

VIII. Distribution of 12,000-13,000 Judaica and Hebraica

Dr. Arendt reported that approximately 12,000-13,000 Judaica and Hebraica of privately owned books will arrive in New York from Wiesbaden. She suggested that they be shipped in closed cases to four or five institutions in order not to have them dispersed in too many places, should some of the original owners turn up. The Hebrew

University, YIVO and the Hebrew Union College are prepared to accept closed cases.

Prof. Baron questioned only one of the propositions made in writing by Prof. Glueck of Hebrew Union College that the latter would "dispose of our duplicates to ... individuals only to regain our original outlay of expense," since none of our recipient libraries are allowed to sell any of the books assigned to them. He was in sympathy with the suggestion of YIVO that some of these cases be sent to the Argentine YIVO in Buenos Aires and to the Jewish National University in Mexico.

The Board agreed that the distribution of these books be made in line with the suggestions of Dr. Arendt and Prof. Baron.

IX. Distribution of 305 Cases in New York Depot

Dr. Arendt reported that there are 305 cases of books left to be distributed in New York, including rare books, and that London has put in a request for some of the rare books. She suggested that about 7% of this collection be sent to England. This suggestion was accepted by the Board.

X. Left-Overs

It was decided that the books which are left over after JCR terminates its activities be shipped to: Hebrew Union College, Hebrew University, YIVO, the Argentine YIVO in Buenos Aires and the Jewish National University in Mexico.

XI. JCR Files

It was reported that requests for the JCR files have come in from: The Hebrew University, the Jewish Museum (on ceremonial objects only), the American Jewish Archives, YIVO and the Conference on Jewish Relations. It was decided that the allocation of these files should be decided upon at a subsequent meeting.

XII. Budget

Prof. Baron reported on the proposed budget for JCR for the next six months. He stated that JCR has a substantial balance in the bank because certain expenses which had been originally budgeted for the past six months will not arise until January. He reported an expected income of approximately \$4,500.00 for transportation charges on books and ceremonial objects and requested \$5,730.00 from the JDC and the Jewish Agency, as against a \$10,160.00 contribution for the last six months and \$14,700.00 for the first six months of 1950.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the budget was adopted.

XIII. Request from HICOG

Dr. Arendt reported that JCR received a request from the Office of the U.S. High Commissioner to Germany through the American Jewish Committee for certain types of Judaica for the American libraries in Germany. A one time allocation of 500 books was suggested and upon motion duly made and seconded, accepted.

XIV. Synagogue Council

The President was authorized to appoint a delegate to the committee of the Synagogue Council of America which is in charge of distributing ceremonial objects to the congregations in the United States.

XV. Individually Owned Books Subject to Claims

Dr. Arendt reported that JCR holds approximately 15,000 individually owned books of six or more per owner plus approximately 16,000 books from the Baltic collection, which are stored in Antwerp and Paris in the name of the JDC. All these books are subject to claims. While the books in Paris have been stored by the JDC free of charge, the storage costs in Antwerp, amounting to about \$400.00 for a year, will be charged to JCR. Unclaimed books will come up for distribution in the fall of 1951. Thus far HUL has requested the entire Baltic collection and the Religious Department of JDC in Paris expects the usual percentage for distribution among European communities. The Board felt that allocation of this material should be decided upon at a subsequent meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt
Secretary

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

MEMORANDUM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOV 29 1950

The annual meeting of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., which will take place on December 21, 1950, and for which an invitation is enclosed, will have to decide upon a number of problems connected with the termination of our activities. I am outlining the chief points on the agenda in order to give you the possibility of giving these matters more thought than a meeting permits and in order to invite written comment from our friends abroad. I should like to urge you to present whatever suggestions you have concerning our future activities either at the meeting, or in writing, if you cannot attend.

1. When JCR's depot in Germany will close, all in-shipments will go to JRSO headquarters in Nuremberg. There are only two major in-shipments which we expect now and which may have to be handled with special care.
 - a. The ceremonial objects from Frankfurt, about which we are in correspondence. I would suggest that they be shipped to New York, where they can be examined and catalogued with the help of Dr. Schoenberger. This would mean that Israel and especially the Bezallel Museum would receive its share from New York. Although the job of distributing these objects will not be too big, some work may again have to be done in the Jewish Museum, and we may even contemplate enlisting the help of Mr. Odell for a very limited time.
 - b. The Bavarian Jewish community archives, a small part of which (comprising approximately 450 volumes of registers) have only recently been offered to us by the Bavarian Jewish Landesverband. I do not think that we can handle these archives at all in view of our limited facilities and the pressure of time. Before these archives are shipped out of Germany, a decision should be made by the Board of Directors as to which institution should receive them without involving JCR activities so that the whole thing can be handled with even a minimum of correspondence. The following institutions are interested: National Archives, Jerusalem, Yiddish Scientific Institute, American Archives, Cincinnati.
2. The second activity which we may want to follow up in Germany after December 31st is connected with the decree to be issued by the German Laender government. This may again involve quite a bit of work and you may therefore decide to let it drop altogether. However, it should be borne in mind that such a legal instrument, which under the occupation law may not be of great consequence, can become very important at some future time when the Allied Armies will have left Germany and an improvement in material conditions brings to light some unexpected Jewish cultural property.

3. If we succeed in obtaining this decree, new material may be reported. Moreover, the activities of the Jewish Trust Corporation may lead to new discoveries, not only in the British, but also in the American zone. As long as JRSO has its offices in Germany and JCR retains its headquarters in New York, information can be channeled through JRSO and proper action can be taken. The problem however is what will happen when, at the end of next year, both organizations will have terminated their activities. To which agency will the German institutions be able to turn? Who will determine who the recipients will be? What will the legal and administrative procedure be? It would be unwise in our opinion to rely on the local Jewish communities in this matter. Even the channeling of information through them seems to be a rather unsatisfactory solution in the light of our past experiences. (We should not forget that it was the late Dr. Starr who had to inform the local community in Vienna of the surviving remnants of their former holdings, that Dr. Lowenthal made a report on a collection of Judaica and Hebraica which was completely unknown to the Jews of Austria, and that the Jewish community in Frankfurt became interested in the ceremonial objects of the Frankfurt Jewish Museum only after we had discovered them, etc.). The truth unfortunately is that these communities lack interest and knowledge which would enable them to evaluate information properly.
4. Berlin is a case apart. There the deadline for claimants was extended to June 30, 1950, which means that the recovery of heirless property is in its very early stages. JRSO has put in claims for us in accordance with our "Tentative List" and also in line with the information gathered by me on the spot. Up to now very little has been forthcoming from this source, so that Berlin is one place in the American zone where JCR, through no fault of its own, will not have completed its job. The question arises whether we should let it go at that or whether we should make a new effort next year. At this moment the situation is obscure and complicated.
5. Work on the Frankfurt material (see Minutes, October 9th, point II) started on October 15th. Although the work is progressing at a satisfactory pace, and we still hope to meet the December 31st deadline, it is quite possible that for reasons beyond our control the work on this material will not be completed before the end of January.

According to the decision of the Board of Directors at the last meeting, one third of the non-Jewish material--probably between 12,000 and 18,000 books--will come to the United States in February. Regular distribution of these books through our New York depot would seriously delay the closing of the depot. Moreover, this non-Jewish material, strictly speaking outside the range of JCR's activities, will be needed mostly by only two institutions, Yeshiva University and Brandeis University. I should therefore like to propose that this material be equally divided between these two institutions and shipped to them directly from the pier. I should also like to propose that in order to avoid

returns, duplicates be listed by the two recipients and offered to general libraries by JCR. A direct exchange between the two institutions in question should also be established.

6. An estimated 12,000-14,000 Judaica and Hebraica of the privately owned books will arrive in New York early next year. Because of the hurried procedure in Wiesbaden, these books will not have been sorted according to categories. We also must not forget that these books, as distinguished from all others, bear the names of private owners. In order to facilitate future recoveries by individual claimants, it may be wise to divide these books among a few--possibly four or five--institutions, which would agree to accept closed cases directly from Wiesbaden. Here again we should waive our condition with regard to duplicates. In making this suggestion, I do not want to minimize the difficulties the institutions will face by accepting unopened cases, especially in view of the fact that JCR has flooded the United States market with this type of material. Alternative suggestions on this point would therefore be doubly welcome.
7. Even if new material from Germany will not be handled through us in New York, the closing of the New York depot presents serious problems.
 - a. The distribution of periodicals in accordance with requests from libraries, including the Hebrew University Library, is of course a much more time consuming procedure than distribution according to categories. Distribution of 101 cases of German Jewish periodicals was started in August and will be finished by the beginning of December. We shall then have to deal with 55 cases of Hebrew, 53 cases of Yiddish, 18 cases of French, English and Western European, and 10 cases of Russian periodicals, as well as 59 cases of Yiddish newspapers. The distribution of these categories will proceed more quickly because there are less duplicates and because a very large part of them will go to the Hebrew University, which had received part of its share of the German Jewish periodicals directly from Wiesbaden. However, it will hardly be possible to finish this distribution before the middle of March.
 - b. The next time-consuming distribution job are the rare books of which we now have 3,500, including about 900 books which we recently received from Wiesbaden. These too can only be distributed by title and the difficulty here is that due to an original oversight in Offenbach in 1949, no reliable catalogue for the New York holdings exists. Even with the best preparation possible, we shall need at least three to four weeks for this distribution.
 - c. We shall then be left with an estimated 50-75 cases of "left-overs." These consist of various categories which remained after the first distribution was completed. Some of these books can easily be used to fill requests which we still have in the office; Canada in particular will receive a second shipment from this reservoir.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to ship any of these books without opening the cases, because no case ever arrived from Germany or was repacked in New York which did not have a great number of duplicates. To quote an example, one case of German Judaica contained ten copies of volume I of Graetz' "History of the Jews." The distribution of all remnants will take at least another four to six weeks.

- d. There is no doubt that we will be left with a considerable number of books after distribution will have been completed. The question arises what we can do with this surplus material. There seem to be the following possibilities: (1) To ship it to the Hebrew University, and I believe that they will accept it for Israeli communities. (2) To offer it as is to the Library of Congress, but I doubt whether they will take it because of their space problem. No other library, in my opinion, can be expected to accept these remnants. (3) To call in book sellers and try to "sell" for as much as possible--but this only as a very last resort.

It would be very desirable to close the depot on April 1st, but I must confess that I do not see any way to do so. The schedule outlined above would carry us to June 30th.

8. The identifiable material stored in France has to be distributed during the second half of next year. The last job of JCR will be to locate owners, retribute to claimants and to distribute the left-over unclaimed material, which is now being stored in the JDC warehouses in Paris. This material consists of 136 cases with more than 16,000 books from the Baltic collection and of 100-150 cases with approximately 20,000 books of the individually owned books whose owners possess six or more items. JCR will have to liquidate this depot in one operation and is bound by its agreement with the United States government concerning the Baltic collection not to start this operation before August 1951. It is hoped, but not certain, that the main job will be done by JDC in France. Even under the most favorable circumstances, additional work by JCR will have to be done, not only regarding final distribution, but also with respect to the correspondence with individual claimants. These operations in France will probably take at least three months and this is an underestimate rather than an overestimate of the time necessary to handle some 36,000 volumes.

I would therefore suggest that a special budget earmarked for these purposes be decided upon, after consultation with the JDC Paris staff and after the period during which books can be claimed has elapsed, so that we may be able to tell with how many individual claimants we have to reckon. Handling and shipping fees for property restituted to individuals will be paid by the recipients.

9. Up to now JCR has received only a small portion of the lists of books from recipient libraries. A special effort will be made to receive these during the next few months.

When JCR closes its headquarters, the question will arise what to do with these lists and other important archival material which we have accumulated in the course of our activities. In view of the historical significance and the unique circumstances surrounding our work, it would not only be a technical lapse, but a serious mistake to leave this material uncared for.

As for the archival material pertaining to the ceremonial objects (photographs, catalogue-cards, etc.), the Jewish Museum of New York, through Dr. Schoenberger, has approached us and expressed its great interest in this material.

The above outlined schedule involves more time and expense than we anticipated. The problems and the solutions which I outlined will require an additional budget for the first six months of 1951 and a smaller supplementary budget for the second half of 1951.

Every suggestion which you may have that would shorten the time limit of our activities and/or cut down expenses will be extremely welcome.

Hannah Arendt (sg)

Hannah Arendt
Executive Secretary

November 28, 1950

JAN 15 1951

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION
December 21, 1950

Pursuant to a notice dated November 28, 1950, a copy of which precedes the minutes, the Annual Meeting of this corporation for 1950 was held at 4:00 P.M. on December 21st, 1950, at Professor Baron's office, Columbia University, New York City.

The following members of the corporation were represented at the meeting by their respective representatives:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction	Salo W. Baron
Agudas Israel World Organization	Isaac Lewin
American Friends of the Hebrew University	High Salpeter
American Joint Distribution Committee	Henrietta Buchman (for J. Lookstein and Jonah B. Wise)
Council for the Protection of Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany	Max Gruenewald
Jewish Agency for Palestine	Ben Halpern (for Maurice Boukstein and Chaim Greenberg)
World Jewish Congress	Wolf Blattberg Simon Federbush

Also attending: Eli Rock, JRSO

Ex officio: Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary

Professor Salo W. Baron, the president of the corporation, acted as chairman and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary of the corporation.

A. Annual Report

As president of the corporation, Prof. Baron rendered the annual report as follows:

1. Financial Report

The financial report covered the 17 month period from July 1, 1949, to November 30, 1950. During this period the corporation received \$38,766.60 from the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee and \$14,455.98 from recipient institutions as reimbursement for books and ceremonial objects. The corporation also received a one time refund on freight charges for a shipment made prior to July 1, 1949. The total expenses for this period amounted to \$55,476.15, \$36,484.75 of which covered expenses for New York headquarters and depots, and \$18,991.40 overseas expenses. (A detailed account of this report is attached -- Appendix I).

2. Shipments from Germany

The report on shipments covered the first eleven months of 1950. A total of 565 cases were shipped out of Wiesbaden. During the period under review, Israel received more than 21,000 and the United States approximately 7,000 books. Latin American countries were included in the allocation for the first time and approximately 11,000 volumes were shipped to nine Latin American countries. (Allocations to Canada were made from the New York depot). Europe received more than 11,000 books which included allocation to Switzerland of part of the Breslau Seminary collection, and a one time allocation to Sweden. All other European countries received only periodicals.

Of a total of 66,163 books shipped out of Wiesbaden, approximately 46,000 volumes came from German Jewish institutional collections. Requests for periodicals from Israel, the European continent, Great Britain, So. Africa and Argentina were filled in Wiesbaden as far as was possible in order to save freight charges from New York, where periodicals were originally pooled for world-wide distribution.

Approximately 15,000 books of the individually owned collections belonged to owners of six or more books and were therefore shipped to Belgium for storage in the name of the JDC.

(For further details of this report, see Appendix II, attached).

3. Report on Torah Scrolls

In addition to the 774 Torah Scrolls recovered and entrusted to the JDC in Paris in 1949, 58 Torah Scrolls and 87 fragments were recovered in 1950. 53 of these were shipped to JDC, Paris, and 87 fragments were shipped to Israel.

(For a report on the distribution of Torah Scrolls through JDC, Paris, see Appendix III).

4. Report on New Recoveries

As a result of intensified efforts to recover Jewish cultural treasures in addition to those that had been entrusted to JCR by the military authorities in 1949, tens of thousands of books, 165 ceremonial objects and the above mentioned Torah Scrolls and fragments as well as archival material were received by JCR in Wiesbaden.

(A tentative list of these in-shipments is given in Appendix IV).

5. Report on Discoveries and Pending Claims

Since JCR's activities in Germany will terminate on December 31, 1950, a tentative list of discoveries made during the period July 1, 1949, to November 30, 1950, is given in Appendix V.

6. Report on Distribution of Books from the New York Depot

This report covered the entire period of this activity, i.e., July 1, 1949, to November 30, 1950. During this period approximately 80,000 books were allocated to 35 American libraries, which received books regularly (among them nine non-Jewish institutions), to 40 Yeshivoth, which received one time allocations, and two other institutions which were granted similar status. Canada received a first allocation of 1,500 books and about 1,500 more are ready for shipment. The chief recipient abroad was the Hebrew University Library, which received the greater part of its allocation of periodicals directly from New York.

Prof. Baron referred to several letters from librarians expressing appreciation of JCR's activities. Notable among them are letters from the Library of Congress, Brandeis University, the Jewish Institute of Religion, Chile and Mexico.

(For details, see Appendix VI).

7. Report on Distribution of Ceremonial Objects from the
New York Depot

Almost 4,000 ceremonial objects were shipped from Germany to the United States after Israel received its full share of synagogue and museum objects and other countries had received their share of synagogue objects only. The New York depot, therefore, had to fill requests not only in the Western hemisphere, but also for museum objects in other countries. During the period under review--September 1, 1949, to November 30, 1950--all objects were catalogued and put on display in the Jewish Museum, before distribution started, in the early summer of 1950. Twelve museums in the United States received about 1,100 objects for display, while Great Britain, France and South Africa received their share of 520 objects in this category. A total of 466 objects were allocated to six other countries in the Western hemisphere, with Canada and Argentine receiving 150 objects each. About 1,700 objects were put aside for United States synagogues.

(For more details of this report, see Appendix VII, attached).

Distribution of ceremonial objects is completed.

8. Distribution of Books in 1951

During the next six months the New York book depot will have to distribute 305 cases of books which have been left over from the 864 cases shipped to New York during 1949 and 1950 plus an unknown quantity of new material which is expected to arrive from Germany very shortly.

(For more details of this report, see Appendix VIII, attached).

Prof. Baron summed up his reports by stating that they indicated a substantial achievement for JCR. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the report was approved.

B. Election of Officers and Directors

Because of the imminent termination of the present activities of the corporation, Prof. Baron suggested that there be no nomination of new persons but that all the present officers and directors be re-elected.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the same officers and directors were unanimously reelected to carry on the activities of JCR during 1951.

There being no further business to come before the Annual Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt
Secretary

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX I

Financial Statement
July 1, 1949 - Nov. 30, 1950

Bank Balance July 1, 1949 \$ 6,843.93

Receipts.

From JDC-Jewish Agency	38,766.60
Refund on Shipment	3,423.18
Reimbursement from Institutions for Books and Ceremonial Objects	<u>14,455.98</u>

Total Income \$63,489.69

Disbursements

A. New York

1. Headquarters		
a. Salaries	\$15,147.60	
b. Office Expenses	<u>1,404.68</u>	16,552.28
2. Expenses for Recovery & Distribution		
a. Salaries	10,358.00	
b. Freight, Insurance, Customs & Cartage for Incoming Shipments	3,509.91	
c. Storage, Labor, Services & Miscellaneous	5,084.56	
d. Shipping & Customs Char- ges for Outgoing Shipments	<u>72.25</u>	19,024.72
3. Insurance (Fire & Work- men's Compensation)		<u>907.75</u>
		36,484.75

B. Overseas

1. Salaries	12,255.10
2. LCA & Other Expenses via Nuremberg	3,456.75
3. Traveling Expenses to & in Europe	<u>3,279.55</u>
	18,991.40

Total Expenses 55,476.15

BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 1950

8,013.54

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX II

Wiesbaden: Worldwide Distribution - 1950

A. BOOKS

Country	Rare Books	Hebraica	Yiddish	German Judaica	German Non-Jewish	Periodicals	Unsorted	Total
Israel	156	4,771	120	1,639	6,142	4,421	4,270	21,519
U. S.	615	100		2,932	753	2,687		7,087
<u>Latin America: Total 10,973</u>								
Argentina		2,836	423	1,500				
Bolivia		284		222		173		4,932
Brazil		1,287	20	716				506
Chile		471	20	322				2,023
Peru		250		279				813
Costa Rica		249		176				529
Ecuador				150		17		442
Mexico		387	20	268	75			225
Uruguay		385	20	294	15	114		804
								699
<u>Europe: Total 11,289</u>								
France								
Belgium		56				181		181
Sweden		339		352	5			56
England		28		1,047	172	1,064		696
Switzerland		5,766	37	1,177		463		2,311
German Jewish Communities		225		361	16			7,443
								602
<u>Africa: Total 467</u>								
S. Africa								
Morocco		378				89		89
								378
<u>Total</u>	771	17,812	660	11,435	7,178	9,209	4,270	51,335
<u>Belgium - Individually Owned Books for JDC Storage</u>								14,828

3. TORAH SCROLLS AND TORAH ORNAMENTS

Country	Scrolls	Fragments	Torah Wrappers	Curtains	Total
JDC, Paris	53		41	1	95
New York			48		48
Israel		87			87
<u>Total</u>	53	87	89	1	230

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX III

Distribution of Torah Scrolls via JDC, Paris

The JDC in Paris received: 774 Torah Scrolls in 1949;
53 Torah Scrolls in 1950.

Of these: 548 went to Israel;
98 are being distributed in Europe, including Great
Britain;
127 had to be buried.

APPENDIX IV

In-Shipments, Wiesbaden - 1950

Torah Scrolls

Scrolls	58
Fragments	87

Books

Rare Books	150
Hebraica and Judaica	4,270
German Judaica (approximately)	500
German Judaica and Non-Jewish German Literature (more than)	30,000

Archives (approximately) 10 Cases

Ceremonial Objects 165

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX V

Incomplete List of Discoveries and Pending Claims

<u>City or "Land"</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Approx. Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Held By</u>	<u>Claimed</u>	<u>Received</u>
<u>I. American Zone</u>						
Bavaria	Archives	More than 5,000 vols.	From 1492 to 1934	State Archives in Amberg, Munich, Neuberg, Nuremberg, Wuerzburg	Thru JRSO	
Baden	Ceremonial Objects	165	From Synagogues	Local Museums in Karlsruhe, Weinheim, Ludwigs-hafen	By JCR	In Wiesbaden
Bavaria & Baden	Torah Scrolls	58 and 87 Fragments		Monasteries, Jewish Communities, Local Museums	By JCR	Shipped to Paris and Israel
Wurtemberg	Archives	More than 150 vols.	19th & 20th centuries	Municipal Archives Esslingen & Ludwigs-burg	Thru JRSO	
Munich	Books	Approx. 25 Cases	German Literature	Bayrisches Landesamt fuer Ver-moegensver-waltung	Thru JRSO	
Munich	Books	2,500	Judaica	Municipal Library	Thru JRSO	
Munich	Books	150	Rare Books (Collection Ahnenerbe)	Collecting Point	By JCR	Shipped to USA & Israel
Munich	Books	4,270	Scholarly Material from Poland	The Cen-tral Com-mission of Jews	By JCR for HUL	Shipped to HUL

Discoveries and Pending Claims (2)

<u>City or "Land"</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Approx. Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Held By</u>	<u>Claimed</u>	<u>Re'd</u>
Munich	Ceremonial Objects	About 100	Of Artistic Value	The Bavarian Landesverband	Landesverband Approached via Munich Community	
Munich	Archives	450 vols.	Birth, Marriage & Death Registers of Bavarian Communities	Bavarian Landesverband	Offered to JCR	
Frankfurt	Ceremonial Objects	More than 500	Of the Former Jewish Museum	Historical Museum	Thru JRSO	
Frankfurt	Books	130,000	Judaica & Jewish Owned German Literature	Ministry of Hessen	By JCR	JCR 50% of the valuable mater.
Schnaittach	Ceremonial Objects	About 100	Bavarian Synagogues	Local Museum	Thru JRSO	
Regensburg	Archives	360 vols.		Mr. Hermann	Approached via Landesverband	
Straubingen	Archives		Jewish Community	Jewish Community	Approached via Landesverband	

II. Berlin

American Sector	Paintings	100	Formerly of Jewish Museum, Berlin	Municipality	Thru JRSO	
	Textiles	271	From Synagogues	Magazinbau, Dahlem	Thru JRSO	
	Torah Scrolls	5		Magazinbau, Dahlem	Thru JRSO	

Discoveries and Pending Claims (3)

<u>City or "Land"</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Approx. Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Held By</u>	<u>Claimed</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>
	Archives & Some Books	2 Cases	Various	Haupt-archiv, Dahlem	By JCR	In Wiesbaden
British Sector	Cere-monial Objects	330 lbs. or 12 Cases	From All Over Ger-many	Jewish Community in JDC Warehouse		
Russian Sector	Torah Scrolls	300	From all Over Europe	Jewish Community on the Cemetery		
	Books	About 8,000 vols.	Mostly Ju-daica; A-bout 50% of Scholarly Interest	Jewish Community		

III. British Zone

Altona	Cere-monial Objects		Synagogues of Altona	Municipal Museum		
Celle	Cere-monial Objects		From Stanis-lau, Galicia	Local Mu-seum, Trans-ferred from Voelkerkunde-museum, Berlin		
Goslar	Archives		Koenigsberg Community	Municipality		JTC Informed
Duisburg, Hamborn	Films of Archives	Of 3,400 Volumes.	Birth, Mar-riage & Death Resis-ters of Jew-ish Commu-nities	Private Photo-grapher		JTC Informed
Hamburg	Silver	30,000 Objects or 4,400 pounds	Household Objects of Artistic Value	Municipal-ity		JTC Informed
Hamburg	Archives		Hamburg Portuguese Community	State Archives		JTC Informed

DISCOVERIES AND PENDING CLAIMS (4)

<u>City or "Land"</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Approx. Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Held By</u>	<u>Claimed</u>	<u>Received</u>
Hamburg	Cere- monial Objects	Several Hundred	Of Artis- tic Value	Jewish Community on Loan from British Authorities		
Wolfen- buettel	Books		Collection of Samson- schul	Iessing Bibliothek		JTD In- formed
<u>IV. French Zone</u>						
Ruchau	Cere- monial Objects	More than 100	Of the For- mer Jewish Museum	Local Museum		
Freiburg	Books		20 Private Jewish Lib- raries. Bought from Gestapo	The Univer- sity Lib- rary		
Mainz	Cere- monial Objects	21	From Syna- gogues	Local Museum		
Mainz	Books	More than 3,000	Jewish Community Library	Jewish Communi- ty		Approached by JCR & HUL
Worms	Archives		Wormser Jewish Community	Local Museum		
Worms	Manu- scripts	2	Wormser Machsorim	Local Museum		
Worms	Ceremon. Objects	Not more than 10		Local Museum		
Worms	Torah Scrolls	A few		Local Museum		
<u>V. Austria</u>						
Klagenfurt	Books	600 cases with 40,000 to 60,000 vols.	Remnants of Tanzenberg Collection; Parts from Ger. Jewish Communities	Municipal- ity (?)		Deadline of Claims Extended to End of 1951
Vienna	Books	250,000	Mostly Heir- less & Uni- dentifiable Jew. Property	Vienna Municipi- pality(?)		Deadline of Claims Extended to End of 1951

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX VI

Distribution of Books from New York Depot
July 1, 1949 - Nov. 30, 1950

According to Institutions

<u>Name of Institution</u>	<u>No. Rec'd</u>	<u>No. Ret'ned</u>	<u>Net Rec'd</u>
A. <u>PRIORITY LIBRARIES</u>			
1. American Jewish Historical Soc'ty	43		43
2. Baltimore Hebrew College	1,887	3	1,884
3. Brandeis University	2,569		2,569
4. College of Jew, Studies, Chicago	3,561		3,561
5. Dropsie College	3,475	465	3,010
6. Hebrew Teachers College, Boston	1,958		1,958
7. Hebrew Theol. College, Chicago	3,020	99	2,921
8. Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati	2,388	67	2,321
9. Jewish Community Library, L.A.	907		907
10. Jewish Institute of Religion	6,409	1,036	5,373
11. Jewish Theological Seminary	4,445	45	4,400
12. Mesifita Chaim Berlin	1,105		1,105
13. Mesifita Torah Vodaath	3,713		3,713
14. Ner Israel, Baltimore	2,582		2,582
15. Rabbinical College of Telshe	156		156
16. Yeshiva University (Including 5,932 of Stuermer Collection)	8,429	350	8,079
17. Yiddish Scientific Institute	3,379	89	3,290
B. <u>SMALLER LIBRARIES</u>			
1. B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation	1,013	448	565
2. Beth Medrash Elyon	350		350
3. Beth Medrash Govoha	450		450
4. Jewish Teachers Seminary	615		615
5. Jewish Welfare Board	200		200
6. Mirrer Yeshiva	400		400
7. Schneersohn Library	990		990
8. Yeshiva of Flatbush	332		332
9. Zionist Archives	970		970
C. <u>NON-JEWISH LIBRARIES</u>			
1. Columbia University	69		69
2. City College	214		214
3. Harvard University	200	65	135
4. Johns Hopkins University	2		2
5. Library of Congress	2,372		2,372
6. New York Public Library	104		104
7. New York University	224		224
8. University of Texas	635		635
9. Yale University	387		387

DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS (2)

<u>Name of Institution</u>	<u>No. Rec'd</u>	<u>No. Ret'ned</u>	<u>Net Rec'd</u>
<u>D. ONE TIME ALLOCATIONS</u>			
Yeshivoh (through Torah Umesorah)	12,013	254	11,759
Hebrew Convalescent Home	182		182
Jewish Settlement House	28		28
<u>E. ABROAD</u>			
Canada	3,149		3,149
Hebrew University Library	4,400		4,400
Bibliothèque Nationale via Alliance Israélite Universelle	17		17
<u>F. INDIVIDUAL CLAIMANTS</u>			
	<u>315</u>	<u> </u>	<u>315</u>
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	79,657	2,921	76,736
<u>G. CLOSED CASES</u>			
Individual Claimants	16 Cases		
HUL	19 Cases of Periodicals		

ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of Books</u>
Rabbinics	19,336
Bible	550
Ritual	1,382
Biur	1,028
Kabbalah	385
Modern Religious Literature	2,603
Fiction (Yiddish and Hebrew)	3,014
Secular Literature	8,827
German Judaica	8,802
Post-revolutionary Russian Literature	2,522
German Jewish Periodicals	24,143
Schoolbooks and Miscellaneous	644
Stuermer Collection	5,932
Miscellaneous (including 79 books individual claimants)	<u>489</u>
TOTAL	79,657

NOTE: All periodicals, whether individual issues or bound volumes, were counted as single items. Some of the figures are therefore misleading as to the actual number of titles.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX VII

I. Location of Ceremonial Objects from New York Depot, 1950

According to Institutions

I. United States: Grand Total 2,829

Jewish Museums

1.	Hebrew Teachers College, Boston	53	
2.	Chai Brith Hillel Foundations	65	
3.	Hebrew Theological College, Chicago	53	
4.	College of Jewish Studies, Chicago	56	
5.	Yeshiva Museum, New York	211	
6.	Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati	99	
7.	Temple, Cleveland	70	
8.	Yale University	245	
9.	National Jewish Welfare Board	147	
	Committee of Jewish Education, Buffalo	<u>29</u>	1,028

B. Non-Museums

11.	Yeshiva Museum	19	
12.	Columbia University	<u>36</u>	55

C. Synagogues

	Immanent Congregations	637	
	Members via Synagogue Council	<u>1,109</u>	1,746

II. Latin America and Canada: Grand Total 466

1.	Canada	151	
2.	Argentina	150	
3.	Curacao*	30	
4.	Chile*	50	
5.	Peru*	35	
6.	Mexico*	<u>50</u>	466

III. European Museums: Grand Total 370

	Great Britain	245	
	France*	<u>125</u>	370

IV. South African Museums: Grand Total 150

	So. Africa	150	<u>150</u>
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TOTAL NUMBER OF OBJECTS 3,815

* Ready for Shipment

Distribution of Ceremonial Objects (2)

According to Categories

Hanukka Lamps	339	
Pointers	391	
Torah Shields	284	
Spice Boxes	586	
Rimonim	414	(386 Pairs; 28 Singles)
Menoroth	413	
Candlesticks	64	
Plates	52	
Torah Crowns	21	
Megilloth	19	
Collection Boxes	19	
Cups	67	
Eternal Lights	9	
Medals, Coins, Amulets	42	
Textiles	330	
Torah Wrappers	294	
Ataroth	422	
Miscellaneous	<u>49</u>	
TOTAL NUMBER OF OBJECTS		3,815

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPENDIX VIII

New York Distribution of Books for 1951

We received in New York 864 cases of books, 559 of which were distributed.

The following cases are still in the depot:

Books:

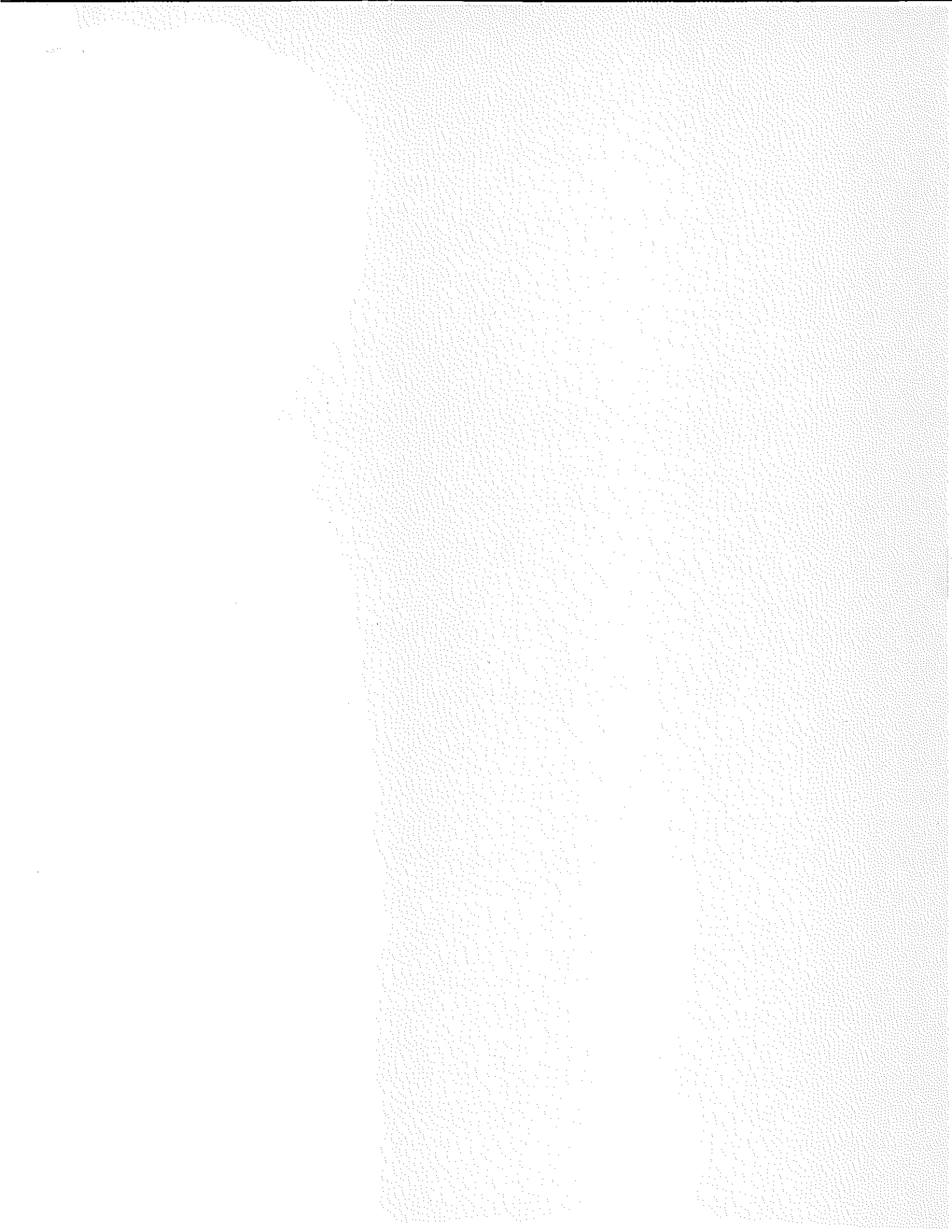
Hebraica	35	Cases
German Judaica	31	"
Secular Literature in Yiddish and Hebrew	5	"
Fiction in Yiddish and Hebrew	5	"
Russian Post-Revolutionary Literature in Yiddish	5	"
Miscellaneous	5	"
Rare Books	48	"

Periodicals

Newspapers in Yiddish	59	"
Periodicals in Yiddish	28	"
Periodicals in Hebrew	56	"
Periodicals in Russian	10	"
Periodicals in English and Other European Languages	<u>18</u>	"

Total

305 Cases



JUL 2 1951

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 4, 1951

Pursuant to a notice dated May 7, 1951, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee was held at 4:00 P.M., June 4, 1951, at Professor Baron's office, Columbia University, New York City.

The following persons were present:

Members of the Board: Professor Salo W. Baron, Dr. Wolf Blattberg, Mrs. Henrietta Buchman, substituting for Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Rabbi Simon Federbush, Dr. Solomon Goldsmith, Dr. Ben Halpern, Professor Jerome Michael.

Members of the Advisory Committee: Dr. Joshua Bloch, Mr. Abraham Duker, Rabbi I. E. Kiev, Dr. Stephen S. Kayser, Dr. Franz Landsberger, Dr. A. M. Margalith, Dr. David de Sola Pool.

Ex Officio: Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary.

Also present: Mr. Eli Rock, JRSO.

Professor Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors, acted as chairman and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary of the meeting.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 1950 were approved as circulated.

Referring to Section VII, p. 5, of the above mentioned minutes, Dr. Margalith expressed the regrets of the Yeshiva University that it failed to refer to Jewish Cultural Reconstruction in its press releases regarding the Stuermer collection. He also explained that Yeshiva University had encountered serious technical difficulties in placing this collection on the shelves.

II. Starr Memorial Fund

Upon motion made by Professor Baron and duly seconded, it was decided to contribute \$100.00 to the Joshua Starr Memorial Volume, on condition that JCR be given 30 copies of the published volume.

III. Disposition of Surplus Material

Dr. Arendt reported that after the final distribution of surplus material in the New York depot-- to be closed on August 1st-- there will be left-over material chiefly in the following categories: (a) 20 cases of non-Jewish, predominantly German, material; (b) a considerable amount of German Judaica and German Jewish periodicals; (c) large stocks of a few single items, mostly Yiddish pamphlets or periodicals from Soviet Russia.

Dr. Arendt also reported that the Hebrew University Library is no longer interested in material in German, but that requests from Israel indicate that among the Kibbutzim and other small libraries in the countryside there is considerable need of German language material.

It was decided that the entire German non-Jewish material and some of the German Jewish material should be offered to the Ministry of Education in Israel for distribution and that the Jewish Agency for Palestine should be asked to defray all charges connected with the shipping of these books from New York to Israel.

Professor Baron raised the question of what to do with the finally irreducible minimum of surplus material. Those present once again expressed their opposition to the sale of these items.

Mr. Abraham Duker suggested that the surplus material be made available to certain scholarly organizations such as the American Jewish Historical Society, the Yiddish Scientific Institute, etc. for distribution among their membership. This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

IV. Restitution of Individually Owned Books of Six or More

Lists of individual owners have appeared in the "Aufbau" and the "Jewish Chronicle" in London and have been circulated in Western European countries, Israel, South Africa and Australia. Claims from all over the world have reached the JCR office and it is estimated that at least one half of the 14,828 books will be returned to individual claimants.

It was proposed that individual claimants be charged as follows:
Outside of Europe -- 50¢ per book and a minimum fee of \$5.00;
in Europe proper -- 40¢ per book and a minimum fee of \$3.50.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, this proposal was unanimously adopted.

Professor Guido Kisch had requested JCR to donate the 113 volumes which had belonged to the late Professor Agathe Lasch of Hamburg to the Germanic Seminar Library of the University of Lund in Sweden, whose members had tried to save Professor Lasch's life.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, this request was granted, provided there are no claims for these books from a member of Professor Lasch's family.

V. Budgets

1. Supplementary Budget for the restitution of individually owned books and the disposition of the Baltic collection and the remnants of the individually owned collection.

Professor Baron reminded those present that a year ago JCR had informed the Jewish Agency and JDC that a supplementary budget for this operation would be needed at the end of our regular activities. A budget, circulated among those present, estimated

the expenses at \$7,600.00 and the income from individual claimants and recipient institutions at \$4,000.00. This would leave a deficit of \$3,600.00, to be submitted to the JDC and the Jewish Agency.

2. JCR will need a period of three months in order to terminate its activities. A budget for this period was also circulated, estimating the total expenses at \$6,720.00, which amount will be completely covered from the previous budget and the expected income from recipients.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, both budgets were unanimously adopted as presented.

VI. Disposition of the Remnants of the Individually Owned Books and the Baltic Collection

Professor Baron reported that of the 30,000 books in the Baltic collection about 13,000 had already been restored to institutions in Israel. The remaining 16,346 are largely Rabbinics and other Hebraica, for which the demand is very great in the Western hemisphere. The original plan to ship the entire Baltic collection to Israel was therefore reconsidered and it was moved that the Baltic collection be distributed in line with the principle followed in previous distributions: 40% to Israel, 40% to the Western hemisphere and 20% to all other countries.

This motion was seconded and carried. Drs. Blattberg, Federbush and Halpern voted against its adoption.

A second motion, duly made and seconded, to re-submit this question to a vote by all members of the Board, was unanimously adopted.

VII. Microfilm Project

At a previous meeting the Board had authorized JCR to apply to some foundation for a grant of \$25,000.00. (See Minutes June 5, 1950, Section III, p. 2).

Professor Baron asked the Board to approve an application to the Ford Foundation for \$60,000.00. Upon motion duly made and seconded, this request was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Hessen Decree

Dr. Arendt reported that the Hessen Ministry of Education had issued the decree discussed at previous meetings (see Minutes December 21, 1950, Section III, p. 2) concerning Jewish cultural property in German institutions. Efforts were made to use this as a precedent and communications were sent to the Laender governments in the American zone and the Jewish Trust Corporation in the British zone.

IX. Ceremonial Objects in Frankfort

Dr. Arendt reported that JRSO, Nuremberg, had notified JCR that a decision entrusting most of the contents of the 18 cases of ceremonial objects to JCR may be expected in the very near future.

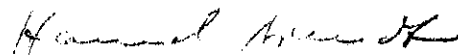
After a lengthy discussion, summarized in a special memorandum which is being sent to each member of the Board of Directors, Professor Baron moved that the Board adhere to its decision of December 21, 1950 (see Minutes December 21, 1950, p.2) and that this collection be distributed according to the usual key: 40% to Israel, 40% to the Western hemisphere and 20% to other countries, especially Great Britain, but that this time the procedure be reversed and the selection be made by a representative of the Advisory Committee, preferably Dr. Guido Schoenberger.

This motion was carried, Dr. Federbush opposing and Dr. Blattberg abstaining.

A second motion to re-submit this question to a vote by the entire Board membership was unanimously adopted.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Hannah Arendt
Secretary

JAN 31 1952

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 10, 1951

A G E N D A

1. Distribution of Baltic Collection
2. Refunds for Frankfurt Ceremonial Objects and Torah Scrolls
3. *Medal* and Coin Collection, Frankfurt
4. Exchange between Libraries
5. Microfilms -- Worms
6. Nomination of Third Representative to JRSO Board of Directors
7. Case of Dr. Ehrentreu
8. Interim Activities

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Dec. 1, 1950 -- Nov. 30, 1951

Bank Balance Dec. 1, 1950 \$8,013.54

Receipts

1.	From JDC-JA - Regular Budget	\$ 5,730.00	
2.	From JDC-JA - Supplementary Budget	6,200.00	
3.	Reimbursement from Institutions:		
	for Books	14,787.33	
	for Ceremonial Objects	1,453.80	
4.	Refund for Shipments Abroad	807.18	
5.	Refund from Individual Claimants	1,439.70	
6.	Refund for Catalogue from Scholarly Organizations	<u>300.00</u>	<u>30,718.01</u>

Total Cash Available \$38,731.55

Disbursements

A. New York

1.	Headquarters		
	a. Salaries	10,514.47	
	b. Office Expenses	<u>999.75</u>	11,514.22
2.	Expenses for Recovery		
	a. Freight, Ins. etc. for Incoming Shipments	1,367.02	
	b. Photos & Miscellaneous	<u>30.70</u>	1,397.72
3.	Expenses for Distribution		
	a. Books		
	(1) Salaries	7,077.88	
	(2) Storage, Labor, Services & Misc.	2,651.04	
	(3) Refund for Returned Items	101.69	
	b. Ceremonial Objects		
	(1) Salaries	455.00	
	(2) Bonds, Markings & Misc.	205.54	
	c. Freight & Ins. Expenses for Distribution Abroad		
	(1) Books	771.48	
	(2) Ceremonial Objects	<u>134.43</u>	11,397.06
4.	Expenses for Individual Claimants		
	Baltic Collection (Supplementary Budget)		
	a. New York Expenses		
	(1) Salaries	1,150.33	
	(2) Office Expenses	<u>227.31</u>	1,377.64

5.	Distribution of Surplus to Scholarly Organizations -- Catalogue		322.75
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6.	Starr Memorial Fund		<u>100.00</u>
			26,109.39

B. Overseas

1.	Salaries	1,202.65	
2.	LCA & Other Expenses via Nuremberg	330.72	
3.	Traveling Expenses to & in Europe	<u>82.05</u>	<u>1,615.42</u>

Total Expenses 27,724.81

BALANCE DEC. 1, 1951 11,006.74

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

December 10, 1951

Pursuant to a notice dated November 12, 1951, a copy of which precedes these minutes, the annual meeting of this corporation was held at 8:00 P.M. on December 10, 1951, at Professor Baron's office, Columbia University, New York City.

The following members of the corporation were represented at the meeting by their respective representatives:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction	Salo W. Baron Jerome Michael
American Friends of the Hebrew University	Mrs. Rose Jacobs
Council for the Protection of Rights & Interests of Jews from Germany	Max Gruenewald
Jewish Agency for Palestine	Ben Halpern
World Jewish Congress	Wolf Blattberg Simon Federbush

Also Attending: Saul Kagan, JRSO
C. Wormann, Hebrew University Library

Ex officio: Hannah Arendt

Professor Salo W. Baron, the President of the corporation acted as chairman and Dr. Hannah Arendt as secretary of the meeting.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the last annual meeting, held on December 21, 1950, were approved as circulated.

II. Annual Report

Professor Baron rendered his annual report as president of the corporation as follows:

A. Financial Report

The financial report, as circulated among the members and attached to these minutes, covered the period from December 1, 1950 to November 30, 1951.

During this period the corporation received \$5,730.00 from the Jewish Agency and the JDC for its regular budget and in addition \$6,200.00 to cover expenses connected with the restoration of books to individual claimants and the disposition of the Baltic collection. The corporation also received \$15,241.13 from recipient institutions as reimbursement for freight and connected expenses on books and ceremonial objects shipped from Germany to the United States. For the first time this income was higher than the allocation by the Jewish Agency and JDC.

The total expenses for this period amounted to \$27,724.81, which is substantially less than the expenses in previous years because of the closing of our depot in Germany.

The bank balance as of December 1, 1951 was \$11,006.74, but against this amount we have considerable liabilities, chiefly for operations connected with claims to individually owned books, the Baltic collection, in-shippments to New York, and the closing of the New York office.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the financial report was approved.

B. Activities in Germany

1. Closing of the JCR Depot

The JCR depot in Wiesbaden was closed on January 31, 1951. Since that time JRSO has been fully cooperating in pursuing pending claims and recovering new material.

Between November 1, 1950 and the closing of the depot in Wiesbaden, 311 cases left Wiesbaden. Of these, 135 cases, containing approximately 15,000 books, constituted the identifiable material of six books or more per owner, which are now being returned to individual claimants all over the world. Of the remaining 176 cases, 79 went to Israel, 55 to the United States, 15 to Brazil, 10 to Australia, 7 to German Jewish communities, 6 to Morocco and 4 to HICOG.

During this short period Dr. Lowenthal also completed the selection and shipment of approximately 30,000 books from the unidentifiable German language material which the military authorities had turned over to the Hessen government for distribution among German libraries and from which JCR, after direct negotiations with the Hessen government, had received a share. 86 cases, including German Judaica, were shipped to Israel and 28 to the United States. Professor Scholem informed us that the collection of German Judaica in these cases was especially interesting and valuable.

82 ceremonial objects recovered in Wiesbaden during 1950 and all the recovered archival material were shipped to Israel.

2. New Recoveries During 1951

- a. 3,000 books were returned by the Westdeutsche Bibliothek in Marburg, following the publication of the decree in Hessen. (See B. 3. below). Of these, 1,000 were German Judaica which

were shipped to and divided between Chile and Brazil. The other 2,000, consisting mostly of Hebraica and Yiddish material, are still in Nuremberg.

b. 300 Torah Scrolls were recovered from the Berlin community with the help of the German offices of the Joint Distribution Committee. 20 more Torah Scrolls were recovered from various other sources. The Torah Scrolls were distributed as follows: 198 were shipped to Israel via the Paris JDC offices; 12 were allocated to Great Britain and 110 are now in this country and will be distributed by the Synagogue Council of America. This is the first allocation of Torah Scrolls to United States congregations.

c. Of the ceremonial objects recovered during this period, the most important collection consisted of 487 items of which 296 formerly belonged to the Frankfort Jewish Museum and 191 to synagogues in Frankfort and vicinity.

For all activities connected with this important recovery and the distribution of other minor collections, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Schoenberger, who went to Germany and completed the difficult tasks of negotiating with the Frankfort municipality and the Jewish community in Frankfort, identifying the objects, and dividing them among Israel, the United States and the Frankfort Jewish community.

The Frankfort collection was separated into museum and synagogue pieces. Of the 296 museum pieces, 172 were shipped to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem for distribution in Israel and 124 to this country. Of the 280 synagogue pieces 89 were left with the Frankfort Jewish community and 191 were allocated to Israeli congregations.

100 ceremonial objects which had been saved from destruction by the Bavarian Heimat Museum in Schnaittach were also recovered. 31 of them were left with the Museum, 60 were shipped to Israel, and 19 to this country.

After Dr. Schoenberger left Germany another 35 ceremonial objects were recovered in Gunzenhausen. These are now on their way to Israel.

d. Paintings

During the last year JRSO received title to:

1) the collection of paintings formerly belonging to the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Dr. Landsberger, a member of the Advisory Committee of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, evaluated these paintings and succeeded in identifying a number of privately owned pictures which had been given on loan to the Jewish Museum

in Berlin. These paintings were found and recovered in the British sector of Berlin, where JRSO acts as the agent of the British Jewish Trust Corporation, and are probably now on their way to Nuremberg. The question will arise as to who will be in charge of distribution of them, JCR or the Jewish Trust Corporation.

2) 20 paintings formerly belonging to one of the Rothschild Old-Age Homes.

3. Laender Decrees

Dr. Arendt's efforts to obtain a decree by the German Laender governments for registration and recovery of Jewish cultural property which may turn up in German libraries, museums and archives in the future and which could not heretofore have been discovered because of the chaotic/^{post}war conditions, were successful in Hessen and have already had their first results. Similar decrees by all German Laender may be very important in the future. Efforts have been made to draw the attention of the Jewish Trust Corporation to this matter. However, definite results are likely to be obtained only through personal negotiations.

C. Activities in France

1. Baltic Collection

Thanks to the cooperation of the JDC offices in Paris we were able to keep in cold storage 135 cases of the Baltic collection in order to live up to our agreement with the United States government. Of these 135 cases, 11 were claimed by private and other owners, but it must be kept in mind that those books which clearly had belonged to Eastern European Yeshivoth to which successors existed in the Western Hemisphere or Israel, were returned two years ago.

40% of the unclaimed books of the Baltic collection went to Israel, 40% to the United States and 20% were left with the JDC Cultural Department in Paris, for distribution in Western Europe.

2. Individually Owned Books

The JDC offices in Paris also undertook the shipment of the individually owned books. Operations have started, but have not yet been completed. About 5,000 books of a total of 15,000 in this category have been claimed. The remainder will go to Israel.

D. Activities in New York

1. Book Depot

The New York book depot distributed approximately 100,000 items, including pamphlets and newspaper sheets, to libraries in the United States and abroad. Periodicals and rare books were shipped to Great Britain, France,

Switzerland, South Africa, Canada and Argentina. A great many periodicals were sent to the Hebrew University Library. In June we started the distribution of surplus material which was sent to a number of Latin American countries, Australia, Morocco and Israeli village libraries.

10,000 items remained which were not required by any library in the United States or abroad. According to an earlier decision of the Board, these items were prepared for distribution among the following Jewish scholarly organizations in the United States: American Academy for Jewish Research, American Jewish Historical Society, Conference on Jewish Relations and Yiddish Scientific Institute. These organizations will in turn make these books available to their members.

The general activities of the book depot ended on August 10th, 1951. The depot was reopened during the last days of October for the distribution of the surplus material and the Baltic collection. With the exception of a few cases of the Baltic collection with especially valuable material, the distribution was made in closed cases from the pier.

2. Ceremonial Objects

The New York depot for ceremonial objects was closed in February 1951. During the period from November 1, 1950 to February 1951 approximately 900 museum objects were shipped to Latin American countries, South Africa, France, Great Britain, and approximately 1,800 synagogue objects were handed over to the Synagogue Council for distribution among U. S. Congregations.

3. Individually Owned Books

The New York office prepared to restore identifiable property to individual claimants through newspaper announcements in the "Aufbau", the "Jewish Chronicle," and other organs. This resulted in continual correspondence with more than 450 persons of whom 255 were recognized as claimants. This whole operation was very time-consuming because each case had to be handled on its own merits. About 5,000 books will have been restored by the end of December. The unclaimed material will go to Israeli libraries.

III. Interim Activities

During the past year we have been relying almost exclusively on the good services of JRSO for all the work in Germany. Thanks to the generous cooperation and awareness of our problems on the part of the JRSO staff and especially Messrs. Ferenz and Kagan, this arrangement has proved wholly satisfactory. JRSO has recovered a great number of paintings of non-Jewish character, whose distribution was made in accordance with the advice given by JCR. All art objects of non-Jewish character were shipped to Israel with the exception of a few not very valuable items, which will be disposed of otherwise.

We hope to close all our activities by December 31st. Not everything will have been settled. First of all, we still have justifiable hope of further

recoveries in Germany. Many libraries in Germany have not yet been able to unpack the cases which came back from the war time caches. All kinds of rare books and even manuscripts have not yet been unpacked and listed. New finds are likely to occur in the future and this is the reason why we deem it very important to obtain decrees similar to the one issued by the government of Hessen from all German Laender.

The chance finds are of such a precarious character that to maintain an office for this purpose would not be justified. Some caretaker administration will have to be provided for by the Board of Directors during the period when activities are suspended. The organization may be reactivated after two or three years. We cannot keep the organization active, but we must keep it alive.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the President's Report was approved.

Dr. Gruenewald proposed that an extensive report of the activities of JCR be made accessible to the general public, in printed form, if possible. Further discussion was postponed for the meeting of the Board of Directors.

IV. Election of Officers

Professor Baron opened the discussion with the suggestion that the same officers should remain during the care-taker administration. He also proposed that some way be found to associate Dr. Arendt permanently with JCR after her duties as Executive Secretary are completed. He pointed out that there might be some technical difficulty in appointing her director because our by-laws provide that directors be delegated by member organizations of the corporation. An alternative might be to elect her as one of the officers of the corporation. After some discussion and subject to the provisions of our by-laws, Dr. Gruenewald was elected vice-president and Dr. Hannah Arendt secretary of the organization.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the annual meeting of the corporation was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt

Hannah Arendt
Secretary

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.
1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 10, 1951

Pursuant to a notice dated November 12, 1951, a copy of which precedes the minutes of this meeting, a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee was held at 9:00 P.M., December 10, 1951, at Professor Baron's office, Columbia University, New York City.

The following persons were present:

Members of the Board: Professor Salo W. Baron, Dr. Wolf Blattberg, Rabbi Simon Federbush, Dr. Max Gruenewald, Dr. Ben Halpern, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Professor Jerome Michael.

Members of the Advisory Committee: Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, Dr. Stephen S. Kayser, Rabbi I. Edward Kiev, Dr. Franz Landsberger, Dr. A. M. Margalith, Dr. Guido Schoenberger.

Ex-Officio: Dr. Hannah Arendt, Executive Secretary

Also present: Mr. Saul Kagan, JRSO
Dr. C. Wormann, Hebrew University Library

Professor Jerome Michael, Chairman of the Board of Directors, acted as Chairman and Dr. Hannah Arendt as Secretary of the meeting.

I. Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of June 4, 1951, were approved as circulated.

II. Distribution of Baltic Collection

Dr. Arendt reported that special arrangements had been made for the distribution of the Baltic collection. Each recipient library has agreed to furnish JCR with a list in twelve copies of all items received, indicating those items which are duplicates in their own collection. JCR has also reserved the right to recall up to 15% of the allocated items, should another library need them to complete their special collections. This will necessitate the formation of a small committee to take care of the subsequent exchange between libraries.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the President of the corporation was empowered to appoint a committee of three for this purpose.

III. Refund for Frankfort Ceremonial Objects and Torah Scrolls

The expense of shipping 110 Torah Scrolls and 143 ceremonial objects from Frankfort and Schnaittach for distribution in this country was greater than in previous years. Dr. Arendt reported that a refund of \$3.00 per item would be necessary in the case of the ceremonial objects. As to the Torah Scrolls, she is still negotiating with the shipping company in order to reduce the freight expenses and asked the Board to leave it to her discretion to fix the amount to be refunded.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, \$3.00 per ceremonial object was approved. As to the Torah Scrolls, the amount was left open, with the proviso that it does not exceed \$6.00 per Scroll.

The distribution of the ceremonial objects in the Frankfort and Schnaittach collections will be decided upon by the Advisory Committee. The distribution of the Torah Scrolls is in the hands of the Synagogue Council of America.

IV. Medal and Coin Collection

Dr. Schoenberger reported that while he was in Germany he discovered the Goldschmidt medal and coin collection, which formerly had been part of the Jewish Museum, where it was held as a permanent loan. As far as we know, these coins and medals belonged to a Mr. Lorsch, the brother-in-law of Mr. Goldschmidt, the collector. Dr. Narkiss, in a letter to Dr. Schoenberger, stated that Mr. Goldschmidt promised him this collection as a gift to the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem. Goldschmidt died in 1938 and left no provision for this collection in his will. His legal heir, Mr. Lorsch, gave this collection as a permanent loan to the Jewish Museum in Frankfort. At this moment it is not clear whether Mr. Lorsch or any legal heir to this collection is alive.

Should this collection prove to be heirless property, the problem of distribution will arise. Dr. Schoenberger and Dr. Kayser pointed out that it is not necessary to leave this collection as a unit and that certain items, although not many, would be of great value to existing collections in the United States. They also pointed out that in this case other items of equal value could be given as exchange to Israel.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was decided that such period be devoted to the search for relatives or heirs to this collection as deemed necessary and if none are discovered, the distribution of these objects be made in accordance with the advice of the Advisory Committee.

V. Exchange between Libraries

There have been numerous requests from recipient libraries to exchange such books which are either duplicates or not needed by the institution. Dr. Arendt proposed that an exchange between our recipient libraries be permitted by JCR and that these libraries be informed of such a decision.

She also proposed that the President be empowered to appoint a committee to make decisions and settle all problems arising from such an exchange.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, this recommendation was accepted.

VI. Microfilms -- Worms

Dr. Arendt reported that the Jewish community archives and part of the Jewish Division of the Municipal Archives in Worms have been microfilmed as a kind of pilot study for microfilming in Germany. This involved an expense of only 1,000 DM. Since our microfilm project has not been accepted by the Ford Foundation, the question now arises where to deposit these microfilms which are now in the New York office.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was decided to offer the negatives to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, on condition that the Hebrew Union College inform the other libraries of these microfilms and offer to make positives available to other libraries at cost.

VII. Representative to JRSO Board of Directors

Upon motion duly made by Professor Baron and seconded, Dr. Arendt was elected the third representative to the JRSO Board of Directors, the other two being Professor Michael and Professor Baron.

VIII. The Case of Dr. Ehrentreu

Dr. Arendt reported that in May of this year her attention was called to the discovery of one book in one of the Yeshivah libraries, bearing the name Ehrentreu. No title of the book was given. Shortly thereafter Dr. Ehrentreu, formerly Rabbi in Munich and now in London, communicated with the organization and claimed this book as his. JCR informed the Yeshivah in question, but did not get any satisfactory answer because no title of the book was given and the Yeshivah apparently could not search its whole library, that is open each book on the shelves in order to find the one bearing the name of Ehrentreu.

Shortly thereafter Dr. Ehrentreu complained that he did not receive 40 books bearing his name which had been found in Wiesbaden. It was explained to him that all books which had been previously claimed were never given to JCR but were restituted directly to the owners by the proper authorities in Germany.

Dr. Baron pointed out that JCR very reluctantly accepted identifiable individually owned property and would have been happy not to handle these books at all. The American military authorities felt however that JCR was the only logical agency to handle those books for which they did not receive claims. We therefore had to accept the job of restoring individually owned identifiable property.

Dr. Gruenewald, who had also received a complaint from Dr. Ehrentreu, suggested that JCR send a circular letter to all recipient Jewish libraries asking them to be on the lookout for signed books among those which they had received from JCR. Dr. Arendt pointed out that cooperation could hardly be expected from the librarians since it would involve a tremendous amount of work. Dr. Gruenewald stressed that such a letter, even if not practicable, would be a gesture of good will on our part.

Rabbi Kiev informed the Board that a whole collection of books bearing the name Ehrentreu was sold through auction in this country several years ago and that the books were then available in many bookshops. These books had to be sold because of unpaid storage and were bought by, among others, S. Goldman, 180 Clinton Street. The assumption was that these books belonged to Dr. Ehrentreu and that the book found in the Yeshivah probably did not come from JCR.

Mr. Kagan explained what the usual procedure was for claimants in Germany and promised to contact the Nuremberg office in order to find out what happened to Dr. Ehrentreu's 40 books.

It was suggested that the President write a letter to Dr. Ehrentreu informing him of these facts.

IX. Interim Activities

Dr. Baron pointed out that there will be many problems after the office closes on January 1st. Further negotiations with the Laender governments may be necessary and there is the possibility that we may have to ask Dr. Arendt at some later date to finish the work which she started two years ago in Germany. It was also stated that Dr. Woxmann will be in Germany in April 1952 and it was suggested that close cooperation with Dr. Woxmann be established.

Dr. Baron further pointed out that it would not be necessary for the Board to meet in regular session as in the past, but rather to work through small committees on specific jobs.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Hannah Arendt
Hannah Arendt
Secretary