

Field Reports

1948-51

New York

Jewish Cultural Reconstruction

J. STARR  
Field Report No. 3

Sept. 4, 1948

### VISIT TO VIENNA

Inasmuch as no information was available regarding the fate of Jewish cultural property in Austria, I readily accepted an invitation extended by the JDC director, Harold L. Trobe. During my visit, August 24-31, I examined the collections recovered by the Vienna Community, gathered various relevant documents of the Nazi period, and talked with several communal workers about the prospects of recovering property still missing.

The Community Library is housed in a reconstructed synagogue building on Seitenstettenstr., occupying portions of two floors. Although fair progress has been made toward reorganizing the material recovered, less than half of the books have been shelved, and no comprehensive survey will be possible for months to come. The Library has received 8 cases from Offenbach, several hundred Hebraica from the Oriental Institute of the Vienna University, and 56 cases from Czechoslovakia. A considerable number have been returned by the National Library, where I was shown several thousand additional volumes awaiting transfer. The library of Dr. Murmelstein, rabbi under the Nazis, is shelved in a separate room of the same building.

The bulk of the books shelved are not of Jewish content, but comprise German and Hungarian literature, together with a relatively large collection of medical books. A large part of these books were formerly in the possession of the Jewish Hospital. The collection of the Theological Seminary, which was transferred to Theresienstadt, is presumably still packed in the cases sent from Czechoslovakia, which I was unable to examine. The Hebraica on the shelves were sufficiently few for me to examine in the space of a few hours. They comprise rabbinic works of a routine type, except for two 16th century editions: Landau, Sefer Agur; Bachrach, Sefer Ha-Shani; and a few dozen modern items published in Palestine. The Judaica had not yet been systematically shelved, but I noticed a fair number of duplicates, particularly of the works of the late Bernard Wachstein. Although I failed to find any indications of ownership, other than the Jewish Hospital, I was informed that the Hebraica include the property of the rabbi of Graz. These books were seized in November 1938, and turned up at the Oriental Institute of the Vienna University, where Kurt Schubert, a member of the staff, arranged for their transfer. Among the books I found one stamped by the censor of the Oberbefehlshaber of Ostmark: Zur Verbreitung von Gebiete des Oberbefehlhabers Ost. and zur Zensur zugelassen. Buchprüfungsamt Ob. Ost.

No archive material or museum property has been recovered. As for the mss., there were two unimportant items on the shelf, and third, a 17th century ms. of the Vienna Hevrah Kadisha, is in the keeping of a communal official, Dr. Feldsberg. An extensive catalogue of the mss., prepared by Wachstein, was in proof in 1938, but the printer reports that not a single copy has survived. It is suspected that some of monasteries have "inherited" various mss., but no investigation has been attempted; this search can only be conducted by representatives of the Vienna Community. It is further believed that the museum at Eisenstadt (Soviet Zone) possesses cultural property left behind by Jews, who fled the Burgenland in 1939, but this area is off limits to foreigners.

The Community Library functions only as a circulating library, while the energies of the staff are almost completely absorbed by the task of sorting and shelving the books recovered. This prevents the Library from providing current publications, and, in general, from attracting a larger number of readers. While it is clear that at least three-quarters of the holdings are of no interest to the present-day Jewry of Vienna, the Community proceeds on the assumption that it is dealing with a permanent collection, and receives a subsidy from the JDC for this purpose. I have, accordingly, proposed to Mr. Trobe to offer the following plan to the Community: a selection should be made of books to be retained; the surplus non-Jewish material should be offered to the Hebrew University; the surplus Jewish material should be entrusted to JCR. In this last category there would be included the Murmelstein library, the owner of which has disappeared. Although he may still be alive, his record as a tool of the Nazis absolves the Community from any moral responsibility for guarding his property.

At the office of the "Jüdische Historische Dokumentation I obtained a copy of an official inventory of confiscated synagogue and museum material, comprising about 1,000 items, none of which has been recovered. Some of these were on exhibition in October 1944 at the Naturhistorische Museum. Although the Community is cognizant of the necessity of tracing this property, this document is known only to the Historische Dokumentation staff, which works independently and does not deal with restitution questions. I have called this matter to the attention of Mr. Trobe, and I trust that some action will follow.

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

Field Report No. 6  
Joshua Starr

April 8, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Cultural Property in Berlin and the Soviet Zone

In view of the virtual ban on travel to Berlin, unless provided with a now unattainable stamp in one's passport, I begin by acknowledging my indebtedness to JRSO headquarters for obtaining travel orders in record time. My host and guide was Irving Antell, AJDC representative, who showed an immediate understanding of my purpose and spared no effort to enable me to make the most of my brief visit (April 4-6). I had been briefed for my investigation by Prof. Koppel S. Pinson, and had picked up an obscure tip from Rabbi Simon G. Kraemer, Synagogue Council representative in the U. S. Zone.

When I called at the JDC office on the morning of April 4, Mr. Antell listened carefully to my description of JCR work, promptly showed me the reproductions of official documents concerning the deportations of Jews from Berlin, and presented me with a copy of the inventory of the collection. With Mr. Antell's consent I cabled Moses A. Leavitt, at JDC, New York, for authorization to transfer the negatives of the documents to the custody of JCR, and I trust that this will be granted. Taking advantage of the interval prior to an appointment arranged for me by Mr. Antell, I visited a friend, holding an important cultural post in OMGUS, and was introduced by him to another official, who is in a position to render our libraries a valuable service on a non-official basis, which ought to begin to bear fruit before long.

I then proceeded to visit Dr. Ernst Grumach, whose report on the Jewish library organized by the Gestapo (filed with JCR) is one of the most remarkable documents on the Nazis' Sicherstellung of Jewish cultural property; the Offenbach collection is in large part the results of this Nazi enterprise (apart from large quantities transferred to other places in 1943). I learned more in an hour from Dr. G. than in all my previous months of question-asking in a dozen German institutions. The salient facts are as follows:

1. The Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden passed into the custody of the Reichssippenamt, and the authorities retained as director, Dr. J. Jacobson, before deporting him to Theresienstadt. (Dr. Jacobson, now living in London, has accepted JCR's invitation to examine our nine cases of archival material, before they are placed in the custody of the Hebrew University.) The material was housed in the Geheimes Staatsarchiv of Prussia, where I learned from Dr. Bellée, the Geschaefts-fuehrer, that the Gesamtarchiv was transferred to Schoenbeck-an-der-Elbe (Soviet Zone), and that his records showed that 1,712 packages of documents had survived the war. Bellée referred me to the Director of the Zentralarchiv at Potsdam, as the man who might be able to guide our efforts to obtain access to the material.

2. Paralleling the handling of the libraries and archives, the Hitler regime took over the Berlin Jewish Museum with a view to maintaining an anti-Jewish exposition. Dr. Grumach suspects that the present holdings of the Jewish Museum of Prague derive in part from the Berlin institution. He gave me an inventory of about 300 paintings, which have survived (the same list which served as the basis of an article by Franz Landsberger in the New York Aufbau). This property is in the charge of a British official named Schweig, and its legal status is complicated by the fact that a number of the paintings are private property, which was on loan to the Museum. The remainder is the property of the prewar Community, to which the present organization is presumably the successor. The efforts toward the promulgation of a restitution law have thus far resulted in a regulation (Feb. 26, 1949), providing for the filing of claims, without setting up any machinery for the adjudication of these claims. As to the prospects of the latter step, an American official concerned with restitution offered me no hope, and until an effective restitution ordinance is promulgated, the Museum property must remain in statu quo post bellum.

3. Dr. Grumach showed me documentary proof that the card file containing biographical notes on 15,000 Jewish figures of some importance in history, prepared in the Gestapo library, was deposited in a communal building a year or two ago. In the company of Erich Fabian, of the Community praesidium, I came to that building the following morning and was directed to the Headquarters on Oranienburgerstrasse (Soviet sector). We proceeded there and were well received by Julius Meyer, another member of the Praesidium. We ransacked the building, at the risk of personal injury--Mr. Meyer came down a ladder which gave way, and landed with a stout valise on his head--but none of the 22 card trays was in sight. This material may, nevertheless, still turn up.

I spent my first evening in the company of Messrs. Antell and Fabian, planning the strategy of the next day's trip to the other side of the city's dividing line. We had no difficulty the next morning at Oranienburgerstrasse, after assuring the "border police" that our package of matzoth contained neither chocolate nor poison, and proceeded promptly into the basement. As I had been previously tipped off, this basement contains perhaps 20,000 volumes, together with Todesanzeiger and a store of communal documents. Physical conditions did not permit any real examination of the shelves, but I satisfied myself that a book-collecting operation is in order, and I have no doubt that the Community will release the books selected by a representative of the Hebrew University.

There is other cultural property in the possession of the Community, namely, Torah scrolls and synagogue silver objects. A Jewish Agency representative informed Mr. Antell over the telephone in my presence that he was shipping 150 scrolls to Israel, and Mr. Fabian whispered something to me about a stock of 500 scrolls (more than the Offenbach collection, according to the final count). As for silver objects, this is one of the Community's top secrets, and could be handled only by a person having the full confidence of the praesidium. (I departed in good time, before I could be exposed as just another snoopy and kleptomaniac American, rather than the Israeli shaliyah, as Mr. Fabian presented me.)

I discussed with Mr. Antell the possibilities of picking up batches of wartime publications, antisemitic and otherwise. With his astounding promptness, he immediately packed a couple of packages containing books left by former occupants of his house, and alerted a number of his employees to bring in whatever they could find. It would seem that there is more of this literature extant in Berlin than in the Western zones. On the negative side, Dr. Grumach told me that no copies of MGWJ, 1939 (fortunately a few are at Offenbach), or of Finkelstein's edition of Sifre can be hoped for. Libraries interested in obtaining specific wartime publications from Berlin may communicate with me at the JCR office, New York, and I may be able to offer some suggestions.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.  
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CONFIDENTIAL

April 11, 1949

Field Report No. 7  
Joshua Starr

RITUAL OBJECTS AND OTHER PROPERTY AT WIESBADEN

Since last fall a room at the Wiesbaden Museum has served as the collecting point of largely heirless Jewish property, chiefly metal ware. This property is virtually all of non-German provenance, and consists primarily of Synagogue ap-purtenances, together with other objects of religious significance, some household silver and a few hundred pounds of material damaged beyond repair.

The inventory was prepared under circumstances which made a technically satisfactory classification unfeasible. Rather than criticize this effort, I am inclined to give credit to the staff which tackled a job, that would not have been an easy one even for persons with a good Jewish background.

A total of 6,646 objects have been numbered, including 933 "various". The 5,713 classified and numbered objects fall into the following categories:

Seder plates; Torah shields	76
Goblets	224
Collection boxes	59
Spice boxes	1,244
Menorahs	1,285
Hanukkah lamps	550
Torah shields	492
Rimmonim	932
Torah crowns	74
Pointers	741
Eternal lights	36
Total	<u>5,713</u>

The number of Rimmonim as given is misleading, and cannot be corrected until the pairing process, which I initiated, is finished. My estimate is about 300 pairs, including a gratifying percentage of beautiful pieces. Another noteworthy group is the attarot (metal talit decorations); those attached to strips of cloth number 1,421, and there are, in addition, 13 boxes of this item, but only a fraction of these are intact. Following the segregation of the contents of these boxes, which was undertaken at my instance, the total number of usable attarot will probably be about 2,000.

The unnumbered objects consist of the following:

Ribbons with mounted silver plates	1,421
Silver in scrap condition	1,351
Candle-holders for Hanukkah lamps in fair condition	320
Pieces of Jewelry (box No. 6069)	85
Total	<u>3,177</u>

Field Report No. 7 (contd)

April 11, 1949

While the inscriptions in this collection have not been recorded, they have been classified as to language:

Hebrew	133
Hungarian	240
Unidentified	168
German (incl. 2 from Austria)	8
French	3
Greek (and Ladino)	2
(steel electrical menorah from Saloniki)	
Polish	1
Dutch	1
Yugoslav	1
Total	<u>1.157</u>

As an indication of the careful attention given to this collection by the American authorities, all of the numbered objects have been photographed. In reciprocation for the service rendered by JCR in supplying the film for this process, the director of the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Mr. Theod A. Heinrich, was good enough to arrange for two sets of prints, which will be deposited at our office in New York. Inasmuch as the negatives must remain at Wiesbaden, it will not be possible for JCR to arrange for reproductions of these photographs.

It is my understanding that the allocation of this collection must await the arrival of an authorized specialist. The director of the Bezalel Museum (Jerusalem), Mr. Narkiss, has accepted this assignment, and we hope to receive him at Frankfurt in the very near future. Mr. Narkiss will undertake to separate the pieces suitable for museums from those which are to be presented to synagogues in various countries. The Bezalel Museum will receive a certain priority in the selection of museum pieces, and Mr. Narkiss will also be given an opportunity to indicate the objects which the Tel Aviv Museum is interested in acquiring. In his capacity as agent for the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, Mr. Narkiss will likewise indicate the objects needed by the synagogues of his country, a list of which is to be supplied in advance to JCR. I should note that Rabbi J. L. Fishman cabled me that there were 60 synagogues to be reckoned with, but unfortunately his more detailed letter has not arrived.

The remaining objects should be shipped to New York, where the allocation can be most effectively completed. This does not, however, necessarily apply to the attarot, which can be placed in the custody of the JDC, pending disposition by JCR. The scrap metal and household silver will be turned over to JRSO, which has undertaken the responsibility of exploiting this material to the best advantage.

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CONFIDENTIAL

July 26, 1949 *file*

Field Report No. 8  
Bernard Heller

A report of what we have accomplished and the list of operations yet to be performed was due at the end of June. I refrained from remitting such a report because I was unable to list significant progress after the completion of the Offenbach operation. The reasons for the slowness of progress will be cited later on.

The Offenbach operation, it will be recalled, had to be completed on May 31st. I arrived in Frankfurt on May 14th. I presented my credentials (which consisted of Dr. Starr's letter and the power of attorney authorized by the JCR Board and signed by Prof. Baron) to Messrs. Lowenthal, Shunami and Narkiss.

The members of the commission, the Jewish DP's, and the Germans who constituted our staff labored conscientiously and indefatigably to bring the operation to a conclusion on the specified day.

On the afternoon of May 31st a little party was arranged for all the workers, the office staff, and included even the men who were guards at the entrance of the depot. Coffee and cake and candy constituted the collation. Before the refreshments were served Dr. Lowenthal, who acted as Chairman, called upon me to say a few words to the Jewish and non-Jewish workers. I shall quote from what I said in this report because of the surprising favorable reaction which it evoked from both the DP's and the German workers, despite the fact that the two groups during that hour kept away from each other:

"In the work with which you have been engaged I see a deeper meaning. I do not merely wish to congratulate you for a task well performed. In your difficult and cooperative efforts to help the AMG return the looted books and Torah Scrolls I perceive a desire on your part to undo - as far as was in your power - a great wrong. You have collaborated in the work of making some restitution to the bereaved Jewish people."

While we may say that the Offenbach Operation was completed on May 31st, it was true only in the sense that by then all the books that were allocated to England, South Africa, Paris, Israel and New York were on truck, train or ship headed for their respective destinations.

Much work still remained to be done in the Depot. In the first place, a thorough 'Bedikath Hometz' was essential.

The removal to Wiesbaden of the institutional collections, the identifiable books, the so-called rare volumes (whose Jewish

ownership is disputed because their language is not Hebrew or Aramaic and their content is not restricted to Jewish themes) the handful of reference volumes which the staff needed - the Megilloth, etc.- was not accomplished until about the middle of June. To the completion of these tasks Dr. Lowenthal contributed no mean amount of labor.

While the process of mopping up at Offenbach was going on and before the operation came to an end, conferences were held with the OMGUS officials in regard to working space in the Landes-Museum in Wiesbaden and the continued employment of our German and DP workers who were now trained and skilled in the type of work we needed, and also the provision for their transportation from their homes in Offenbach to the Landes-Museum and the return to their homes at the end of the day's work.

Governmental action, when it needs to go through military channels, like the mills of the gods, grinds slowly. The go-ahead signal to us with some not unreasonable modifications came to us about the middle of June.

With the restricted space that was initially accorded to us (due to the fact that the Munich Collecting Center was being liquidated and the material therefrom had to be housed in Wiesbaden), we had to content ourselves with limited procedures and small tasks.

We tackled the Mapu and Ivriah libraries which consisted of 7145 and 887 books. These were classified according to set categories by the end of June. These two units did not disclose any rare volumes or classical rabbinic tomes. Most of them were Haskalah books and possessed a popular appeal rather than scholarly worth. Yiddish volumes and periodicals were plentiful.

While the classification of the Mapu and Ivriah was going on, Mr. Narkis was called to the Munich Collecting Center which was being liquidated. His services were needed to point out which of the unclaimed artistic items constituted Jewish property. The results of his magnificent labors at that Center are already known to the Board.

When Mr. Narkis returned, we deemed it advisable and imperative to concentrate all our efforts on the classification, allocation and shipment of the silver ceremonial objects out of Germany. The policy of the OMGUS was to give over an increasing amount of its domain to the German government. Despite the fact that the restitution of economic and cultural property was based on law, I feared that the execution of this law may be impeded. It was therefore decided that the whole staff should direct its efforts to the classification, allocation and shipment of the silver and the textile objects.

This involved a stupendous amount of work. The textile material had to be gone over item by item, the writing on each had to be deciphered, the very valuable and the useful had to be sifted from the useless and those that were already threadbare and moth-eaten. Mr. Narkiss gave to this work a full week of not 5 but 7 days. Many of these days consisted of 10 to 14 hours.

The silver allocation also was a huge task. It involved examining each item again and classifying them not as to their function (for example, cups, torah-painters, torah crowns, torah breast-plates) but whether each object was a museum or non-museum piece. Then came the selection, e.g., which were to go to Bezalel and Ain Harod Museums and which were to go to the museums of the United States. With regard to the non-museum objects, the work involved careful judgment and disposition to treat each country fairly. I impressed Mr. Narkis with the fact that each country was entitled to some of the choice articles as well as to the ordinary ones and that we relied on his integrity to see that each land gets its fair share.

The operation also involved repairing slightly damaged objects, finding the broken parts of the objects and tying them together so that they may be fixed by the recipient.

I am most happy to report to the Board that what I call the Second Operation, namely, the sorting, allocating and shipment of about 10,000 silver ceremonial items and about 1000 textile ritual objects have been completed. On July 11th I accompanied three trucks carrying 201 cases of the above objects to Bremen, from where

- 3 cases containing 66 objects were shipped to England,  
c/o Dr. O. K. Rabinowicz;
- 83 cases containing 3841 objects were shipped to the  
U.S., c/o JCR;
- 3 cases containing 66 objects were shipped to South Africa,  
c/o Dr. Abt, Jewish Deputies;
- 26 cases containing 735 objects were shipped to Israel,  
c/o Jewish Agency.

All the aforementioned shipments contained non-museum ceremonial objects, with the exception of the shipment to the U.S., part of which consisted of museum objects. The articles in the above shipments were destined for use in the synagogues of the respective countries.

Included in the category of non-museum objects are also

- 10 cases containing 303 objects which are designated for  
the AJDC in Paris

for re-distribution to the various synagogues in the countries of the European Continent. We were instructed not to ship these cases but that they would be picked up by JDC trucks some time in the next week or two.

- 25 cases containing 3713 irreparably damaged objects  
were sent to Sheffield, England,

for melting. (Arrangements, I believe, have been made with the company to remit the monetary worth of the silver to the JRSO. I hated to see them go there for sentimental reasons. I felt at times as if we were consigning these damaged holy objects to a sort of crematorium. However, the instructions were not mine but

Mr. Saul Kagan's of the JRSO. I subsequently directed that as many as possible should be taken out of the group and put into the category for synagogue uses.)

In addition to the irreparably damaged objects, we have those objects which are put into the museum category. I mentioned that part of the 83 cases sent to the U.S. consisted of museum objects. The other shipment belonging to the same group consisted of 61 cases containing 2053 objects sent to Israel for the Bezalel and Ain Harod Museums.

When Jews celebrate the completion of a talmudic tractate they link it up with the commencement of study of the next tractate. Similarly in reporting the completion of this second major operation, I would like to state that on July 22nd the agreement with regard to the disposition of the B Collection was signed. This collection must be out of the way by August 31st according to that agreement. I have good reasons to expect that it will all be classified and packed and sent to the institutions which the JCR Board has designated or will designate, weeks before the set date.

I propose now to direct my attention to the disposition of the 1900 to 2000 so called rare books which have been transferred from Offenbach to Wiesbaden, whose Jewish ownership is being questioned.

Before I return to the States, I would at least like to sort the rare books that are in the German Jewish institutional libraries and see them off to their destination which the JCR Board will assign to them. To do this, an agreement will have to be reached between the JCR and the OMGUS. I hope that procedure to that end has already been set in motion and that it will be speedily concluded.

I wish to conclude with an acknowledgment of my indebtedness to Dr. Starr for his prompt transmission of the Board's directives. To Prof. Baron go my deepest appreciation for his understanding of our problems and unfailingly wise and helpful suggestions.

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.  
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CONFIDENTIAL

Report on a Mission to Berlin, June 19-21, 1949

By S. Shunami  
of the Hebrew University

July 1949

My mission to Berlin had two different objects, both based on a report of Dr. J. STARR to JCR, dated April 8, 1949, namely:

1. to examine the books, estimated by Dr. STARR at 20,000 vols., stored in the basement of the building of the Juedische Gemeinde, Oranienburger Strasse, and to select those which are of no use to the present Jewish community - the aim being to get them released for the purpose of the Jewish libraries in Israel and elsewhere;
2. to get access to the "Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden" and, if possible, to transfer it to the Juedische Gemeinde Berlin.

Staying in Munich for a few days in the month of May, in connection with the transportation of books to Israel, I took the opportunity of establishing contact with the Israeli Consul in Munich Dr. LIVNEH (LIEBSTEIN). He brought me in touch with Mr. Bursztyn, at present representative of the Jewish Agency in Berlin. Between the three of us a plan was worked out in the Consul's office, in order to facilitate to reach my aims. In Dr. Livneh's opinion there should be no difficulty in having the Gesamtarchiv returned to the Berlin Gemeinde.

Mr. Bursztyn undertook to make arrangements in Berlin (a) for the transfer of the books of the Gemeinde from the cellar to some more suitable place, where they could be examined and selected, (b) for facilitating access to the Gesamtarchiv or, if possible, for having it transferred to the Gemeinde. A few days before going to Berlin, I phoned Mr. Bursztyn who assured me that these matters were being handled by the right people.

On my arrival in Berlin and after contacting the people concerned, the position was as follows:

I. Books

a) Apr. 5.- 6,000 vols., mostly prayer-books, Bibles odd parts of Talmud, Mishnah and other religious literature, were stored in the library.

A fair number of Hebraica, of German Judaica and of modern Hebrew literature as well as a valuable collection of periodica, mostly German (Allg. Ztg. d. Judentums, Hamburger Israelitisches Familienblatt, Israelit. MGWJ,

Orient /Fuerst/ Ben Chananja, C.-V.-Zeitung) were scattered among the above-mentioned material.

A small beautiful collection of a few hundred bibliophile volumes on music, art, etc., stored in the basement, were being brought to the library stacks, to which place also a great number of Amsterdam Kethubot of fairly recent date and many files of the Gemeinde Archives were brought at the time of my stay in Berlin.

On inquiring into the rest of the books (Dr. Starr's estimate: appr. 20,000), I was advised that, at the end of May 1949, the Berlin municipal authorities ("Magistrat") represented by some of its librarians, requisitioned for the benefit of the City Library a large part of the books located in the cellar. In the opinion of Rabbi Steven S. Schwarzschild, a HUC graduate, inter alia in charge of library matters, the requisitioning could hardly be resisted, since the books in question could not reasonably be identified as of Jewish ownership. Most of them genealogical works of German-Baltic nobility and kindred material. Rabbi Schwarzschild contested the number of 20,000 which he described as greatly exaggerated, but was unable to quote the accurate number of books thus turned over to the Berlin "Magistrat."

I suggested to Rabbi Schwarzschild to turn over to the Hebrew University and to other Jewish scholarly institutions:

1. the Hebraica and Judaica of an absolutely scholarly nature,
2. the entire periodical literature in German and Hebrew.

The books, thus remaining, could after a thorough selection form a nucleus of a popular Jewish library, which, in view of the present structure of the Berlin Jewish Community, is the only type of library practically needed in Berlin.

As the bibliophile books of no Jewish content are not within the sphere of interest of the Gemeinde library, it would be more useful if such books would be handed over to the Hebrew University.

Rabbi Schwarzschild was reluctant to the idea of releasing any books to institutions outside Berlin - as he admitted, for sentimental reasons. However, it was not difficult to persuade him that it would not serve any useful purpose to have there a small and unsystematic collection of scholarly works and periodicals. On the other hand, they would be extremely helpful to complete the collections of existing libraries.

Our negotiations were concluded with the suggestion of Rabbi Schwarzschild that JCR should send from the Wiesbaden collection books of the kind needed by the Gemeinde library; in return, the Gemeinde would hand over books and periodicals not needed in their Library, and/or that JCR should supply the Gemeinde with an expert librarian for one or two weeks, so as to lay down the fundamental organisation of the library. The writer of this report remarked that the Gemeinde should not stipulate any conditions for the transfer of books of no use to them, but very useful to other Jewish institutions. He is prepared to propose to the JCR

Board, also unconditionally, to consider sympathetically both suggestions made by Rabbi Schwarzschild.

Should the Wiesbaden operation allow, the undersigned would be prepared to go to Berlin for one week - subject to JCR's approval - in order to organise the Gemeinde library, thus contributing to the revival of cultural life of a community of such a magnificent Jewish cultural past.

It should be put on record what I was told by the guardian of the library, Herr Hirschel: about a year ago, librarians of the Berlin "Magistrat" appeared at the premise of the Gemeinde, demanding to hand over to them the books of non-Jewish content, appr. 15,000 vols. Herr Hirschel refused. A few days afterwards, the librarians turned up once more, this time escorted by Russian "Kriminalbeamte," who then forced the person in charge to release to the "Magistrat" these "wunderschoene" books.

## II. Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden Present situation

The Gesamtarchiv has for years been the "Sorgenkind" of historians, librarians and archivists and it was considered lost by many people. Credit is due to Dr. Starr to have traced the whereabouts of this unique and large collection of documents relating to German-Jewish history (cf. Starr's Report to JCR, dated April 4, 1949).

On my arrival in Berlin, much to my surprise I had to learn that nothing had been done in order to get the Archiv returned by the German authorities to the Juedische Gemeinde. Mr. Bursztyn, on his return from Munich, called the attention of the Gemeinde to this matter, but as far as I was able to find out, no steps whatever had been taken. It is interesting to note that no one in Berlin contested the opinion of the Munich Israeli Consul that there should be no difficulty in having the documents restituted to the Juedische Gemeinde.

I got into touch with Mr. Julius Meyer, member of the Gemeinde Board, who, on being supplied by me with all the relevant information, promised me to do everything possible in order to regain possession of the Gesamtarchiv.

Before leaving Berlin I tried to induce some persons in and outside the Gemeinde to give due attention to this matter and contribute to making this promise effective.

In fairness to the Berlin people it must be stated, that, considering the special situation of Berlin as a bridge between the East and the West, the Berlin Community leaders are absorbed with serious and pressing human problems, taking a great toll of their time and energy.

III. Suggestions

In a few weeks' time, the writer of this report will sound the situation in Berlin, and if no reasonable progress will then be noted, a further trip should be made to Berlin in an attempt to get things moving. Should this fail, the JCR, perhaps in conjunction with the Historical and Ethnographical Society in Israel, should make a determined effort, to obtain restitution of the Gesamtarchiv by sending to Berlin for some weeks an energetic man, possibly a trilingual person, able to speak English, German and Russian, for this purpose. Should also this attempt fail, an expert should be engaged in selecting the more important material for microfilming.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Two Reports on Ceremonial Objects

By M. Narkiss  
Director of Bezalel Museum  
June 19, 1949 and July 10, 1949

(Summarized from the Hebrew)

I

It has been extremely difficult to select the ceremonial objects which definitely belong in museums rather than in synagogues. Our own Museum is well supplied with objects of average quality needed for study purposes as distinguished from the exhibit material. The other Jewish museums, however, have highly selected objects and lack the typical examples of such things. At Wiesbaden there are no outstanding objects of creative art, but at best only several examples of interesting popular handicraft. I have selected for my museum things which appear to be important for our research, and I believe we will have source material for new contributions to the field. The objects left for the other museums are only of average quality and often inferior to that.

I must point out that not all of the museum objects are intact. It happens that the damaged items are probably the oldest and most interesting. At the same time the material classified for synagogue use naturally has to consist of objects which can withstand practical use. Even in this category, however, not all of the objects are intact. I have still not solved the problem of how and where to work on the bells which have become severed from the Rimmonim and the Torah shields. It would seem necessary to remove such things to another workshop, perhaps in Palestine, where the repairs could be made. The same problem arises in connection with the parts of the Hanukah Menorahs.

Among the Sabbath and Hanukah Menorahs most of the material is fragmentary. It required considerable trouble to repair the objects which I have selected for Bezalel, but I do not know whether other museums would be interested in such an operation.

The Torah crowns and perpetual lamps are entirely mediocre. Despite the large number of spice boxes, there is nothing of special interest, and there is a considerable supply for synagogues. This does not, however, apply to the filigree work. Among these I found one object of the seventeenth century with a very recent Hungarian inscription on its base. This piece consisted of two fragments. This is perhaps the most important object in the entire collection.

As for the Attarot, I have set aside a few hundred for the museums, but I am also advising that some special disposition be made of those which are damaged. There are only a few of the Spanish gold lace type which are in satisfactory condition.

Regarding the synagogue textiles which have been transported from Offenbach, I have prepared a catalogue of 976 entries. A large part of this consists of Torah covers which seem to have belonged

to a particular German community from the early eighteenth century until the war. These are of interest for genealogy and folklore and should be kept as a unit. I am not proposing, however, that these textiles should be placed in Bezalel. Among the Torah mantles there are a few with inscriptions indicating that they belonged to communities in Zagreb and elsewhere in Jugoslavia.

We have a small box containing medals, etc., a total of 122 items, which I have catalogued as Varia. I have selected items to complete the collection of medals at Bezalel.

In regard to the rule that I should select only styles lacking in Bezalel, I have been faced with the difficulty of deciding whether to take certain objects because of their inscriptions. There is, for example, an interesting inscription on a collection box from Hungary attesting the existence of a so-called status quo ante community. There are others which illustrate the division in Poland between seniors and juniors. Another interesting item is a pair of Rimmonim with an inscription in the Hungarian language but in Hebrew characters.

## II

On July 8 the packing of the ceremonial objects was finally completed. We have packed a total of 212 cases, including 25 containing silver fragments which are to be smelted. There were, in addition, 4 cases of base metal fragments. The classification of the material as packed is as follows:

72 cases of museum material, sent to New York
11 cases of synagogue material, sent to New York (marked JCFS)
61 cases of museum material, shipped to Jerusalem
26 cases of synagogue material, for Israel
11 cases of synagogue material, for Western Europe, shipped to JDC Paris
3 cases of synagogue material, shipped to Great Britain
<u>3 cases of synagogue material, shipped to Johannesburg</u>

187 cases                    Total

I am sending you separately copies of the packing lists enclosed in each case, a general schedule of distribution by categories, a catalogue of the textiles, and a catalogue of Varia.

I regret to say that during the last few days there were so many laborers at work that some mistakes were made. I discovered these mistakes after the cases were sealed by the customs officials and could not be re-opened.

I should like to say that, without the assistance of the entire labor force, the packing could not have been finished by this time. Dr. Lowenthal worked with me on the typewriter evenings.

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P.S.-- According to a letter from Mr. Narkiss of July 25, 9 cases with ceremonial objects were transferred from the Jewish community of Berlin to the Bezalel Museum, where they will be exhibited under the name of the Jewish Community of Berlin.

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

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Summary of three Reports  
By M. Bernstein  
Library Investigator  
April 17, May 25, and June, 1949

These reports contain certain findings in non-Jewish libraries of the U.S.Zone which were visited by Mr. Bernstein in April, May and June, 1949.

"I made good use of the Tentative List of Jewish Cultural Treasures and will indicate certain corrections. Generally speaking, the German institutions have proof of their pre-Hitler ownership of the Judaica and Hebraica in their possession."

In the following, only those collections are enumerated where pre-Hitler ownership appeared dubious.

1. Heidelberg.-- The University Library contains a considerable quantity of Judaica stamped with the names of Jewish owners, private and institutional. I have begun to collect the evidence in the form of lists of titles accompanied by indications of ownership.
2. Kassel.-- I have a list of the Judaica in the library of the Art Museum, and will try to find out how these books were obtained.
3. Speier.-- The Landesbibliothek has a special division in its catalogue for local Jewish history and other Judaica (over 500 entries). I was unable to gain access to these books. In the courtyard of the Museum there is a collection of old Jewish tombstones (published). The Museum has two Wimpeln acquired in 1939. The ritual bath, built 1104, is intact, together with the 14th century inscription. The only trace of the synagogue (Jakobgasse), burnt in 1938, is the statue depicting Jacob's dream.
4. Freiburg.-- The unusually large collection of Judaica in the University Library is receiving very little attention. The Hebraica are used by the theological students.
5. Wuerzburg.-- I was unable to ascertain whether any of the material listed in the Tentative List under nos. 76, 106-109 survived the bombing. At the University Library, which has not suffered as heavily as other institutions, I was informed that the Judaica was still packed away.
6. Bamberg.-- After seeking out the former director of the Gemaelde-Gallerie, I ascertained that the wall and ceiling paintings of the synagogue of Horb have survived. During 1941-43 these were in danger of destruction until a Mr. Rauh concealed the paintings in a warehouse of theatre decorations,

where they are still packed away. I called on Mr. Rauh and discussed with him the possibility of tracing other Jewish property in the same warehouse and also in the Landeskunde Museum. He promised to prepare a memorandum on this problem.

At the Catholic Theological Seminary I found rich collections of Judaica and Hebraica, which are separately catalogued. In the City Library I was amazed to find an impressive collection of old editions of Judaica and Hebraica, including the Mashal Hakadmon. I also call attention to an illuminated Megillah catalogued under No. V.AZ 23. In the local State Archives there are, in addition to the printed materials regarding local Jewish history, a large quantity of documents, including Schutzbriebe of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

7. Augsburg.-- The Maximilian-Museum does not have the ceremonial objects mentioned in the Tentative List. These objects are mentioned in the special inventory of confiscated Jewish property deposited in the museum. One may doubt whether the museum has actually returned the ceremonial objects. Among the items which the museum still has are some interesting pieces of antique furniture listed in the inventory as former Jewish property.
8. Worms.-- The Museum contains some of the objects from the former Jewish Museum and the Rashi Chapel, including two illuminated mahzorim of 1272. There are also many archive documents and a complete catalogue of the tombstone inscriptions.
9. Munich.-- The Bavarian State Archives contain about 100,000 Jewish documents which go back to a very early stage of German Jewish history. The catalogue covers 700 pages of typescript and comprises about 50,000 entries. I am as yet unable to tell which portions of these archives were acquired in 1939 and later.
10. Backnang.-- Several hundred books, formerly in the Nazi political institute, are now scattered in a number of schools. With the aid of the town commander, I investigated the Volkschule, which has 150, and the Hochschule, which has 1500, and the directors were ordered to prepare lists. When the lists are available, further efforts can be undertaken.

#### Other Interesting Information

1. Rothenburg ob der Tauber.-- The local library has no Judaica except a few items relating to local Jewish history. The tombstones in the castle are kept in the Lapidar Museum, where I counted eighteen.

The museum has lost the three Hebrew documents of the fifteenth century. The city archive has lost one of the two volumes of Jewish documents, namely, the older volume. The losses are in both instances attributed to American military personnel.

In one of the antique shops I found a Hanukah Menorah of the year 1823, made of pewter. In another shop there was a

considerable stock of Passover plates made of pewter. Although these are of no great value, the survival of such Jewish property in private hands is of interest.

2. Augsburg.-- After receiving a report regarding the survival of 90 ceremonial objects confiscated in 1939, I traced this property to the local Jewish community which has recovered them. The property is in the custody of a Bernhard Bezen. The objects are packed away and Mr. Bezen stated he intended to exhibit them in one of the rooms of the community house.

The synagogue of Augsburg has been spared, and although the interior is in a chaotic state, the wall decorations are intact. There is a plan to convert this building into a Jewish museum which will house the scattered objects of this region and a Jewish library. It is extremely doubtful whether this project will ever be realized.

3. Wuerzburg.-- In the museum I was informed that the Ark of the Law from Gerade was destroyed by burning together with the synagogue in which it stood.

Among the other items of Jewish interest in this museum is a tombstone dated 1407, a copy of which is appended to this report. The director of the Museum has promised to give me an inventory of all objects of Jewish interest.

4. Darmstadt.-- The archive of the Jewish community has not survived. In the city library I was able to ascertain only that between 1943 and 1945 the famous Hagadah manuscript disappeared. The officials of both the City Library and the Museum informed me that it would be some months before they would be in a position to provide information regarding their collections. I left with the impression that these institutions are not interested in answering our questions.

5. Nuremberg.-- The Mahzor of Nuremberg is not in the Germanisches Museum, but in the City Library. I attempted also to call for the Rashi manuscript, but this is not accessible at present. The director of the Library has promised to draw up a description of his books and manuscripts of Jewish interest. In the Germanisches Museum I found the two Hagadah manuscripts together with others including the Memorbuch.

6. Karlsruhe.-- Although the Landesbibliothek has lost its Judaica, it still has the Reuchlin Codex, i.e., the Hebrew and Yiddish manuscripts cited and listed by Landauer.

7. Kassel.-- The City Library has a large collection of rabbinica and Judaica. The rabbinica were catalogued many years ago, and were presented by a rabbi. This library is at present cataloguing recent acquisitions of German Judaica, bearing the stamp of the Offenbach Archival Depot. The items which I saw were chiefly Schocken publications. I am informed that similar acquisitions have been received by the Kassel Landesbibliothek.

The synagogue has collected a large stock of ceremonial objects, largely over a century old, which derive from other communities.

8. Munich.-- I found a large collection of Nazi periodica and decrees, bearing on the occupation of the Baltic countries. Since the originals cannot be acquired, upon receiving the authorization of JCR, I can negotiate for the microfilming of material bearing on the Jews.

In the Bayrisches Nationalmuseum I learned that the tombstones from Regensburg had been returned to the museum in that city, but all other objects were still in the Munich institution. I have been promised a full inventory of this material.

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September 1949

Field Report No.9  
Bernard Heller

With the liquidation of the Offenbach collection our locus operandi was shifted to the Landes Museum in Wiesbaden. When we came there we found all the available space stacked with all sorts of identifiable cultural objects, mostly of non-Jewish ownership. These were being processed and were under way to be restored to individuals and institutions of various countries which the Nazis invaded and despoiled.

The cases containing the Baltic collection, the examination of which was our next assignment, were stored in the underground chambers of the museum. When tidbits of space became free we were obliged to content ourselves with bringing up single cases and examining them there piecemeal. As if this was not a sufficient deterrent to a speedy execution of our task, we had to wait for the military authorities to sanction the transfer and continued employment of our German and DP workers. When these authorizations finally came we had the problem of their transportation from Frankfort on Main, where they resided, to Wiesbaden where they were to pursue their daily work.

Free government vehicles were at a premium and even when available, they could not be obtained before approval was acquired from a string of officials. When the approval came and the workers were re-engaged, we found ourselves confronted with a demand, to which I yielded because it was not unreasonable, that the two hours consumed in conveying the workers to and from work should be counted as part of their day's work.

The German government employees receive vacation pay after they are in service a stipulated length of time. It is evident that the natural desire of our workers to obtain this emolument did not contribute to the acceleration of our task.

Topping all these difficulties was the dispute between the municipality of Frankfort and Wiesbaden, each contending that the pay was to come from the coffers of the other. When I left the dispute was still unresolved and the men were without pay for a full month.

The delay of the JCR in accepting the government's condition that it be the custodian of the Baltic collection for two years, instead of its outright trustee, also caused uncertainty about our work, even though the right of access to the material was signed on July 22.

These and other impediments did not prevent us here also from fulfilling the stipulation of the agreement with the AMG. The

The American Jewish Committee  
OCT 24 1949

LIBRARY

Baltic collection, consisting of 214 cases with about 29,000 books, was examined, classified, crated and shipped in the beginning of September. 78 cases with 12,418 volumes were shipped to Israel. Of these, 33 cases, the remnants of the Mapu Library from Kovno, were given to the Hebrew University Library into trusteeship for a period of 2 years. 45 cases containing chiefly the libraries of Kohel, Kovno, and the Slobodka Yeshiva, were restituted to their former owners, now in Israel. 136 cases containing 16,346 books, were shipped to the warehouses of the AJDC in Paris, where they will remain intact for two years, except for the identifiable books whose claimants may appear and prove to the satisfaction of the JCR that they are the warranted owners or successors and demand their rightful possessions.

Among the books sent to Paris are 17 cases which probably do not come from Baltic countries. These are, first, 7 cases with about 2,000 items, chiefly Yiddish and modern Hebrew, bearing the stamp "Kultur-Lige" in Hebrew characters with no place; second, 4 cases with about 1,000 items bearing the stamp Ivrijah, Moghilev; third, 6 cases with about 440 items which seem to originate from Salonica. 11 cases contain about 900 items of private and public ownership in which the owner's place could not be found. 2 cases with 133 items could be identified as property of the Mirrer Yeshiva, to which they will be returned.

After the clearance of the ceremonial objects (see last report) and the Baltic units I directed the staff to proceed at once to the examination and disposition of the German Jewish institutional material.

The initial survey indicates this collection to consist of about 50,000 volumes, including a quantity of periodical literature. About 33,000 volumes hail from libraries of institutions and large Gemeinden (Jued. Theolog. Seminary of Breslau, 11,412 volumes; Jued. Gem. Berlin, 7,761 volumes; Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums Berlin, 1,270; Isr. Rel. Gem. Darmstadt, 1,087; Isr. Gem. Frankfurt, including Philanthropin, 4,832; Hermann Cohen collection, 5,246 volumes; Kirchheim collection, 1,588, and Verein Isr. Rel. Lehrer, 1,305; Synagogen Gem. Koenigsberg, 3,857.) To these are to be added 8,000 volumes emanating from about 600 Gemeinden and their institutions and societies.

The first unit that we tackled in this group was the Hermann Cohen collection. The reason for our putting this collection first is because intimations had been given that these books would be assigned to the Hebrew University as a unit. About a week or ten days after the Baltic collection was dispatched to the AJDC warehouse in Paris, the Hermann Cohen library was assembled, classified, crated and made ready for shipment.

When I left, the examination and classification of the Breslau collection was nearing completion. In the meantime, JCR through JRSO received title to the German-Jewish institutional collections. Because of the exigencies that may arise to thwart our work and the numerous drawbacks that bob up to delay its

progress it would be difficult to stipulate the date for the completion of the above task. If these collections are to be assigned to institutions as units, then their examination and crating and listing of the contents of each case ought to be completed by the end of October or the middle of November.

In the middle of August, we started the listing of and the negotiations for about 1,100 rare books which had been transferred from Offenbach to Wiesbaden and whose Jewish ownership was being questioned. Mr. Kagan and I conferred with Mr. Cain, the OMGUS official in charge of the cultural property. Kagan presented the facts before him that there were some books in that group that were not of Jewish content and that some of them may even have the stamp of a non-Jewish institution. I contended, however, that Jewish libraries were not limited to Hebraica and Judaica. I cited to him instances of learned Jews who made church history and patristic literature their field. Since these books originally came from the Offenbach collection, which contained confiscated Jewish material, the presumption was that they constituted Jewish possessions. Mr. Cain told us that he was sympathetic with my point of view and that he believed that he would in a few days dispose of the matter in a manner which would be satisfactory. I am hoping that within a short period he will get to this item on his long list of duties and these so-called rare books will be also ready for shipment.

The foundation of the Restitution Program is Law 59. Considering, however, the political conditions consequent to the tension between the East and West and the latter's eagerness to woo and win the Germans to its side, this law assumed the form not of a firm granite stone but of a crumbling chunk of clay. The adage "Between the cup and the lip there can be many a slip" is particularly pertinent here. What a change of attitude there is between those who instituted the law and those who are seeing, or will see, its execution. We are working on a terrain where the ground under us is gradually sinking and out of its deep bowel a sudden violent eruption may break out at any time.

A day before I left I was called into the office of a most estimable and cultured gentleman who was connected with the Monuments and Fine Arts Division. Knowing that I was returning to the States, he unburdened his heart to me. He voiced his deep distress over some established facts and current rumors. He told me that he was just informed that the Property and Cultural Divisions of the AMG had been abolished. He pointed to clues which were ominous as to the future course of restitution of the remaining Nazi loot. Does this spell the outright repeal of Law 59, and if not, does it mean the transfer of its implementation to the new German government, which to him, was tantamount to nullification of that law? Pointing to a window of the museum, he said: "There lie \$600 million worth of cultural objects which the Nazis have stolen from individuals and

institutions all over Europe. What is to become of the commitments which the United States made to the various nationals who were allied with us or whose underground activities aided us, as well as to the JCR? One wonders whether the High Commissioner realizes what a fateful step he is taking and how his act may in the future harrass him. He then ended with the well-known phrase, "God forgive him for he knows not what he does."

I want to conclude this report with voicing my deep appreciation to Professor Salo W. Baron for his unfailing understanding and abiding faith, and magnificent cooperation. But even more than that, I want to thank the Board and him for the opportunity which was afforded me to share in a great mitzva and to participate in a venture whose beneficence is bound to redound to all mankind as well as to despoiled Israel.

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

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DEC 9 1949

Field Report No. 10

E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

Report for October 1949

Upon receipt of the "Beschluss" from the German Office for Property Control and Restitution Offenbach regarding the German-Jewish institutional book collections stored at the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point (addressed to JRSO Frankfurt-a/M and dated September 17, 1949), to the effect that the claim made by JRSO was justified, the processing of such collections was speeded up.

We concentrated chiefly on the sorting, classifying and tentative crating of the remnants of the following collections:

1. Juedisch-Theologisches Seminar (Fraenckelsche Stiftung),  
Breslau . . . . . 11,273 items,  
made up as follows:

Hebrew	7,094
German Judaica	262
Non-German Judaica	129
Yiddish	77
Varia	1,572
Jewish periodicals	720
Non-Jewish periodicals	102
Non-Jewish books	1,317

2. Berlin Jewish Community . . . . . 7,113 items,  
made up as follows:

Hebrew	3,992
Judaica	433
Periodicals:-	
German-Jewish	1,584
other European	92
Hebrew	667
Yiddish	266
non-Jewish	79

3. Collection Raphael Kirchheim (1804-1889), Frankfort-on-Main,  
incorporated in the former library of the  
Israelitische Religionsschule, Frankfurt-a/M 1,463 items,  
made up as follows:

Hebrew	845
Judaica	465
non-Jewish	153

4. Israelitische Gemeinde Frankfurt-a/M - still being processed.

5. Verein Israelitischer Religionslehrer, Frankfurt-a/M, in-  
corporating remnants of a number of smaller Frankfurt Jewish  
libraries - still being processed.

The American Jewish Archives  
DEO 20 49

LIBRARY

The sorting and classifying of the material now being processed takes much time, since, when the collections were first crated in Offenbach, some years ago, it was done without system, method or order.

While collections 1, 2 and 3 mentioned above consisted chiefly of Hebrew material, those under 4 and 5 seem to contain primarily German material.

A detailed list of the Breslau periodicals was made up and mailed to JCR, New York, for use in the JCR pool of periodicals.

A list of the Jewish periodicals in the Hermann Cohen collection was made up and sent to JCR, New York, for information.

Claims for German Jewish institutional collections (as reported to the JRSO, Frankfurt-a/M, by the Central Filing Agency in Bad Nauheim) were checked against our comprehensive list. Only in a very limited number of cases, involving some of the smaller libraries, stored here and not yet processed by us, were arrangements made for setting aside such collections until such time as a final decision as to their fate is reached.

No shipments of German Jewish institutional collections were made during the period under review, though some (Hermann Cohen; Breslau) are ready, the reason being that JCR, New York, is to decide on the final allocation only upon receipt of the breakdown of each such collection. Moreover, the shipping of a limited number of boxes is not advisable.

The question of allocating certain books, needed in Berlin, in Switzerland and in Sweden, has always been borne in mind.

As regards the so-called rare books, numbering approximately 1,000, in spite of repeated negotiations with the U.S. authorities, no decision has yet been reached as to the question of releasing them in toto or in part to JRSO/JCR.

Fourteen lists, arranged both according to the number on the boxes and in alphabetical order of the names of the owners of the private and the public libraries, contained in the "B" collection, shipped in part to Israel and in part to Paris, were eventually completed and sent to JCR headquarters in New York, as requested.

In the field of investigation and recovery of Jewish cultural treasures, in the first place, 18 Scrolls of the Law were received by us (or rather, collected) from the Marburg Jewish community, which had held them in trust or custody ever since they were turned over to them by the Religionskundliche Sammlung (Professor Frick) of the University of Marburg, some time in 1945. That institute had kept the Scrolls, originating from Germany and elsewhere, in trust during the war. Negotiations on the transfer to us of a number of rabbinical books from the Marburg Gemeinde are under way.

Negotiations on the Worms Machsorim manuscripts and on the Mainz Jewish Gemeinde library have not yet reached a stage nearing conclusion. Whilst Professor G. Scholem of the Hebrew University was out here, he took a particular interest in our long drawn-out efforts to obtain access to parts of the present library of the Berlin Jewish community as well as to the "Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden" (formerly Berlin), some 1700 "packages," still stored outside Berlin. It is hoped that combined efforts will in the end meet with success, but it would be premature to give any indication as to the date when this will be.

We learned that archival material, originating from the archives of various Jewish communities in Hamburg (both Hochdeutsch and Portuguese), Altona and Wandsbeck (near Hamburg), are still kept by the Hamburg State Archives. Negotiations have so far resulted in the State Archives' willingness to hand over the material, valuable in part, to the present Hamburg Jewish community, but it will not be too easy eventually to ship the material out of Germany. In the British Zone, the establishment of a "Trust Corporation" for heirless, unclaimed and communal property, probably along the lines of the JRSO (established exclusively for the U.S. Zone), is under way, and developments in that direction have to be watched by us so as to be able to commence in due course cooperation with regard to relevant Jewish cultural treasures. The question of successorship with regard to communal property in the French Zone is, as far as is known, still pending. Some suggestions regarding JCR's future investigation, search and recovery program were submitted to JCR headquarters in New York for consideration.

Administration. Since the change-over from OMGUS (Office of Military Government, U.S. Zone) and OMGH (Office of Military Government, Hesse) to HICOG (High Commissioner's Office for Germany) and the Land Commissioner's Office for Hesse, certain changes in the departmental set-up of the American administration have taken place, but we are glad to be able to report that, contrary to the somewhat alarming indications contained in the JCR September Field Report, this has not affected either our work or our status. The Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, and thereby we, are supervised by and responsible to the "Office of Economic Affairs, Property Division," and the officer in charge, Mr. Theodore A. Heinrich, with whom we have all the time been on good terms, signs as its "Cultural Affairs Adviser."

In the Wiesbaden Landesmuseum (Central Collecting Point) we occupy in all seven rooms, including a small office, through which at times boxes are shifted forwards and backwards. In wintertime, such premises, on account of insufficient light, cannot be called ideal, but we have to put up with certain drawbacks, though the Custodian Director of C.C.P., Herr von Schmidt auf Altenstadt, has always been helpful.

A more serious drawback results from our German and D.P. staff who have been with us (Offenbach and Wiesbaden) for a number of years past. Apart from the temporary absence of workers on account of illnesses, leave, etc., there was for a comparatively

long period a visible lack of interest in the quick development of our work. This was mainly due to the switch-over from the Personnel Department of the Frankfurt Military Post (which was also responsible for the Offenbach Archival Depot up to May 31) to that of the Wiesbaden Military Post, causing delay in paying our workers' salary in time. It would take up too much space of this report to describe in detail the slowness of the procedure of that simple technical transfer. In any case, it lowered the working morale of our workers (6 Germans and 2 Jewish D.P.'s of whom one was replaced during October and who sooner or later will emigrate) and, at times, also affected the patience and tolerance of the two JCR employees. However, it is hoped that, after a reasonable settlement with the authorities has been reached, that period is now over and that work can continue with greater speed.

In addition to the 8 workers we have altogether (sorters, classifiers, experts in Hebrew and Yiddish), we are permitted to enlist the part-time help of a German-English typist, employed by the Central Collecting Point, and of some sort of library assistant who sometimes does part of our work connected with the preparation of lists, etc. The packers (craters) are, whenever necessary, put at our disposal by the Central Collecting Point. Cooperation with all these people is, on the whole, very pleasant.

A special side-line subject in our activities during the period under review was the preparation of a huge list of the privately-owned (individual) identifiable book collections. On final completion, after more than nine weeks, a copy of that list, bound in book-form, was sent to JCR in New York. This work was undertaken at the request and on behalf of the JRSO headquarters in Nuremberg, and a special typist was employed for the purpose. We are now going to check the claims for such books, received by the JRSO in Frankfurt-a/M from or through the Central Filing Agency (Zentralanmeldeamt) in Bad Nauheim, against that huge list. It is believed that the number of claims is limited as compared with the number of owners listed (i.e., appr. 16,000) and the number of books stored here (appr. 45,000). That is to say that, on an average, the ratio is 3 books to 1 person. In actual fact, the bulk of those remnants of private German-Jewish libraries consists of very, very small units. As yet neither the JRSO nor we know what is going to happen to the large number of unclaimed identifiable books and book collections. This list also contains a number of names of non-Jews.

As regards these book collections and also other cultural objects, inquiries still come to us from all over the world, in particular from U.S., Great Britain and Israel. People generally assume that the books they lost after 1933 or during the war "must" be in Wiesbaden (or, formerly, in Offenbach), and when after searching here we advise such inquirers in the negative, they sometimes "protest." There are even people who want us to return to them certain books from the stock of unidentified material, maintaining that their unmarked books must be among the large quantities we handle (or rather, handled in the past). But the unidentifiable material has gone.

In addition to Prof. Scholem, we had visitors from Switzerland (representing the Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund) and from Israel. The number of visitors has always been very small, since, in principle, visitors are not permitted to the rooms of the heavily guarded Central Collecting Point.

A. G.

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

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Field Report No. 11  
E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

Report for November 1949

Our main concern during the period under review was the continuation of the work on the German-Jewish Institutional Collections. The following collections, all of them being pitiful remnants of once representative libraries and archives in Germany, have been or are being processed:-

1. Bibliothek der Israelitischen Gemeinde,  
Frankfurt a/M . . . . . 4,677 items  
made up as follows:

Hebraica	702
German Judaica	3,101
(incl. 663 Periodica and 986 Varia)	
Non-Jewish material	874

2. Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums,  
Berlin . . . . . 860 items  
made up as follows:

Judaica (Misc., mostly German)	427
Hebraica	31
Orientalia	52
Periodica (Jewish, Orientalistic)	350

3. Darmstadt (and Starkenburg Province)  
Jewish archivalia . . . . . 1,080 items  
made up as follows:

Rechnungsbuecher, 18th-20th century	1,050 appr.
Odd items, i.e. all sorts of registers, also some 20th century correspondence of Jewish organization	30 appr.

4. Cosman Werner Bibliothek der Israelitischen  
Kultusgemeinde Muenchen . . . 296 items  
made up as follows:

books:

Hebrew	14
Judaica (German)	47
Latin	1
Music: 1 packet	<u>1</u>
Documents:	
Inkunablen	7
Old Prints	6
	13

(Cosman Werner cont.)

Periodica:

Hebrew	70
German	126
other languages	<u>24</u> 220

5. Verein israelitischer Religionslehrer, Frankfurt a/M, incorporating a number of smaller Jewish libraries of that city, such as "Juedische Bibliothek und Lesehalle," "Verein fuer juedische Geschichte und Literatur," etc., chiefly representing what could be called a Jewish teachers' collection . . . . . 2,412 items made up as follows:

Hebraica Vols.

Bible (and Bible literature)	66
Talmud " Talmud "	81
Halakha	94
Liturgy	48
Modern Literature	141
Varia	<u>74</u> 404

Yiddish 26 26

Judaica

Bible and Biblical lit.	278
Talmud and Talmudical lit.	48
Liturgy	56
History	300
Lexika	21
Palestine and Zionism	49
Belles Lettres	200
Pedagogics (mostly text-books for teachers and pupils) German and German-Hebrew	227
Varia	<u>478</u> 1657

Non-Jewish

Miscellaneous	195
Non-Jewish (Jewish authors)	<u>30</u> 225

6. Synagogengemeinde Koenigsberg i.P. . . . appr. 3,000 items

In process

7. Small libraries of various, i.e. hundreds of Jewish communities, organizations, and institutions . . . . . appr. 11-13,000 items

In process

The packing, crating, and the preparations for shipment overseas much depend on the speed with which the decisions by JCR in New York regarding the allocation of such collections are received by JCR in Wiesbaden and also on the question whether such collections - with the exception of that mentioned under heading 7 - are to be kept intact and held together or, alternatively, distributed to a number of recipients.

A number of books, i.e. rabbinical literature, liturgical material and German Judaica, so far numbering 290, have been set aside for shipment to Berlin. The number of such books may be increased during the month of December. Both Berlin rabbis, Mr. Steven S. Schwarzschild (Cincinnati/Berlin) and Dr. Freier (London/Berlin), have stressed the necessity of replenishing the Berlin Jewish Community Library from our stock. In return, it may be possible at a later stage to obtain for JCR some more scientific material no longer needed there.

The question of the so-called Rare Books has been solved fairly satisfactorily, after Mr. Theodore A. Heinrich, the Cultural Adviser HICOG, inspected the collection so as to be able to decide which books should eventually be turned over to JCR. The result was that of the total of approximately 982 books,

362 were considered as "negative," i.e. not to be turned over to JCR, whereas

620, i.e. two-thirds, were put at our sole and indisputable disposal. Of the latter,

183 items were designated for the Hebrew University Library and 437 for JCR in New York.

As to the Sifre Torah recovered by us from the Marburg Jewish Community, negotiations are under way with the AJDC in Paris as to the question of shipment to Paris, for further distribution by them.

Privately-owned individual books and book collections. - Claims submitted to the Central Filing Agency in Bad Nauheim by December 31, 1948, copies of which were received by us through JRSO, have temporarily been checked against our "huge" list (a copy of which is now in the office of JCR in New York), the result being that only a negligible number of books, probably less than 1,000, can be considered as properly claimed. However, final results have to be awaited and will be reported at a later date. At any rate, it can safely be expected that the bulk of that material can be considered as unclaimed and heirless so that it will finally fall under the administration of JRSO (which will probably mean: to JCR). If so, this will entail a lot of detail work, not only from the point of view of sorting, classifying, supplementing, and allocating the books, but also in regard to separating the material into what can be regarded as Jewish property and what originates from non-Jewish sources.

In this connection, inquiries, both personal and in writing, continue. Most inquirers omitted to put in their claims in time. The majority of the inquirers - and this appears to be significant - are rabbis.

The administration in Wiesbaden works smoothly. The spirit of the workers has greatly improved ever since the technical question of their pay was settled by the appropriate authorities. Our D.P. Hebrew and Yiddish specialists may terminate their work sooner or later, though not in the immediate future, in view of their emigration plans.

At the end of the period under review, Mr. S. Shunami, the delegate of the Hebrew University Library, Jerusalem, after eight months' uninterrupted work, returned to Israel. At the same time Dr. Hannah Arendt, the Executive Secretary of JCR in New York, arrived in Wiesbaden, to commence her European tour; she had an opportunity to discuss with Mr. Shunami a number of important and pertinent questions, before he left Wiesbaden.

HJA

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Field Report No. 12  
Hannah Arendt

December 1949

I

A draft memorandum to be submitted to the Permanent Conference of the Ministers of Education in the German Federal Republic for its next meeting in Stuttgart on February 10, 1950, has been the outcome of my negotiations with German librarians and governmental authorities during the month of December. Copy of it was mailed to Mr. Ferencz of JRSO whom I tried to keep informed and with whom I discussed all problems connected with my activities. Mr. Ferencz will complete and revise the present text which I then shall submit to Minister Hundhammer in Munich for further action. The memo together with an accompanying letter should be in Munich by the middle of January.

Prof. Eppelsheimer of Frankfurt/M, Director of the Frankfurt Municipal and University Library and an important man in the Hesse-Government, suggested that I approach the President of the German Librarians' Association, Generaldirektor Dr. Gustav Hofmann of the Bavarian State Library in Munich. I discussed this suggestion in detail in Bonn with Dr. Gisela von Busse (in charge of the Reichsaustauschstelle of German libraries in the Notgemeinschaft der deutschen Wissenschaft in Bad Godesberg), former Staatssekretär Prof. Brill of Frankfurt University (who spent 5 years in a Zuchthaus and 2 years in Buchenwald), Dr. Weissweiler of the Bonn University Library and former head of the Oriental Department of the Prussian State Library in Berlin, and also with Prof. Jaspers in Basel. All these people agreed that without active cooperation from the German librarians nothing can be achieved, that there will be people glad and ready to help in a number of places, but that, generally speaking, an appeal to the librarians may not be enough. Prof. Brill, closely connected with the Bonn Government, was the first to suggest action through the Ministers of Education.

Dr. Gustav Hofmann in Munich received me in the most cordial manner. He agreed at once to publish an appeal in his bulletin, asked me not to formulate this appeal, but to draft a few paragraphs stating what we expect them to do, and then told me in no uncertain words that he did not want to rely on voluntary cooperation alone but would need a government decree to follow up his appeal. He suggested that during the current absence of Minister Hundhammer in Rome, I get in touch with Staatssekretär Dr. Sattler in Munich, a very important personality in the Bavarian Kultusministerium, and propose the issuance of a decree for all three Western zones. Since Hundhammer is the President of the Permanent Conference of the Kultusministerien of Western

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Germany (the Bonn Government has no ministry of Education), Munich seemed to be the right place to take this initiative.

Before seeing Dr. Sattler, I met Prof. Held of the Munich Municipal Library, a great friend of the Jews in a slightly mystical way, and discussed with him Hofmann's proposal. He, too, agreed that we shall need a regular decree.

Apart from all other reasons, such a decree appears necessary because Law 59 under which all libraries were asked to report their confiscated property has the serious shortcoming of limiting the obligation of such reports (not of restitution!) to property exceeding in value DM 1,000. Thus, the Munich Municipal Library, for instance, reporting the confiscated collections which they had found in their own stacks, to the Office of Military Government, Property Control, stated expressly that, according to Law 59 they were not obliged to report "insofar as the individual books or the value of books of a group belonging to the same owner does not exceed DM 1,000." (By the way, nowhere else have such books been more carefully segregated and prepared for restitution. See below.) From what I have seen, Jewish confiscated property has been widely scattered, not only through the Nazis but also through later incorporation from caches. Only a decree which rules that everything has to be reported independent of all monetary value (which is uncertain and open to interpretations anyhow) can be of use to us in the long run.

Another reason which makes a decree necessary are the present conditions of German libraries. Large quantities of books which have come back from caches are not yet unpacked and nobody knows what is in the cases. It is quite possible that Jewish property will turn up during a number of years. Of the two million volumes of the Bavarian State Library, to give an example, only 800,000 are now on shelves, 3 to 4,000 are still in depots and the rest in the cellars. The same condition is true for museums (though apparently not for archives).

Before I went to the Kultusministerium, I also talked to Prof. Heydenreich of the Kunsthistorisches Institut of Munich. He told me at once that a similar action ought to be taken for the museums and that he would be glad to help. As soon as Dr. Hofmann has published his appeal, he would prepare a similar appeal for the museums' officers. He asked me spontaneously why I did not go to Heuss and ask him that the Bonn Government publish a law (as distinguished from a mere decree) for reparation in kind. He believed that this should be possible at this moment. He belongs with Gisela v. Busse and a few others to those people who suffer honestly and seriously from what has been done.

After these preliminaries and after having discussed the matter with Dr. Auerbach, who made the appointment with Dr. Sattler, I went to see Dr. Sattler and discussed with him the more general terms of the matter. He then introduced me to their legal adviser, Dr. Eugene Mayer. Before I drafted the memorandum mentioned above, which is the result of my discussion with Dr. Mayer and Dr. Sattler, I went to Nuremberg to discuss the whole matter with Ferencz.

Our Tentative List of Jewish Cultural Treasures, which unfortunately was not known to the German librarians (and more unfortunately even not to JRSO), proved of great help. Dr. Hofmann asked for 30 copies in order to send them to all greater libraries and the people in Ministry wanted it as proof of former possession. JRSO, as you know, has claimed globally community property; but in the coming discussions of who is going to inherit cultural property, the communities or JCR-JRSO, it would have been by far better if they could have claimed according to our catalogue.

## II. Caches

In addition to information which you received or will receive shortly from Bernstein, I shall enumerate in the following briefly pertinent information which I gathered in a non-systematic way:

1. Archives: Jewish archival material is in the following archives in Bavaria: Geheime Staatsarchiv - Munich  
Staatsarchiv - Amberg  
" - Neuburg  
" - Nuernberg  
" - Wuerzburg

Source: Dr. Winkler, Generaldirektor der  
Staatlichen Archive Bayern to JRSO

The Frankfurt and Hamburg Community Archives seem to be among the Gesamt-Archiv material in Berlin. For this Gesamtarchiv, Dr. Alex Bein is now negotiating in Berlin, as I reported previously.

Source: Lowenthal.

### 2. Libraries:

- a. At least two cases with Hebraica and Zionistica were among the material of a depot in the French zone, Neustadt a.d.Hardt, Haus der Industrie und Handelskammer, (near Ludwigshafen).

The depot consisted of Nazi state and party archives which had been shipped during the war to the Marienfestung in Wuerzburg.

Source: Dr. Rossmann, Philosophical Seminary of the University Heidelberg.

- b. The library of the Munich Institut zur Erforschung der modernen deutschen Geschichte, Abt. Judenfrage, had been in a cache in the neighborhood of Passau. Part of this library is now in the Bavarian State Library. About 20 volumes with stamps of the Munich community were found and returned. The origin of the books is not yet certain, about 5 to 6,000 volumes.

The greater part of this library was distributed by the American authorities to DP camps from the Freising Collecting Point. The DP camps were not Jewish; I shall try to trace the whereabouts of these books when I am again in Munich. This library should have been of almost equal importance with the Frankfurt/Rosenberg collection.

- c. In the depot of the Munich Municipal Library where formerly confiscated material is being sorted and catalogued are

1,239 volumes bearing the stamp of the Munich Jewish Community and 23 volumes with stamps of the Jewish Communities in Aschaffenburg, Augsburg and smaller Jewish organizations. There are also about 5,000 volumes which are unidentifiable as to ownership, among them a certain number of Judaica which will be returned. I looked through a card catalogue and talked to the librarians -- the depot is under the direct supervision of Dr. Seestaller -- who seem to be very cooperative. The whole depot consists of about 13 to 14,000 volumes, and contains quite a number of political libraries, Trade Unions, Socialist and Communist party-organizations, etc. The whole depot was liberated by the Americans and then handed to the Municipal Library for trusteeship. 5,250 volumes are private identifiable property belonging to 890 owners. A number of these books are claimed, but I do not yet know how many and did not look into this material.

d. Fifty to a hundred cases with books are now under the trusteeship of the Bayrische Landesamt fuer Vermoegensverwaltung und Wiedergutmachung, Aussenstelle Muenchen Stadt. I talked to Mr. Gastiger who did not even know the exact number of cases. The depot is not in Munich and we could not visit it. Seven cases, however, had been catalogued and I looked through these lists. Not very interesting material, almost entirely non-Jewish but undoubtedly of Jewish ownership, since each case contained a certain number of books which could be found only in Jewish libraries, such as prayerbooks, etc. Mr. Gastiger agreed that this was certainly Jewish-owned material and promised an exact count and possibly the opening of more cases for the end of January.

e. In Heidelberg in the library of the Jewish Community are some 200 books of more than ordinary interest, Judaica, which were returned to Mr. Sprecher, the librarian, (Sprecher is student at Heidelberg's medical school) through the librarian of the Municipal Library. Mr. Sprecher will return these books to JCR.

More important is that the Heidelberg University Library is still in possession of the Mombert Library, an important collection of first editions and religious literature. Alfred Mombert, a German-Jewish poet, was deported to Southern France together with all other Jews from Baden in the fall of 1940. At that moment, all private libraries of the Jews in Baden were confiscated and apparently sold in public auctions through the Gestapo. Mombert's library was saved through the personal intervention of some of his friends and later transferred to the Finanzamt. Several cases with manuscripts and correspondence with German and other poets from Lilienkron to Hofmannsthal were sent to the Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. The Mombert library was sold by the Finanzamt to the Heidelberg University for 3,000 DM -- i.e. for an insignificant amount. The cases were not unpacked and remained in the cellar of the library. A niece of Mombert, Mrs. Clara Vogel, seems to have claimed this library in 1947; however, it seems that no action was taken because she finally did not know what to do with the books. When I am in Heidelberg, I shall try to clear this

matter up through Dr. Preisendanz, the head of the manuscripts department.

f. The military authorities have handed about 130,000 non-Jewish books from the Offenbach Depot to Prof. Eppelsheimer in Frankfurt. The greater part of these books is identifiable as to ownership, and it seems beyond doubt that great parts of them did not belong to Jews. However, after my experiences in Munich where the Municipal Library has the trusteeship for similar material, I intend to look into this matter once more. It is probable that German Judaica (though not Hebraica) will be among them.

### III. Leads and Other Pertinent Information

a. In Munich, one of the employees of the Municipal Library, an Austrian, told me of the existence of a two-million volumes depot in Carinthia; this depot was one of the Gestapo caches. According to his information, part of this material had been sold after the war and part had been transferred into state institutions. He gave me the addresses of persons who are likely to possess more information.

b. In the Eastern Zone:

1. The Library of the Zuchthaus Brandenburg possessed a rich collection of Judaica, Hebraica, ceremonial objects and Tora-scrolls. Source: Prof. Brill. More information when I am in Berlin.

2. 50,000 volumes bearing the stamp of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg with many Judaica and Hebraica were found in the printer shop Vogel in Poestneck, Saalfeld/Thueringen, where the SS had brought them to in fall 1944. In 1947, they seem to have been carried off by the Russians.

3. Confiscated private Jewish libraries in Berlin were offered to the Reichsaustauschstelle and bought for the reconstruction of German libraries shortly before the end of the war. These books were later dispersed in caches in Berlin. It seems that most of them were taken by the Russians.

4. Generally speaking, hundreds of thousands of books were brought back to Berlin after the catastrophe (Source: Dr. Weissweiler). Dr. Wolf Haenisch, present head of the Oriental Department of the Prussian State Library, should be contacted for information, for the State Library has incorporated the libraries of former Nazi institutes and organizations.

5. A great quantity of books bearing the stamp of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg were found in a cache in the neighborhood of Halle and the incorporated into the University library in Halle. Source: Mrs. Hella Jaensch, former librarian of the Halle Municipal Library, now with the American library in Frankfurt.

6. 80 cases with books of the Fraenkelsche Stiftung/Breslau as well as the archives of the Breslau community were in the Jewish Library in the Tlomackie Street in Warsaw in 1948.

The Warsaw National Library received many Judaica and Hebraica from Polish-Jewish libraries during 1939-1943.

A larger depot existed in Kladzko/Niederschlesien. At least one manuscript from the Viennese Community library was found there. Source: Bernstein.

#### IV

I finally succeeded in receiving the names and sometimes the addresses of people who had been connected with libraries and archives during the last years of the Nazi regime.

I also received some leads for people in the Western zones who are in contact with the Eastern zone. However, this matter looks pretty hopeless.

Addresses of Nazis and SS people who have been or are still interned can be obtained from certain government departments.

#### V. Booksellers and Auctions

See the coming Bernstein report. I talked only to Dr. Karl of Karl & Faber, one of the biggest second-hand dealers in Germany. He told me that he has been trying for years to obtain a Hebrew incunabulum for a client -- without success. He believes that such things are more likely to be offered outside of Germany or to smaller firms.

In this connection, the following item from the Herald Tribune may be of interest:

"Bamberg, Germany, Dec. 26, UP.- Police here announced that they had recovered a wash basket containing eighty-four silver objects which disappeared when the Nazis burned the local synagogue in 1938."

The original item in a German newspaper stated that this silver was found in the gold and silver-shop of a certain Barbara Wagner. According to the German police, this woman has hidden these objects ever since the synagogue fires of 1938.

#### VI. German-Jewish Communities

There is little doubt that this will be one of our most complicated problems. I talked repeatedly and at great length with Dr. Auerbach in Munich who was very helpful and cooperative. The needs of the communities are not much stressed, only their "rights" which after all look very dubious -- and I am afraid even more dubious when one is in Germany. The secretary of the

Central Committee for Liberated Jews (DPs) told me in Munich that they had had a library, chiefly from the Offenbach Depot through the DP camps. They had to close the library because there had been not a single reader in six months-- and this with 7,000 Jews in Munich!

Dr. Auerbach proposed (and I agreed) to arrange two meetings in January, one in Munich on January 22 and the other in Stuttgart on January 29. The first meeting will be arranged by the Bavarian communities and the second by the Interessenvertretung with representatives of the other Laender. I must if at all possible try to see before January 29 certain key people in Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Freiburg. I shall propose that all distribution of books to German-Jewish communities should be handled by a central body which will be responsible for local distribution, because nobody seems to be aware of the fact that books were already distributed. However, this will be of little help. These communities, or rather these leaders, will probably demand that we give them a decisive voice in all our activities. I am now planning to see Leo Baeck; may be he can help.

The danger is of course that all books which may turn up in the future will be returned to these communities. In order to get a more objective picture of what to expect, I went to see Dr. Enders, the President of the Bayrische Landesamt fuer Wiedergutmachung, and asked him what he intended to do with the identifiable books after all claims have been filed: He replied, he would invite the Jewish Community Munich, the Bavarian Landesverband and JRSO in order to come to a decision. I asked the same question of Professor Held of the Municipal Library and he replied: He would turn over the books to JRSO. Things, at any rate, will be handled differently in every city; but the temptation to return books with stamps simply to the former owner is very strong indeed and has already led to a very difficult situation. JRSO, though theoretically maintaining that Jewish communities are not rightful successors, practically does not want to interfere, once books or archives are in the possession of certain community leaders -- as for instance in Bamberg, Regensburg, Augsburg and Karlsruhe (as far as the American zone is concerned).

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Field Report No. 13

E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

Report for December 1949

The work on the German-Jewish Institutional Collections is gradually nearing its end, as far as the sorting, the classifying and categorising of the books and, wherever possible, the completion of broken sets in the Central Collecting Point is concerned.

However, the allocation of the huge quantity of this and other material, thus stored awaiting shipment, and the careful preparation for shipping to the various destinations are likely to take appr. another two months. It is hoped that by the end of February, 1950, or, if possible, sooner, sufficient space will be available to begin working on the privately-owned (individual) books and book collections, at least on parts thereof (see below).

The categorising of the appr. 12,000 volumes of the libraries of the many hundred small German-Jewish organizations and institutions required a lot of time. This material, very roughly estimated, consisting of 25% each Hebraica, periodicals, and non-Jewish material (mostly "light" fiction), 10% each Bible (Talmud, liturgy, Palestine) and Varia (including Jewish history, Religionswissenschaft, etc.) and 5% Jewish fiction, will also, though only to a limited extent, serve the useful purpose of completing broken sets of the major collections the disposition of which is currently under consideration. A fairly large part of the German books contained in the various institutional collections appears to be of more than minor value.

Königsberg Collection Breakdown

I. HEBRAICA:-

Bible	80
Bible comment	19
Talmud	79
Talmud comment	31
Mishna	32
Schulchan Aruch	13
Maimonides	11
Halacha	105
Responsa	7
Derush	147
Liturgy	61
Modern literature	413
Varia	221
	1,217

II. YIDDISH

137

III. NON-JEWISH

82

IV. LEXICA

30

V. JUDAICA:-

Talmud	59
Liturgy	99
Jewish history	369
Palestine, Zionism	171
Belles Lettres	444
Foreign languages	97
Varia	901
Schocken Collection (school books)	<u>57</u> <u>2,197</u>
Total Königsberg collection	3,663

From the point of view of Jewish interest, though it does not contain any "treasures," Königsberg appears to be by far the most valuable of the major German-Jewish Institutional Collections.

Wuensche Collection Breakdown (Dresden)

I. NON-JEWISH:-

Religion, history of religion, philosophy of religion, philo- sophy, history of philosophy	223
General history	25
Greek and Roman Classics	27
Belles Lettres	48
History of literature	155
Works on Languages, grammars, lexica	46
Science and mathematics	11
Orientalia, in particular books on the Arabic-Islamic world	<u>229</u> <u>764</u>

II. JUDAICA (German), all categories, only	<u>39</u>
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Total Wuensche Collection	803
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The shipment of appr. 90 cases of books to Israel (Cohen, Breslau, Kirchheim) for early January 1950, was prepared.

To facilitate distribution at some later date, arrangements were made for a special large room to deal with periodicals.

Correspondence in connection with individual claimants continued. In various cases we were consulted by the Central Collecting Point. A list of claims (including indications of claims) and claimants is being prepared on the basis of all available sources (our correspondence, Offenbach OAD correspondence, Central Collecting Point correspondence, JRSO correspondence, copies of Nauheim claim forms, but in particular on the basis of our comprehensive list of individual owners, their books, their identification marks, etc.). This careful compilation is necessary in order to enable the JRSO to claim the remainder officially under Law 59.

Jewish Communities:- The JCR Ex Libris was gratefully acknowledged by the Stuttgart "Interessenvertretung," to which organization appr. 4,000 German Judaica of minor value were delivered

from Offenbach last May. However, the distribution has not yet started, since the listing of the items is not yet complete. We were promised copies of the list.

Ceremonial Objects. - Preparations are under way for the shipment to the A.J.D.C., Paris (for subsequent transmission to various destinations) of 18 Torah Scrolls, recently recovered by us from Marburg.

Investigations. - It was agreed between Dr. Arendt, Mr. Bernstein, and Dr. Lowenthal, that Mr. Bernstein is to report to Dr. Lowenthal once or twice a month so as to enable the latter (1) to convey to JCR New York and to JRSO headquarters Nuremberg the gist of Mr. Bernstein's findings relating to the post-1933 period, (2) to follow up from Wiesbaden the possible recovery and, subsequently, the processing of the material traced (in archives, libraries, museums, bookshops, etc.) and its transfer into our custody.

During December Dr. Lowenthal visited Mr. Fuks, Acting Librarian, Rosenthaliana, Amsterdam. No new information in particular as regards the disappearance of privately-owned Jewish libraries, etc. in Holland, could be obtained at this stage.

The administration is in good order. Cases of illnesses and the end-of-the-year holiday season put some restriction on the work.

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7EB 7/1/1950

Field Report No.14  
E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

Report for January 1950

We are gradually nearing the end of our operation in connection with the German-Jewish Institutional Collections, totalling appr. 50,000 items.

During the period under review, after obtaining the consent of both the JCR and the JRSO in New York, 94 cases, containing roughly 11,000 items, were shipped to the Hebrew University. This consignment consisted of the Hermann Cohen Collection (33 cases), the Kirchheim Collection (11 cases), parts of the Breslau Collection (49 cases); 1 case contained various matters.- All shipping, insurance, and financial arrangements were made here on behalf of the Hebrew University Library.

Further allocations from the material, contained in the German-Jewish Institutional Collections, were prepared as follows:

Switzerland: 65 cases (mostly Hebraica, some Judaica), from the Breslau Collection, originally suggested for shipment to New York; appr. 1,000 Judaica (1/4 each Jewish history, Jewish Belles Lettres, biblical and talmudical material, and Religionswissenschaft and varia); almost 350 volumes of periodicals in accordance with a specified desiderata-list, submitted to us by the Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund.

Sweden: 350 Hebraica and 350 Judaica.

Allocations of periodicals, based on desiderata-lists submitted, are in the process of preparation for the Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris, and the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina, Buenos Aires, while further desiderata-lists are being awaited from the A.JDC Paris (for Western Europe, except the A.I.U.) and from Great Britain. In each case, the JCR "Master List" is checked, so as to complete, in the first place, the New York periodicals pool.

To facilitate matters, all periodicals from the two Frankfurt collections (Gemeinde and Lehrer), Berlin, Koenigsberg and the various small institutions were pooled.

While we are waiting for the JCR decision, coupled with the New York JRSO consent, regarding the final allocation of the material (with the exception of periodicals) of the Berlin, the two Frankfurt, the Koenigsberg, the Wuensche, and the Berlin Hochschule collections, certain suggestions in this respect were made by us to the JCR in New York, whereby, chiefly in view of the nature of the scattered material available in each case, (1) categories

such as "Hebraica," "scientific material," "popular material" were established, and (2) due consideration was given to the requests from Latin American countries. This was also done on account of the necessity to gain sufficient space for the next stage of our Wiesbaden operations, namely, the handling of some 41,000 privately-owned identifiable books and book collections (to which subject reference is made below).

A priority claim in respect of the Dresden Wuensche Library was received by us from the Hebrew University Library.

Some 170 periodicals have been set aside for the German-Jewish Memorial Library of the Institute of Jewish Religion, New York, based on a desiderata-list.

Every effort was made to complete broken sets of the major collections still available, from the material, contained in the VARIOUS institutions, the result, however, being of minor importance.

The "Varia Department" of these VARIOUS institutions was subdivided further.

Where among the German-Jewish Institutional Collections odd and scattered archivalia were discovered, these were set aside for shipment to New York at some later date.

Ceremonial Objects:- The 18 Sifrei Torah, received by us from the Marburg Jewish Community and mentioned in previous reports, were collected by the Munich A.JDC Schlissheim warehouse for subsequent transmission to the JDC in Paris, as arranged between JCR and AJDC.

As regards the privately-owned identifiable material, totalling 330 cases with appr. 41,000 items, the JRSO in Frankfurt, taking into account some two dozen proper claims, submitted in time, i.e., December 31, 1948, by individual owners to the Bad Nauheim Central Filing Agency (Zentralanmeldeamt), totalling appr. 1,400 (fourteen hundred) items, has now made the official claim under Law 59 for the remaining appr. 39,000 items, based on our comprehensive list, referred to previously. This move was carefully prepared by JCR in Wiesbaden in conjunction with the JRSO in Nuremberg and Frankfurt.

The unpacking of this vast and by no means orderly packed material has begun. Provisions have been made for (1) putting together the books belonging to one and the same person, (2) setting aside (a) the material properly claimed in Bad Nauheim, (b) the material for which an indication of a claim would appear either from our correspondence or from that of the former "Offenbach Archival Depot" or from that of the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point or from that of the JRSO in Frankfurt, (c) in any case, all those collections which consist of six or more books.

Of the 41,000 books, 19,300 belong to the group of owners of 6 and more books, and 22,400 to the group of owners of up to and including 5 books. However, since the material, when packed and

again re-packed in 1947/48, was separated into so-called Jewish and so-called non-Jewish cases (boxes), it is quite possible that by putting together from these two only superficially established categories the books of one and the same owner, the number of owners of 6 or more books will increase.

Mr. Theodore A. Heinrich, the HICOG Cultural Affairs Adviser, was informed of the intentions with regard to our work in connection with the privately-owned identifiable books and book collections.

In the field of investigations, Mr. M. Bernstein, on the basis of the arrangement made with him as reported in December 1949, submitted to JCR in Wiesbaden details of his findings in the State and Municipal archives of Esslingen (Wurttemberg), Neuburg (Bavaria), Nuremberg, Ludwigsburg (Wurttemberg), Bamberg, Stuttgart and Hanover, and in Jewish libraries in Stuttgart, Mannheim, Augsburg, Karlsruhe and Hanover. All important particulars were immediately transmitted to the JCR headquarters in New York. In this connection, lists of Jewish matricula and other pertinent archival material was received by us from Mr. Bernstein.

The recovery of Jewish-owned objects in the Augsburg Museum and of two Jewish book collections in Munich, both traced by Dr. Arendt, and a press report on ceremonial silver-objects in Bamberg are being followed up by JRSO in Nuremberg.

Negotiations with various personalities and the JRSO in Frankfurt on the recovery and subsequent restitution to JRSO/JCR of ceremonial and other silver-objects, originating from the former "Museum Juedischer Altertuemer (Rothschildmuseum)" Frankfurt a.M., at present safekept and stored in the "Historische Museum" in Frankfurt, were carried on by Dr. Arendt and Dr. Lowenthal. Some 100 books, mostly Hebraica, which were handed over to the Marburg Jewish Community by the "Religionskundliche Sammlung" of Marburg University, now available to us, will shortly be taken by us to the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point.

Jewish Communities:- The "Interessenvertretung der juedischen Gemeinden und Kultusvereinigungen in der U.S.-Zone" Stuttgart have now listed the 4,000 Judaica, received by us (from the Offenbach Archival Depot) last year. Copy of that list was dispatched to New York for information purposes. - Almost 300 Hebraica and a number of Judaica were selected for the Berlin Jewish Community, to the needs of which our attention has been drawn by various people.

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

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FEB 27 1950

Field Report No.15

Hannah Arendt

February 10, 1950

I wish to submit herewith another field report on a few of the major items of my recent negotiations which are both varied and extended. The following itinerary will give you an idea of the numerous contacts recently established:

January	2-8: London
	9-15: Paris
	16-18: Wiesbaden
	19: Mainz
	20: Frankfurt
	21: Wiesbaden
	22-25: Munich
	26-29: Stuttgart and Tuebingen
	30: Heidelberg
	31: Karlsruhe
February	1: Worms and Landau
	2: Wiesbaden - Mainz
	3: Heidelberg
	6: Basel and Freiburg
	8: Baden-Baden, Rastatt
	9: Wiesbaden
	10: Wiesbaden

I

1. In order to prepare my investigations in the French and British zones, I found it necessary to visit London and Paris before taking my trip into these zones of Germany. Neither in the French nor in the British zone are proper Jewish successor organizations in existence. However, it is likely that they will be established in the next few weeks. Steps were taken in London and Paris to make sure that JCR concludes agreements with these organizations similar in form and content to that which was concluded between JCR and JRSO.

2. The British Trust Fund will probably be formed by the JDC, the Jewish Agency and the British Central Fund. Dr. Rabinowicz's Committee will be represented on its Board, as will probably the Board of Deputies, the Anglo-Jewish Association, and the Council of Jews from Germany. Dr. Rabinowicz is prepared to act as our representative on the Board. A draft agreement, drawn up along the lines of the agreement between JCR and JRSO, was sent to the Central British Fund and copies mailed to all British member organizations of JCR.

3. The formation of the British Trust Fund has been delayed time and again because of a certain opposition of the British Occupation

authorities which apparently were not too happy about the prospect of taking out of Germany all heirless and unclaimed Jewish property. The British Jewish agencies convinced the Foreign Office of the legitimate claims of the Jewish people to this inheritance. However, misunderstandings between the German-Jewish communities which have a tendency to establish themselves as successor organizations, and the international Jewish organizations, have delayed the actual establishment even further, because only a united Jewish front is likely to overcome the British opposition. In the meantime, work in the British zone, especially with respect to cultural property, will be particularly difficult and delicate. I was asked to postpone my trip to the British zone to the second half of February. I shall start around February 20th but will first contact Mr. Schindler, head of the United Restitution Office in Hannover, and Mr. Norris of the British Monuments and Fine Arts Section.

4. The situation in the French zone is even worse. It seems as though a successor organization is now in the making, mainly through the initiative of Mr. Jerome Jacobson of the JDC. However, according to French restitution law, the German-Jewish Landesverbaende are recognized as legal successors to property of extinct communities. The result may well be that a few Jews in Mainz will "inherit" the precious archives, Torah-scrolls and silver of the Worms community (see below) as well as the cases with silver now stored in the Mainz Stadtmuseum and formerly belonging, not to the Mainz community but to the Verein zur Pflege der Juedischen Altertuemer. How dangerous the lack of a proper successor organization is for our task can well be seen in the case of the Freiburg University Library which now admittedly possesses the private book collections of twenty Jews -- and whose director told me quite frankly that, apart from 2 or 3 small units which were properly claimed by individuals, he intends to keep the rest! The trouble is that restitution in France herself is a very uncertain affair. The Consistoire has received some Judaica and Hebraica from the French authorities, all unidentifiable property. But this restitution was not required by law ("Ils voulaient faire plaisir") and the Jewish organizations and institutions have no claim (nor apparently did they fight for such a claim) to unidentifiable or heirless Judaica and Hebraica.

## II

1. London: I visited the Council of Jews from Germany, the Board of Deputies, the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Jews' College, the Jewish Museum, the Wiener Library.

Dr. Rabinowicz had kindly called a meeting of his Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Cecil Roth. Present were: Dr. Hyamson (Historical Society), and one representative each of the Council of Jews from Germany (Dr. Rosenstock), the Jewish Museum, the Jews' College, the Wiener Library, and the Synagogue. We discussed the question of the two-year limitation on claims for recovery of identifiable property, and it was understood a) that the British members are at liberty to extend this time limit for

Great Britain; b) that they have no right to bind JCR resolutions in this respect. The Committee furthermore welcomed the planned establishment of a Rabbinical Court and suggested that this Rabbinical Court should function even after the peaceful liquidation of JCR. -- The British Committee apparently has handled distribution in Britain very well and intends to give surplus material to the British Museum. -- Ceremonial objects should be offered according to categories before shipment, if possible even with photographs. The Jewish Museum, with a very beautiful collection of its own, is not particularly interested; but new nuclei of collections are planned for Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Glasgow. -- The Committee repeated its request for more Torah scrolls. One synagogue in London alone lost 25 out of its 36 scrolls through bombing. Prof. Roth and other members insisted that they were ready to pay for the scrolls, to some Jewish welfare organization, since they cannot pay directly to JCR. I suggested some donation to the JDC. (I talked already to Judah Shapiro about this request and it is likely that Great Britain will receive between 35 and 40 scrolls out of the Paris stock. Of course, I conducted further negotiations in London, which, for the time being, do not warrant a detailed report.

2. Paris: I visited the Alliance Israelite Universelle (Eugene Weil), the Consistoire (Sachs and Manuel), the Jewish Agency (Jarblum), JDC (Jerome Jacobson and Judah Shapiro and Mr. Stein), the World Jewish Congress (Kahn-Debreux), Monsieur Leon Meiss, (former president of the Consistoire and the Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France), and Gershom Epstein, French representative of Yivo. I received some help from Leon Meiss and the Consistoire-- letters of introduction for the French zone, etc., and some valuable information from Jerome Jacobson for the legal situation in the French zone and from Epstein. The Alliance received all its books with the exception of the Genizah fragments, about 30 boxes, but the Library of the Federation des Societes Juives en France (foreign and immigrant Jews) received only about 500 volumes of its former collection of several thousands. Only the Alliance made a specific request for periodicals.

Dr. Shapiro gave me the following account for Torah-scrolls: Of a total of 774 scrolls, 548 were shipped to Israel as "usable but requiring repair," 98 were left in Paris for distribution in Europe, and 127 had to be buried. -- Ceremonial objects were distributed; only about 25 pieces are left. I saw such objects from our collection somewhere in the Consistoire.

The following is the restitution procedure of Jewish unidentifiable property in France: all items are sold for the profit of the French authorities; every other procedure is exceptional. Specific claims from individuals are honored from the pool of unidentifiable property.

### III

When I came back to Germany, I had first to follow up on those pending matters which I had initiated during the month of December. I also spent one whole week in Wiesbaden to get a better idea of

problems involving allocation and handling of individually owned books.

1. I sent the memorandum to Hundhammer, the president of the Permanent Conference of the Kultminister in Munich and copies of it to the Kultusministerien of Baden, Freiburg; Nord Rhein-Westfalen, Duesseldorf; Hessen, Wiesbaden; and Rhineland Pfalz, Koblenz. I talked once more to Staatssekretär Dr. Sattler in Munich who promised the formation of a special Library Committee which then would promptly issue a decree and who told me repeatedly that he liked the memorandum and thought that my propositions were reasonable and appropriate. I also saw Prof. Stein, Kultusminister of Hessen, who had called our office after having received copy of the memo, and was very friendly and interested. Stein, whom I saw about ten days after Sattler, told me that he had already been informed by Munich of the matter and formation of a library commission. I finally saw Dr. Clemens von Brentano in Freiburg, chief of the Staatskanzlei, an anti-Nazi of old standing.

In Munich, I also saw Dr. Middendorf, editor of the Bulletin of the Librarians, who promised the draft of his appeal by the early part of February.

2. Wiesbaden: We have some difficulties with Mr. Theodore A. Heinrich, HICOG Cultural Affairs Adviser, with regard to the individually owned books. Many claims were received, mostly phony, and many more are expected; the whole thing has received a kind of notoriety which makes him hesitate to give us the books. I outlined to him our proposition to search for owners of 6 or more books. He first agreed, but later raised more difficulties (obviously not his own, but from some superior authority) with respect to books in lots of 5 and less. He wanted all books treated as we want to treat those of 6 or more. I refused this, pointing out a) the technical difficulties, b) my lack of authority to go beyond our first proposition. But I showed him #4 of our agreement with recipient libraries and we then agreed that in the distribution of the individually owned books we would make reasonably sure that books belonging to the same owner would go to one institution and not be dispersed among several libraries.

In the meantime, the individually owned books are already being processed (see Lowenthal's January report). But the work is slow and difficult. I still fight for a deadline of April 30 to close all present operation, but I am afraid I will lose the fight. As to the other, i.e. the remainder of the institutional collections, it will be necessary, as I pointed out before, to pool all remaining Hebraica and Judaica from the various communities, including Koenigsberg and Frankfurt, in order to fill the needs of South American countries. But I think we can ship everything directly. Only scientific material, periodicals, rare books (including those printed prior to 1790), some non-Jewish material and the pedagogical collection of the Frankfurt Religionslehrer are prepared for New York.

Mr. Heinrich, fortunately, agreed to put the collecting point at our disposal for material not collected by the military authori-

ties but by ourselves be it through claims by JRSO under Law 59 or through agreement with the communities. This is very important, as there is reasonable hope to receive quite a number of archives, some thousands of books and the important silver collection of the Frankfurt Jewish museum in the near future.

IV

1. Frankfurt: 18 cases and two golden cups of the 17th century are claimed and prepared for restitution. They had been saved and stored by the Historical Museum in Frankfurt. The collection of Torah curtains has been destroyed through an air raid on a Dominican monastery where they were hidden by Dr. Rapp, the present director of the Museum. The Jewish community in Frankfurt made no difficulties: they would not know what to do with these things anyhow. Mr. Maier, President of the community, asked to receive a few objects if they are of no particular interest.

2. Munich: 2,500 Judaica from the Municipal Library (which prepared an itemized list) and 25 cases with general material are claimed. There is a possibility that this claim may be contested by the Bayrische Landesverband even though Rabbi Orenstein of Munich and Dr. Auerbach promised to cooperate.

I would like to stress that in both cases no claims would have been made if we had not taken matters in hand and found out what the situation was.

3. Schnaittach: The objects in the Heimatmuseum are now being claimed. Because of difficulties with the present director, I asked his superior, Dr. Lill of the Amt fuer Denkmalspflege to intervene.

Archives are being claimed all over Bavaria and some in Wuerttemberg.

Systematic searches are planned for the local museums into which ceremonial objects after 1938 may have been "saved." The Munich Amt fuer Denkmalspflege (Lill) and Prof. Martin of Karlsruhe and Freiburg will issue circular letters to Bavaria and Baden respectively.

We shall have to initiate a similar action for all monasteries; I contacted Prof. Hauser in Heidelberg who promised a list of the bishoprics which should issue such circular letters.

A similar action will be undertaken for a number of central archival institutions in the different Laender. In the case of Bavaria, one letter to the Director General brought more information about archives in Bavaria than all our previous investigations.

4. French Zone. Mainz: I was promised a list of the objects of the former museum, now stored in the Museum of the Municipality, but I anticipate some difficulties there.

Moreover, the Jewish community in Mainz still possesses its library which one can only see upon written request, several days in advance. The whole business is fantastic, but there is little we can do about it. Mr. Oppenheim of Mainz told me the only possibility would be some pressure from the Jews in the French occupation army. I went to see Rabbi Kalifa of Landau and his superior, Eischitzky, to whom I had an introduction from Meiss and the Consistoire; but he could not see me. His assistant promised quick reply, but I have not yet secured action. To make things a little brighter, I also went to see Gustave Levy, President du Tribunal Supreme in Baden, who is extremely friendly.

5. Worms: The story of Dr. Illert is well known by now. He has exhibited the Mahsorim and an old scroll, as well as a few pieces of silver. He now wants to restore the synagogue, has already started, and will soon begin to dig in order to see if he can find more objects of the former museum. He also promised to try to find out who took the silver cups of the Chevra Kadishah out of the bank safe in 1939. In his opinion, Worms will get some Jews to resettle if he only holds on to what he has. He has photographed all the tombstones and saved all the splinters of the capitals of the pillars, in order to put them together again. The whole archives are safely in the Museum. He showed me everything and promised a list. The gentlemen from Mainz have already approached him, but were told that with these objects 2,000 tombstones would roll to Mainz -- and would they please tell him what they are going to do in this event. Whereupon they disappeared. For the time being, Worms has become, according to him, a shrine of Jewish pilgrimage. Now they need a synagogue in order to be able to pray properly. He has asked the Bundesregierung for the necessary funds and I am not at all sure that he won't get them.

As long as we have no agreement with the Jewish communities in the French zone, I would rather leave these things with Illert than ship them around. It is clear that the Landesverband, i.e. Mainz, has no rights to these items. Also I do not think it wise to stop him from continuing his digging on the site of the synagogue, as no one else will do the job.

6. Freiburg: I met Nathan Rosenberg, President of the Oberrat der Israeliten Badens. There is hardly anything there worth our while, with the exception of the very doubtful University library (see Section I, paragraph 4 above). I also interviewed a bishop but without results.

Microfilming: This is a matter of great importance. There will not be any difficulties for microfilming in German libraries,-- manuscripts, documents, archive collection, whatever we want. In my opinion, the manuscripts of the Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin and Hamburg libraries should be microfilmed, as well as some important archival material.

All archival material which we get into our depot should be microfilmed. If and when the Gesamtarchiv will finally arrive, it should be microfilmed before being shipped to Israel.

The usual rate of the newly-established German central office amounts to about 10-15 German Pfennige per page. This, however, can be considerably reduced if we give a substantial order. Copies are 5 to 7 Pfennige per page. Assuming that we wish to microfilm a total of 200,000 pages (1,500-2,000 documents averaging 100 pages each), plus four copies (which we may sell), we would have to spend, roughly, \$10,000 to be paid in Marks. In addition, a total of about \$5,000 to cover salaries for two experts for two to three months, plus administration and unexpected expenses, will be needed. This grand total of about \$15,000 means that we shall need a JCR budget of \$5,000 plus a 50-60,000 Marks grant from JRSO which will be repaid in dollars.

As to the microfilming proper, the following possibilities exist:  
a) 10-page strip, used in Western Europe. Advantage: easy to find a given page. b) Roll films as used by the Library of Congress. c) Some new system to make the microfilms as usable as a book.

I believe that we should think of the search for caches and the microfilming as one operation because the microfilming will give us access to library stacks.

## VI

Jewish Communities: I attended the meeting of the Bayrischer Landesverband in Munich on January 22 and the meeting of the Interessenvertretung in Stuttgart on January 29. We arrived at a kind of agreement:

- a. They will not hinder us in the recovery of scientific or otherwise valuable material which the community cannot use.
- b. They will inform us of the cultural needs of their communities, i.e. the Landesverbände, and the rabbis will be responsible for distribution of and requests for books for the communities of a given Landesverband.
- c. They will hand over to us what they do not need.

Whether these promises will be kept remains to be seen. It is difficult to explain in such a report why that is so. It is quite typical that Augsburg is supposed to have had a library of 3,000 volumes which allegedly dwindled down to 300 or 500. But even this information needs not to be true. This is an illustration of how difficult it is to check such information.

The following items were formally promised us:

1. The ceremonial objects from Augsburg, now with Orenstein in Munich.
2. 360 volumes of archives in Regensburg, currently with Mr. E. Hermann.
3. The archives of the Straubinger community.
4. The archives now housed by the Karlsruhe community.
5. About 15 Torah-scrolls and some hundred books now in Freiburg.
6. The more important items in Heidelberg community.

The case of the sale of the Laemmle Klaus collection through the Mannheim community is interesting and unfortunate for two reasons: a) This is a precedent; we must insist on cultural property not being sold. Almost all communities are in the possession of other property though it is true that none of them has the possibility to take care of cultural property. The Frankfurt community admitted this very frankly when the question of the silver objects was being discussed. b) The Laemmle Klaus collection was never the property of the Community but was owned by a special foundation. This will be quite important for instance for the Mainz silver, which also was not the property of the Community, and in a number of other instances.

VII

Other Matters: The German Museum people plan the formation of a German restitution commission and a true search of their material. The important people in this commission will be: Prof. Martin, Karlsruhe; Holzinger, Frankfurt; Metternich, Bonn; Heidereich, Munich. We shall probably be able to work very closely together with them; up to now, they have not yet the approval of the occupation authorities and there are difficulties between the three zones. All these men are friends of Schoenberger, whose letters of introduction have proved extremely helpful.

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Field Report No. 16  
Hannah Arendt

February 18, 1950

I

Generally speaking, conditions in Berlin are most unfavorable for us because all larger libraries as well as the main stocks of the Jewish Community are located in the eastern sector. The following cultural treasures are exceptions to this rule:

1. The collection of paintings of the Jewish Museum which is now being claimed by the new offices of JRSO in Berlin according to a specified JCR list. This collection seems to be complete and will eventually come into our custody.
2. More than 300 pounds of silverware (ceremonial objects) are now housed in the JDC warehouse of the Jewish Community building at Joachimsthalerstrasse 13. These are the remnants of an almost complete Gestapo collection in the Muenchener Strasse consisting of synagogue silver from all over Germany. There were originally more than 500 pounds of silver. There is no doubt that the Berlin community has no right to these ceremonial objects, but, unfortunately, it is also beyond doubt that one will have considerable difficulty in persuading this community that it should give up its greatest financial asset. Information on these objects was given to me by some Jews who had worked in the Muenchener Strasse, and the story was confirmed by Rabbi Schwarzschild who told me about the present whereabouts of this huge collection.
3. A small quantity of books and archival material in the Haupt-Archiv of Berlin, formerly belonging to the Reichssippenamt. This material contains stray books from the Fraenkelsche Stiftung and the Viennese Community Library as well as some documents belonging to Yivo, Vilna. This material is now being claimed by JRSO and is awaiting transfer to JCR.
4. It is possible that some material is still in the Volksbuechereien in the western sectors of Berlin. The Berlin Municipality through the Volksbildungsaamt (Mr. S. Link) and the Amt fuer Literatur (Dr. Moser) will initiate a systematic search.

II

The following collections are now in the eastern sector:

1. On the cemetery in Wissensee there are about 1,000 Torah scrolls, kept in a small room in rather poor condition. It was already difficult to be permitted into the room, and quite impossible to really examine anything. We made a rough count; the scrolls seem to be in pretty good condition, but handles are mostly broken and there are hardly any covers.

2. In the community building there are still an estimated 8-10,000 books as well as many archives, documents, etc. From this "library" a small staircase leads up to a room directly under the roof where I found mountains of paper which, upon closer inspection, turned out to be: parts of the Gesamtarchiv - I don't know how great a part, impossible to estimate - , unbound periodicals, books, loose documents, folders of the Reichsvereinigung up to 1943, books bearing the stamp of the Gesamtarchiv, possibly manuscripts, correspondence, etc. The so-called librarian, a certain Mr. Fink whose "catalogue" of the library defies description, did his best to prevent me from climbing the stairs and "soiling" my hands. I asked Rabbi Schwarzschild to give the good man specific instructions to forget his "catalogue" and start sorting the material and putting it on shelves in the library.

3. I worked in the library for many hours, but the conditions are such that it is almost impossible to say exactly what is there and what is not. However, I ascertained at least 70 bound volumes of Ketuwoth from Amsterdam, covering a period of 250 years or more as well as a great many unbound documents. Among the latter, I saw documents from Mantua, Germany, Bialystok, the correspondence of Caro, Posen 1810, apparently from the archives of the Lehranstalt, pinkassim of the 18th century from Breslau and Posen. About 1,500/non-Jewish books, such as the complete set of Die Zukunft of Maximilian Harden, 5 volumes Aristoteles (Akademie edition), some nice modern bibliographical items.

There are not more than about 1,000 German Judaica, but a great many Hebrew and German-Jewish periodicals as well as non-Jewish periodicals (Magazin fuer die neue Historie und Geographie of 1769 etc.)

The following periodicals: Der Jude, 1916-1922, scattered, the Monatsschrift, Israelitisches Familienblatt, CV Zeitung, Der Morgen, Neue juedische Monatshefte, Jhb. f. Juedische Geschichte u. Litteratur, Jued. Zeitschrift (A. Geiger), Jued. Zeitschrift f. Wissenschaft und Leben I-IX, Allgemeine Zeitung d. Judentums, etc. etc.

A small collection of music literature.

A collection of about 700 volumes of legal literature.

Some good theological literature. About 200 Zionistica, and a few hundred Judaica in English, Russian and French.

There are thousands of prayer books and chumashim and some 800 Hebraica, mostly Talmud and Mishnayoth as far as I could determine.

About 500 Hebrew periodicals.

### III

1. Our main source is still Prof. Grumach and the people with whom he has or had contact. It appears that the German synagogue silver which we always thought had been smelted was on the

contrary carefully preserved for the purpose of establishing an anti-Jewish museum. The people who worked under the Gestapo in the Muenchener Strasse, told me that they had seen silver from all over Germany and many items from abroad, for instance a Torah-scroll from Sloniki which was 500 years old.

2. Library of the Hochschule: Part of it has been destroyed through bombing in the Eisenacher Strasse, part of it was shipped to Theresienstadt, a few volumes are in the Oranienburgerstrasse, and part seems to have been sold in Jerusalem by the firm Bamberg-er and Wahrmann who apparently bought these volumes in Holland!

3. In 1945/46 hundreds of thousands of books were spread all over Berlin. Even parts of the Jewish central collection in the Eisenacherstrasse were still there. The German libraries (especially the State library in this instance) took whatever they wanted. Some months later, the Bergungsgesellschaft stepped in and distributed books to the Staatsbibliothek, the Stadtbibliothek and the Ratsbibliothek as well as to a number of Volksbuechereien.

4. In 1947 the Oranienburgerstrasse still housed the following material which had been put there by the Nazis: (a) One room with archival material from the Reichssippenamt (which generally received Jewish archives everywhere in Germany) and (b) one room stacked with books to the roof. According to information from various sources, partly from Germans and partly from Jews who had worked there, the current president of the Community handed all this material over to the municipal authorities of the east-sector and retained only the Jewish material.

5. For reasons generally unknown, the Mormons were the first to get permission from the Russians to have a look at caches. They seem to have taken a certain number of archives and especially the films of the Gesamtarchiv and other Jewish archives which had been prepared by the Nazis and which partly are now in Duisburg-Hamborn in Westfalen. The photographer in Westfalen is also a Mormon and currently offers photostats or films to Jewish communities in the western zone for money. Munich and Stuttgart have bought such material, whereas for instance Karlsruhe had no money. Parts of these films are now in the hands of Mr. Langheinrich, a photographer in the Staatsbibliothek. One probably could get them for a small amount of money. Mr. Langheinrich said he wanted to hand these films over to his colleague in Duisburg.

6. Gesamtarchiv: I wish Mr. Bein is right and that there is some hope to get this back. From what I heard in Berlin, I am not very hopeful. The Gesamtarchiv, originally in the cache in Schoenebeck, was transported years ago -- to Halle?, to Merseburg?, to Potsdam?? Mr. Korfess of the Zentralarchiv in Potsdam knows probably where it is.

IV

What can we do?

1. I did not even attempt to talk to the community people but talked and tried to arrange a little understanding with Rabbi

Schwarzschild who will be back in the States around June 1. Schwarzschild has a certain but limited influence in the community. He might try to work out an agreement with us along the following lines: a) We get the Torah-scrolls via western sector with the understanding that not more than 15% of the scrolls are returned in repaired condition to the community for distribution in Germany, and that some high rabbinical authorities in Israel and the United States write a letter felicitating them on their steadfastness. (b) We get the more valuable parts of the library to be determined by Schwarzschild and one representative of JCR and all the archival material, as well as manuscripts etc. In return we give them what they need, and since we won't have it in Wiesbaden -- textbooks and Einheitsgebetsbuch -- we give them money as a contribution toward publication of text- and prayer-books. The silver in the Joachimsthaler Strasse should be claimed by JRSO, in my opinion. I don't know if they will succeed. But there is a chance since it is housed in a JDC warehouse and it is doubtless not silver which ever belonged to the Berlin community. As far as I can see and from what Schwarzschild and others told me, there is no hope for getting it from the community through an agreement.

2. Considerable quantities of Judaica and Hebraica are now being offered through dealers from the eastern zones because of an acute lack of money everywhere in eastern Germany. Schwarzschild told me that he buys everything he can afford to buy and showed me a few nice items, such as a set of Der Jude of 1771 (9 volumes the first missing), a Kessuva from Padua of 1680 and an illustrated Pessah Haggadah (Wolf) 1740. He would like to have a fund of 1,000 Marks and buy for us certain special items.

3. This is a pretty sad report, but we should try along these lines. There is hardly an alternative left.

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Field Report No 17

E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

February 1950

A. Institutional Collections

Work on the German-Jewish Institutional Collections is steadily progressing and likely to draw to its final close by the end of next month. Owing to the fact that (1) allocations and preparations for shipment to a number of Latin-American countries are to be made direct from Wiesbaden instead of from New York (thus saving labor and money in the U.S.) and, in this connection, certain financial "preliminaries" have to be clarified in advance, (2) we had to wait for approval concerning other allocations, this part of the Wiesbaden operation was not yet fully completed during the period under review.

At the end of February, the following consignments were either ready for shipment or in preparation:

1. Europe

Switzerland: Approximately 70 cases containing approximately 7,500 books, including appr. 6,300 Hebraica (from the Breslau collection).

Sweden: 7 cases containing appr. 350 Hebraica and 350 German Judaica, sent to Chief Rabbi Dr. Kurt Wilhelm, Stockholm; from this stock also needs of certain "Jidisca Kultur Klubben will be supplied.

Great Britain:

a. Periodicals only (as per desiderata-lists submitted -

Society of Jewish Studies, London - appr. 90 vols.

Jewish Historical Society of England "100 "

The Wiener Library, London " 120 "

Jews' College, London " 350 "

b. Remnants of the Central-Verein library, i.e. appr. 600 vols., plus some 200 antisemitica, were set aside for shipment to the Wiener Library.

France:

a. Periodicals only (as per desiderata-list submitted) - Alliance Israelite Universelle, appr. 150 vols.

b. Periodicals only (as per desiderata-list) - Centre de Documentation Juive, Paris - in preparation.

Belgium: A special request was received by us from Dr. J.J. Shapiro, AJDC Paris, concerning the Yeshiva Kehilat Jacob, Brussels. In this particular case, two boxes containing 56 Hebraica (rabbinics) were shipped to Brussels via the Munich AJDC warehouse at Schleissheim.

2. Western Hemisphere

Argentina: 34 cases containing appr. 5,000 books, including appr. 2,800 Hebraica (from the Berlin collection), 1,500 German Judaica, 400 vols. popular Yiddish materia, also Hebrew and German-Jewish periodicals.

Brazil: A total of 2,000 vols. approved by JCR, but indication as to the actual requirement awaited.

Uruguay: No absolutely clear statement was received yet as to the number of books to be allocated.

Mexico: A total of 500 vols. approved by Dr. Arendt. Thus far, several dozen Jewish books in English, French, and other languages selected.

3. South Africa

One case, containing appr. 90 German Jewish and French Jewish periodicals, based on a desiderata-list received by us from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, was packed.

At this point, the following remarks of a more general nature are in order:

1. To facilitate matters, the greater part of the periodicals, except those that were originally packed for JCR or the Hebrew University, were pooled in Wiesbaden.

Particular care was exercised regarding the priority rights on periodicals granted to the Hebrew University and the Jewish Institute of Religion. Also, the New York JCR Master List of periodicals was always consulted first.

2. Our Hebraica stock amounts to appr. 3,000 vols., and our stock of books in Yiddish is "next to nothing."

3. It is contemplated to ship "in one go" during March the consignments ready or in preparation, together with the remainders designated for Israel and for JCR New York, i.e. a total of appr. 200 cases. From the point of view of the necessary negotiations with the German authorities, the customs authorities, the forwarding and insurance agents, etc., this way of handling the various consignments appears to be the most practicable to us and to the Collecting Point.

B. Privately-owned (identifiable) Books

Some 4,000 of the privately-owned, identifiable books were processed and grouped into four categories: (1) books properly claimed in Bad Nauheim (Central Filing Agency); (2) books for which an indication of a claim has been established by us; (3) unclaimed collections up to and including 5 books; (4) book collections of 6 and more items.

The identification and registration of the privately-owned, identifiable books, in 1946/47, were not carried out by experienced persons, and a variety of errors has been discovered since. For this reason, our "huge" list, which was prepared on the basis of the original index-cards and was completed in the fall of 1949, can no longer be considered accurate. It is constantly being revised.

It is now possible to estimate the percentage of Hebrew material among those books: it is not likely to exceed 25%.

It was found necessary to prepare a supplement to our "huge" list, because among the material hurriedly shifted from the Offenbach Archival Depot to the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, on May 31, 1949, there were a few unmarked boxes, containing approximately 1,000 books, identifiable and mostly unclaimed, which were shipped to Offenbach years ago from the Marburg repository, consisting mainly of remnants of the Prussian State Library, Berlin. This material, which had never been touched by anybody, was put on shelves in alphabetical order, was recorded, listed, and checked against all available lists and correspondence relating to claims or indications of claims. The JRSO Hesse office, Frankfurt-a/M., is now negotiating with the appropriate authorities on a "Beschluss" stipulating the release of the unclaimed books to JRSO/JCR.

The AJDC, Paris, indicated the possible availability of space for the accommodation of another 120-150 cases for storage until proper claims are made. This will greatly assist us in our program for the collections of six and more books.

A draft of a press notice, for some later date, announcing the availability of lists, giving details of the collections of six and more books, was drawn up jointly by Dr. Arendt and Dr. Lowenthal and transmitted to New York.

Inquiries, personal and written, regarding privately-owned identifiable books and book-collections continued coming in.

C. "Correspondence" and Archival Material

Seven cases, containing what we call here "correspondence," i.e. letters, photos, albums, documents, invoices, etc., largely originating from Germany, - all identifiable material, packed disorderly many years ago - were sorted, done up in packages, and labelled. It must be borne in mind that that material, collected

in Offenbach during the period 1945-1948 from all corners of the Archival Depot, constitutes pitiful remnants of Jewish family "archivalia."

Some valuable and older archival material contained in the "correspondence" was set aside for shipment to New York at some later date.

The release of one very small collection of personal documents and private letters to the owner (Mr. Ernst Kirchheim, London, Raphael Kirchheim's son), and of one large collection - two cases - of manuscripts, letters, drafts, etc., belonging to the late Dr. Arnold Berney (Freiburg i.B., Berlin, Jerusalem) to the heir, Mrs. Berney, Jerusalem, was approved by HICOG, JRSO, and Dr. Arendt. The Berney material will be shipped to Mrs. Berney together with our next consignment for the Hebrew University.

Receipts and other relevant material regarding the sale of the Malch (Baden) synagogue, discovered among the "correspondence," were passed on to JRSO headquarters, Nuremberg, because these may be useful to the regional official in his negotiations regarding the case of the then forced sale of the synagogue.

Odd archival material of historical value, though limited in extent, is being traced currently and set aside for shipment to New York.

#### D. Investigations (caches)

While the work in connection with institutional material is nearing its end, our activities in the field of investigation, information and search are increasing.

Mr. Bernstein reported to Wiesbaden twice during the period under review, details of his findings having been transmitted both to JCR New York, for information, and to JRSO for action if and where possible. Mr. Bernstein's chief and most successful "targets" were Sinzheim a.d. Elsenz (Baden, U.S. zone), where he discovered communal heirless Jewish property in the local Heimatmuseum; Wolfenbuettel (British zone), where in the Niedersaechsische Staatsarchiv he discovered one Esther scroll and handwritten sermons of the local rabbi, all 19th and 20th century material; Kassel (U.S. zone) - Torah Wimpel; Marburg (U.S. zone) - Torah Wimpel, in the meantime received by us.

Following Dr. Arendt's tour of Germany, an extensive follow-up correspondence was undertaken by the Wiesbaden office with - to mention only a few cases -

the Frankfurt Historische Museum, safeguarding valuable remnants of the former Juedische Museum Frankfurt (Rothschild Museum, owned by the Association "Juedisches Museum"); - a film showing the items was obtained from Frankfurt and dispatched to New York;

Mainz Historische Museum, re remnants of the former Mainz Juedische Museum;

Organization of the Jewish Communities in Bavaria re cultural

objects and archival material in Augsburg, Regensburg,  
and Straubing;  
Badische Landesarchivverwaltung, Freiburg i.B. (French zone)  
Badische Generallandesarchiv, Karlsruhe (U.S. zone);  
Landesdenkmalamt Karlsruhe (re Heimatmuseums and the like);  
Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe (re confiscated Jewish  
libraries);  
Historische Museum der Pfalz, Speyer (French zone) re Heimat-  
museums;  
Wuerttembergische Landesamt fuer Denkmalpflege;  
Tuebingen (French zone) re Jewish cultural objects from Wuert-  
temberg;  
United Restitution Office (URO), Hanover, re ceremonial objects  
from all over Germany, stored in the British Sector of Berlin  
Oberrat der Israeliten Badens, Freiburg i.B., French zone, from  
whom we will obtain Torah scrolls and Jewish books;  
JRSO headquarters, Nuremberg, re Jewish books in the Munich  
Municipal Library;  
Deutsche Staatsarchiv, Merseburg, which replied that Jewish  
archival material stored there is claimed by "a" Jewish  
organization in Berlin (Ostzone);  
Volksbildungsaamt Berlin (West) re information on Jewish books  
and book collections in Berlin (West) municipal libraries,  
etc., etc.

Dr. Lowenthal had a talk re Jewish cultural property in the French  
zone with Mme. Rose Valland, the head of the French "Service de  
Remis-en-Place des oeuvres d'art, Berlin.

Dr. Lowenthal visited Kassel in order to initiate the search for  
the art-objects, once displayed by the Kassel Juedische Museum,  
owned by an association "Juedisches Museum," at the Kassel Hess-  
ische Landesmuseum (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen). Various talks  
with museum and art experts led to the discovery of itemized lists  
and to certain contacts with persons in London, Wuerzburg and Ber-  
lin who, on the basis of their knowledge of the situation up to  
1939, may be able to convey to us pertinent information. Semi-  
private files, belonging to the late Kassel Jewish art-historian  
Dr. Rudolf Hallo, were discovered in the Kassel Museum, and their  
transmission to us for inspection and their eventual return to  
the rightful heir, Dr. Gertrude Hallo, England, was arranged.

Dr. Lowenthal also negotiated with the Land Archives Administra-  
tion Land North Rhine/Westphalia, Duesseldorf (British zone), and  
a photographer's firm in Duisburg-Hamborn (British zone) conerning  
information on photostatic copies and/or films of Jewish "Person-  
enstandsregister" from all over Germany, made after 1942 at the  
request of the Nazi Sippen(haupt)amt.

JCR Wiesbaden was frequently consulted on matters and questions  
regarding books, art objects, etc., by the Central Collecting  
Point Wiesbaden and by URO (United Restitution Office) Frankfurt/a.M.

Dr. Lowenthal represented JCR at a conference of the "Deutsche  
Gesellschaft fuer Dokumentation," held in Frankfurt-on-Main on  
February 8.

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Field Report No. 18  
Hannah Arendt

February 15 - March 10, 1950

I had postponed my trip to the British zone in the hope that the negotiations between the British and international Jewish organizations on one side, and the German Jewish communities on the other, scheduled for the beginning of February, would have resulted in an agreement with respect to the succession to community property. (The chief difficulty for the establishment of a "British Trust Fund" -- the successor organization in the British zone -- has been the current conflict between the claims of German Jewish communities to succession to the pre-Nazi community property and those of the international Jewish organizations.) However, these negotiations started only at the beginning of March. Things look considerably brighter now than when I visited the British zone, because, according to a news item in the Times of April 6, the Allied High Commissioners have nullified a German governmental decree which had recognized the Jewish communities of Rhineland-Westphalia -- one of the Länder in the British zone -- as legal successors to community property, stating explicitly (a) that this recognition was unfair because a majority of the surviving members are now living outside of Germany, and (b) that the German government had overstepped its competence. This is of general importance because the German-Jewish communities frequently show a deplorable tendency to make common cause with the German government against the international Jewish organizations.

I started out on February 20, and went first to Hannover, in order to talk to Mr. Schindler, head of the United Restitution Office in the British zone. Because of the unsettled situation, he urged me to avoid contact with German political bodies, not to discuss any restitution problems and to explain that we are interested only in the centralization of information. The reason for this caution is that the British Occupation authorities, as distinguished from the Foreign Office in London, have shown a not too friendly attitude towards the claims of the Jewish organizations, and that even the London authorities were willing to recognize a Jewish successor organization only if they were confronted with a united Jewish front, which at that time had not yet been constituted.

This caution was even more important for cultural property than for real estate, bonds, etc. I saw at length Mr. Norris of the British Monument and Fine Arts Section at Bünde in Westphalen. Although Mr. Norris has not much love for the Germans, he also would be clearly opposed to shipping cultural objects out of Germany. This general opposition has been considerably strengthened through the IRO sale of cultural objects in New York. The

French, as well as the British officials in Germany, felt that this sale was against all international agreements and constituted a kind of looting. Mr. Norris told me that he and his French colleagues have reported the matter to their governments and hoped for diplomatic intervention on the highest level. It is, therefor, very important for our work that we stress the fact that our organization does not sell.

Mr. Norris was on the whole very friendly and cooperative. He gave me introductions wherever I needed them, and in one instance, where I had to interview a librarian who had been a member of the Nazi party and to whom I had not been able to get an introduction, he made an appointment for me through the British authorities. In his opinion big SS caches exist still in the British zone in the neighborhood of Hamburg as well as in Westphalia, which the British have never been able to locate. He also drew my attention to a small collection of Torah scrolls in Berlin, American sector, for which in the meantime I contacted the proper municipal authorities and which will be claimed through the usual channels. He gave me also information about the Ahnen Erbe, a Bavarian Nazi outfit, whose president was a certain Professor Wüst, former Rector of the Munich University. This organization had many branches and sent looting missions into the Balkans. They had an agreement with the German military authorities according to which they could keep 10% of all looted material. I have a hope that part of this material found its way into Munich University library, because of the connection between the Ahnen Erbe and the university through its president, and this matter is now under investigation.

Hannover:-- The Jewish community of Hannover has a small library of not more than 1,000 volumes among which are a few interesting items - periodicals, broken sets, and some scholarly Hebrew and other material - which I asked them to send to the Wiesbaden depot. They also have a few folders with archives of the 18th century from smaller communities in the neighborhood. I hope that these documents also will be sent to the Wiesbaden depot.

While I was there, I went to the headquarters of the Social Democratic Party to which I had personal introductions from Berlin and other places. They promised to try to get us some information about the eastern zone and this information will be valuable even though it has hardly any practical consequences at this moment.

Hamburg:-- The situation in Hamburg is somewhat different from any other city in Germany. The Hamburg municipal authorities under the Nazi regime and, of course, being Nazis themselves, were the only ones who succeeded in saving tangible and valuable material from the SS and Gestapo depots in Berlin, where all these things in general were centralized. The following items have been saved:

1. The entire Hamburg community library was handed over to the Hamburg University library and put into the same caches which the University library had used for its own books in the

neighborhood of Dresden. The numbers of the cases are 401-499. The greater part of these cases are now in the hands of the Dresden Jewish community and the remainder in the Albertinum in Dresden. Dresden is located in the Russian zone and all efforts of the university library to get back its own material together with these cases, as well as the efforts of the Jewish community (relations are very good in Hamburg between Jews and Germans and all efforts were coordinated) have proved to be of no avail. Our only consolation is that this valuable library still exists in its entirety.

2. When the Hamburg Jews were forced to give up their household silver, a total of about 20,000 kilos, the Hamburg Museum people, and especially a certain Dr. Schellenberg, who is now with the Museum fuer Hamburgische Geschichte, were permitted to take out the most valuable objects, so that 2,000 kilos of silver were saved from smelting. These items, about 30,000 objects, among which, however, there are only few ceremonial objects (Schellenberg mentioned especially a beautiful Wand Menorah from Hamburg from the beginning of the 19th century) were bought by the municipality of Hamburg. 150 items were photographed and the photos are with Prof. Meyer of the Kunstgewerbe Museum, Hamburg. The whole material is now under the guardianship of the Hamburg municipality (Stadt-Kämmerei). The objects are being listed by the municipality under the direction of Schellenberg, and the catalogue will be ready in about a year from now.

This is private property and there are a few claims to restitution. However, only in one case has property been returned. Schellenberg, upon my question as to what he thinks will ultimately be the fate of unclaimed objects, told me of his plans to establish with them a special division in his museum. He did not hide his sharp opposition to every attempt at shipping "his" collection (which in fact is his selection) out of Hamburg. The British Trust Fund, however, will have no trouble of claiming this hoard as heirless private property.

3. The archives of the Hamburg Jewish community, which were previously reported to us and for which Shunami negotiated with Dr. Pardo, are now in the Hamburg State Archives, with the express agreement of Mr. Goldstein, President of the Hamburg Jewish Community. For the moment, there is no prospect whatsoever of getting this valuable material. Mr. Goldstein, by the way, a very decent man, has received considerable help from the Hamburg municipality for the restoration of the Jewish cemetery. In his opinion, the Jewish organizations have not done a thing for the Hamburg Jews and as long as the international Jewish organizations do not help in the reconstruction of Hamburg community life, Mr. Goldstein will oppose every attempt to get Jewish things out of Hamburg. In other words, he wants mainly help for the restoration of the cemetery. He is convinced, and probably rightly so, that the Jewish community archives are well cared for by the Hamburg State Archives. I did not press the matter, for the reasons mentioned above, but have the impression that it now should be possible to come to an agreement with Mr. Goldstein whose honesty is beyond doubt.

Dr. Prado, by the way, is without much influence in the Jewish community at present and negotiations for the archives should not be conducted with him. There is, however, another personality involved: a certain Notar Hertz, a Jew or a half-Jew who simply happens to have a special interest in this material, loves to work with them, etc. Strange as it may sound, it seems to me quite obvious that if Dr. Hertz does not want to part with the things, which he finds very conveniently housed in the State Archives, we shall have trouble to get them. This is only one illustration among many that every cultural treasure to which German Jewish communities lay claim eventually becomes private property of some member of the community, and this not because of wickedness or dishonesty, but simply because of objective conditions.

4. What Dr. Schellenberg had done for private household silver was done by the Hamburg Völkerkundemuseum for synagogal silver. The more valuable items were bought by the Museum from the Nazi authorities. After the war the Museum reported its treasures to the British authorities which in turn gave them as a loan to the Hamburg Jewish community.

5. The Jewish community in Hamburg has also interesting items in its library. The books are on shelves, but not used. There are about 400 Judaica with the stamp of the Talmud Torah Schule Hamburg, approximately 500 Hebraica with either ex-libris of private owners or unidentifiable as to ownership. Only a small percentage of private owners are Hamburg Jews. 200 more Hebraica bear Hebrew ex-libris. More than 100 Judaica bear the stamps of private owners, not necessarily from Hamburg, but from all over Germany, and about 100 non-Jewish items were the property of a missionary Catholic association called Fluss-Schiffer-Seelsorge.

6. Part of the ceremonial objects from the synagogues in Altona is now in the Altonaer Museum.

Other Interesting Information:-- 1) The collection of Hebrew manuscripts in the Hamburg State Library, and especially the collection of Levy, is saved and unpacked. I saw the collection myself. The Director, Dr. Thieman, is friendly and cooperative.

2) I also saw Dr. Heise, Director of the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, with whom I discussed the situation in the Altona Museum, and who recommended a letter to the Amter für Denkmalspflege in the British zone. He gave me the names and addresses and agreed that we write "upon his suggestion."

3) I also visited the Voelkerkunde Museum in Hamburg, where I talked to Dr. Dittner. The reason was my unfortunately fruitless attempt to find out what had happened to the Hamburg Museum für Jüdische Volkskunde. This museum had been on loan in the Voelkerkundemuseum until April 27, 1937. On that date Dr. Bamberger, as a representative of the Gesellschaft für Jüdische Volkskunde, received 60 books, 29 paintings, and 445 ethnographic objects. A list of this material is in the files of the museum.

I have been asking Mr. Goldstein, President of the Hamburg Jewish Community, to help us find out what happened later, but so far without success.

Another item of interest is the following: Dr. Dittner, moreover, who formerly was in Berlin, told me that his colleague, Dr. Newerman of the Berlin Voelkerkundemuseum, which is now in Dahlem in the American sector, received ceremonial objects from the Jewish communities in Galicia during the war "zu treuen Händen." This matter is now under investigation.

Lübeck:-- In Lübeck, I talked to Norbert Wollheim, who is the head of the so-called Central Committee, that is, the overall organization of Jews in the British zone. As distinguished from the other zones, Jewish DP's and German Jews are organized together. However, the German Jewish communities in Rheinland Westphalia have already broken away, and it is likely that this whole combination will dissolve in the near future. The reason that it could function so long and so well is the personal friendship between Norbert Wollheim of the German Jews and Jessel Rosensaft of the DP's. Wollheim as well as Rosensaft adopted a friendly attitude toward our claims.

In Lübeck, the Jewish community had received a number of ceremonial objects from the municipality at the end of the war. These objects were supposed to be from the local synagogues and given last year to some Israeli congregations. In Israel, however, where members of the former Lübeck community now live, it turned out that these objects had never belonged to any synagogue in Lübeck. Nobody has thus far been able to identify these items.

I saw Rosensaft later in Hamburg, and explained to him, as I had done to Wollheim, what our aims are. Both assured me that there is a considerable amount of cultural property in the hands of the communities now. They seem to be aware of the danger that this may be dispersed, or even sold, and at any rate, be lost to Jewish scholars and the Jewish tradition in the world. Upon their request, I wrote them an official letter asking them to write to the Jewish communities in support of our purpose and to get them to report at least what they hold now.

Cologne:-- I spent several days in Cologne with very little result. I tried, without success, to find out what happened to the collection of the ceremonial objects from Deutz, and talked especially to the people of the Rheinsches Museum in Deutz, who had this collection, among other objects from the Rhineland, for their exhibition in 1928. Nobody seems to know what happened after 1929, when everything was returned.

I also tried to find out if any Jewish archives survived in the municipal archives, and was assured that there were none.

However, my main reason for going to Cologne was to interview Dr. Juchhoff of the University library, who, during the entire Nazi time, was chief of the so-called Gesamtkatalog, and who, therefore, should know almost offhand which libraries during the

period in question acquired Hebraica for their Oriental departments. I made an appointment with Dr. Juchhoff through the British Occupation authorities -- with the result that the reception was almost the worst which I ever got in Germany. Mr. Juchhoff, of course, knew nothing. However, my assumption that the Gesamtkatalog is lost or has been destroyed proved to be wrong. Only the card catalogue was found in a cache in the Russian zone and transported to Russia (two and a half million of cards!). The Gesamtkatalog exists in print until December 1944 under the title "Deutscher Gesamtkatalog, Neue Titel." Up to 1939, volumes which cover 5-year periods were published; single unbound issues, covering three-months periods, are available to the end of 1944. It may be worthwhile to go through this whole catalogue and see which are the oriental departments of the university libraries that acquired considerable quantities of Hebraica after 1933. I had a look at the matter and am pretty convinced that this will take up a lot of time, and the results, of course, are unsure. The Gesamtkatalog is available in many German libraries and probably also abroad.

To the treasures in the British zone now known to us must be added the following:

1. The 300 kilos of silver in Berlin which are now stored in the cellar of the Jewish community building, Joachimsthaler Strasse 13, in the British sector, which I reported previously. This is synagogue silver from all over Germany and came into the possession of the Berlin community only by accident.
2. Parts of the Koenigsberg community archives which had been incorporated into the Jewish Division of the Koenigsberg State Archives in 1934 and 1937 are now in Goslar in the Zonales Archiv-Lager under the custodianship of the Mayor of Goslar, Mr. Meyer. We shall receive a list of this material in the near future.
3. The Samsonschul-library is now, probably intact, in the Bibliotheca Augusta (also known as Lessing Library) in Wolfenbüttel. This collection has been handed over to the German Library in the early years of the Nazi regime for safekeeping. The acting librarian seems prepared to restitute to legal successors. The Samsonschul had been a Stiftung made by the Samson family.
4. A certain firm of photographers, Gatermann in Duisburg-Hamborn, possesses the microfilms of southern German-Jewish communities of which they have been trying to sell photostats to German Jewish communities in Bavaria, Württemberg and Baden. Part of these films seem to be in the hands of the photographer of the Berlin State Library in the eastern sector of Berlin, a certain Mr. Langheinrich. We are now receiving photostatic copies of the lists of all films which are with Mr. Gatermann and received already those for Baden: A total of 1,021 films with 24,344 pages covers 92 communities in North Baden (American zone) and 450 films with 10,259 pages cover 33 communities in Süd-Baden

(French zone), mostly birth, marriage and death registers of the 19th century. These films were probably made from the Gesamtarchiv. The ownership question is complicated, because the Gesamtarchiv was confiscated Jewish property, but the films, made upon the initiative of the German Reich, are probably today German property.

The deadline for claims in the British zone expires on June 30, 1950. Since a successor organization does not yet exist in the British zone, we have brought all findings to the attention of Mr. Schindler of the United Restitution Office in Hannover. We also sent copies of the Tentative List to the Central British Fund in London, and to Mr. Schindler in Hannover, in order to make possible a specified list of claims to cultural community property. It should be borne in mind, however, that cultural treasures which now turn up in the British zone do not necessarily originate from the localities where they are found.

Addendum to My Previous Report on the French Zone:-- We found out in the meantime that the more valuable part of the Jüdisches Altertumsmuseum in Buchau, Württemberg, French zone, is now in the Buchau Heimatmuseum. The cases are not unpacked; the museum officials intend to return these objects to the only Jew in Buchau, Mr. Siegfried Einstein.

I spent my last days in Germany in Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, and Nuremberg. In Wiesbaden I talked to Mr. Heinrich, who is now on vacation for two months and whose promises as to the availability of space at the Central Collecting Point for future incoming material unfortunately proved to be only tentative. The Occupation authorities are anxious to close their Monument and Fine Arts Sections. There is, however, justified hope that we may keep some government facilities until the end of this year.

In Frankfurt I saw Prof. Eppelsheimer for the last time and talked to him about the considerable quantities of books which were turned over by the military authorities from the Offenbach depot to the German government in Hessen and which are now under his trusteeship. The large majority of these books are unclaimed private property of non-Jewish content. According to the agreement with the military authorities, unclaimed books were to go to German libraries. Prof. Eppelsheimer agreed that a majority of these books were formerly Jewish private property and assured me of his intention to give us back a certain percentage. I proposed about 50%. This question, however, will come up only when restitution to claimants has been finished, i.e., at the end of the summer. Eppelsheimer then will need the okay of the Kultusminister of Hessen, Dr. Stein. Before I left Germany, I wrote to Stein explaining to him the situation and the tentative agreement which I had reached with Eppelsheimer.

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

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Field Report No.19  
E. G. Lowenthal  
(Wiesbaden)

March-April 1950

I

A. German Jewish Institutional Collections

1. Shipments up to May 1:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
Switzerland	73	7,443
Sweden	7	696
France	3	163
"	1	18
Great Britain	12	1,550
South Africa	1	89
Argentina	34	4,932
Israel	158	17,386
Total	289	32,277

2. Ready for shipment

48 cases, with appr. 6,900 items, to New York  
1 " " 52 " " Israel  
appr. 4-6 " " 800 " " Great Britain

3. In preparation

6,000 items to Latin American countries.

B. Individually Owned Books

One-third of a total of approximately 45,000 items has been processed. There is an approximately equal number of collections up to 5 books, and of collections of 6 and more books per owner. The percentage of Hebrew material is about 25%.

II. New Material

All major claims through JRSO are still pending.

A. Books

A few hundred Hebraica and Judaica from German Jewish communities arrived in the depot.

B. Archives

Some archival material now in German archives in Esslingen and Karlsruhe has been recently claimed by JRSO.

Material discovered in Berlin and in Ludwigsburg is expected to arrive in the depot next month.

We ordered photostated lists of the films of birth, marriage and death registers, which had been made by a photographer in Duisburg-Hamborn at the request of the Nazi authorities in 1944. 3,400 volumes of this type of community archives are available in microfilms.

III. Investigation

Ceremonial Objects

Inquiries concerning local museums were started in Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Wesphalia, Württemberg, North Baden, Pfalz, Altona, Braunschweig, Bonn, Oldenburg.

A notice asking to report Jewish cultural property to JCR Wiesbaden has been, or will be, inserted in the Official Church Gazettes, which are published by some twenty Catholic Episcopal ordinariates. These are widely distributed among monasteries.

Results

Replies have begun to come in. Apart from museums in Schnaittach Bavaria; Buchau Württemberg; and Altona, whose holdings were reported previously, the Monastery of Schweiklberg near Passau, reported 13 large Torah scrolls and a number of smaller scrolls; the Badische Landesmuseum in Karlsruhe, North Baden, reported an unspecified number of ceremonial objects (the cases are not yet unpacked); the local museum of Weinheim, Baden, a few ceremonial objects; the museum in Ludwigshafen, some books and ceremonial objects.

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

May 9, 1950

MEMORANDUM

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

In accordance with the suggestion made by the Board of Directors at their meetings of October 1, 1949 and April 12, 1950 to set up a rabbinic court to deal with doubtful claims, the Synagogue Council of America has established an Arbitration Board, on which the following are to serve: Rabbi William F. Rosenblum, chairman; Drs. David de Sola Pool and Max Arzt; and Dr. Bernard Heller, consultant.

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

OCT 5 1950

Field Report No. 21  
Meir Ben-Horin

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL REPORT ON MISSION TO WESTERN EUROPE

This Special Report, covering the highlights of my JCR assignment to Western Europe during the months of July and August 1950 and representing a summary of the detailed reports submitted to the President and the Executive Secretary on each phase of my activities, is at the same time a statement on the current state of JCR in Europe. It deals with the following main points:

- I. JCR at the Central Collecting Point, Wiesbaden
- II. The Ministerial Decree
- III. The Microfilming Project
- IV. Pending Claims
- V. JCR and the Jewish Trust Corporation
- VI. Findings in Austria

While it was my mission in general to follow up the negotiations initiated by the Executive Secretary during her trip to Germany early this year, it was my specific assignment to undertake a "Pilot Study" on the project of microfilming Hebrew manuscripts in Western Germany. A considerable part of this report will therefore present the information collected in this connection.

I. JCR at the Central Collecting Point, Wiesbaden

The current operation of sorting, listing, and preparing for shipment of the category of individually owned books, totalling about 45,000 items, is nearing completion. Despite great efforts on the part of the JCR staff to attain a higher speed in the processing of these books, no appreciable acceleration was possible. One of the major obstacles was the necessity to wait for the issuance by the German Office for Property Control and Restitution in Offenbach of the final decree releasing these books into JRSO-JCR custody. Dr. Schoenfeld in Frankfurt, as JRSO representative for Hesse, pursued this matter quite vigorously but could not, of course, set a date for the German court. HICOG, on the other hand, insisted that the court action is a condition for the HICOG release of these books to JCR. It was the consensus of Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Chief of JCR's German Division, and of Mr. Theodore Heinrich, HICOG Cultural Advisor and head of the Central Collecting Point, that this work cannot be completed before the end of the year.

In connection with "The Non-Jewish Books in Frankfurt," on which Prof. G. Scholem has reported in a Special Report, Mr. Heinrich informed that the Central Collecting Point cannot offer its hospitality to new in-shipments of large dimensions and that he is under pressure to bring the Collecting Point's book operation to an early close.

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1950

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This means then that the JCR office and depot will be closed on December 31, 1950. This will at the same time mark the completion of the main JCR commitment in the US zone in Germany--barring the discovery or appearance of hitherto unknown caches. It is because of this possibility that we must maintain an address in Germany: JCR c/o JRSO, Nuremberg.

### II. The Ministerial Decree

In her memorandum, submitted to the Bavarian Kultusminister on January 18, 1950, the Executive Secretary proposed the issuance of a decree by the Permanent Laender Conference of Kultus Ministers instructing all librarians, archive officials, and museum directors in the three Western zones of Germany to undertake a thorough scrutiny of their stocks with a view of locating Nazi-confiscated Jewish books. Periodic reports were to be forwarded to JCR in Wiesbaden. The memorandum also indicated that Dr. G. Hofman, Director General of the Bavarian State Library and President of the German Library Society, had promised publication of an appeal for the same purpose.

1. Dr. Hofmann told me that publication of the appeal had been without any effect whatsoever. He suggested that I see Ministerialrat Ritterspach, the Bavarian Kultusministerium's Bibliotheksreferent who is friendly disposed toward us. Hofmann also stated that Mr. Auerbach, head of the "Wiedergutmachung" in Bavaria, was involved in all matters pertaining to restitution and that all reports on findings must be channeled through him.

2. When I met Ritterspach, he told me he had been awaiting my visit as Dr. Hofmann had informed him of our conversations. Ritterspach, friendly, interested, and obviously desirous of being obliging and helpful, first raised the question of the need for a decree in addition to Law 59. I suggested that in view of the current flooding-back of the bulk of reallocated stocks to German institutions a decree would serve as added emphasis on the continued importance of reporting newly found Jewish cultural property. Ritterspach finally stated the Kultusministerium would issue a decree for Bavaria on the basis of Dr. Arendt's memorandum, emphasizing the legal aspect of the requirement to report the presence of Jewish cultural property. He also promised to discuss the matter with Dr. Keim, Secretary General of the Permanent Laender Conference of the Kultus Ministers, and recommend to him the promulgation of a similar decree for all of Western Germany. He finally promised speedy notification of JCR in Wiesbaden of the action taken and of new developments in this matter.

3. In August the Bavarian Kultusministerium informed us that no action could be taken on the matter of the decree and that all matters pertaining to restitution fall into the competence of the Bavarian Restitution Office. In other words, Auerbach had been

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consulted by the Bavarian officials and evidently had vetoed the JCR proposals. This conclusion is in line with the information on Auerbach's interference in other matters. (See Section IV below).

4. I brought the matter of the "Ministerialerlass" to the attention of Dr. Martin Cremer, Director of the "Westdeutsche Bibliothek" (formerly Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin) in Marburg and Referent fuer Bibliothekswesen in the Hessian Kultusministerium. Noting that Dr. Arendt's memorandum was dated January 1950, Cremer commented that the Bavarian Kultusminister has probably misplaced the document. He said that it would be an easy matter to issue such a decree for Land Hesse and that, in his opinion, no Kultusministerium in Western Germany would have reservations about issuing it for its own Land. Cremer later wrote to us that for Hesse he "could immediately initiate action for an appropriate appeal via the Hesse Kultusministerium." He also offered to request the Hessian Kultusminister, Dr. Stein, to place this point on the agenda of the next Kultusminister conference. JCR had advised him to proceed with his plan.

### III. The Microfilm Project

It was my assignment, first, to ascertain whether the Hebrew manuscripts appearing in our "Tentative List of Jewish Cultural Treasures" are in existence and available for microfilming, and secondly, to actually microfilm all or the most important Hebrew manuscripts in either Frankfurt or Hamburg.

1. I began the investigation in Munich. Dr. Hofmann first referred me to Dr. Feller, one of his assistants, who seemed delighted over the idea of the microfilming project and suggested that the State Library itself could do the microfilming for us. He thought an arrangement might be worked out whereby the library would be compensated, not in money but in American books which the library needs. For further details Hofmann asked me to see Prof. Ruf and his deputy, Dr. Hoermann, of the library's manuscript department.

Ruf and Hoermann stated that microfilming the total manuscript holdings of the library was a novum to which the library could not agree without reservations. They felt that questions of principle were involved which needed study. Hofmann thereupon took the matter up with Ruf and, as a result, suggested that an agreement be entered into between the library and JCR in which the following conditions should be included:

- a. All microfilming is to be done by the library's own studio. (Microfilming of over 400 Munich manuscripts would cost about 15,000 DM.).
- b. Distribution, sale, etc. of copies of the original negatives is subject to library approval.

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- c. Copies of the publications of the manuscripts must be made available to the library without charge.
- d. A statement should be submitted to the library indicating the purpose of the project, the planned location and utilization of the films. This statement is to be submitted by the library to the Kultusministerium which may wish to work out general regulations on microfilming in Bavaria.

However, after my negotiations with Hamburg (see point 2) Dr. Hofmann desisted from all these conditions and agreed to a similar procedure for Munich.

2. At the Staats- und Universitaetsbibliothek, Hamburg, all Hebrew manuscripts listed, including about 160 manuscripts of the Levy collection, are available. Dr. Christian Voigt, the library's deputy director, raised no objection for reasons of "principle." The normal procedure is to sign a statement ("Verpflichtungsschein") to the effect that the director's permission will be asked prior to each publication, that a copy will be submitted after publication, and that the director's permission will be requested for photographic reproductions. Printed blanks are provided by the library. Since it would take the library's own laboratory, which is overworked and understaffed, six months to one year to microfilm the 20,000-30,000 pages for us, I made arrangements--upon the suggestions of Dr. Voigt--with "Mikrokopie Gesellschaft fuer angewandte Mikrographie m.b.H.," which incidentally is the sole representative for Germany of University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, with whom our Executive Secretary had corresponded earlier in the year. "Mikrokopie" offered to do the job at 9 Pfennig per exposure. Later it maintained the offer although the library itself seemed to have doubled its price of about 10 Pfennig.

3. In Frankfurt the situation with respect to manuscripts was somewhat uncertain. Prof. Hanns Wilhelm Eppelsheimer, Direktor of the Frankfurt Staats- und Universitaetsbibliothek and of several other libraries as well as chairman of the Hessian Direktorenkonferenz, said that the library's more valuable holdings, including the Hebrew manuscripts, are still unpacked. He stated that the library does not know the contents of the packed cases and hence has no information on the Hebrew manuscripts. On the other hand, a Mr. Levy of New York has purchased 88 manuscripts. These manuscripts were found after a special "Suchaktion" by the library, undertaken under strong and insistent pressure from Frankfurt municipal authorities, which had to settle Levy's restitution claim on one of the buildings in the heart of Frankfurt, which building the city wishes to tear down in order to construct a wide thoroughfare in that area. As to microfilming, there will be no difficulties in Frankfurt.

4. Of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek manuscripts, I found that more have been saved than were listed in our "Tentative List." Dr. Cremer and Dr. Wolfgang Voigt of the Westdeutsche Bibliothek in Marburg suggested that almost all of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek's Hebrew manuscripts have been preserved and that about one

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third is now in Marburg and two thirds in Tuebingen. They stated that the difficulty with these manuscripts is that neither Marburg nor Tuebingen are in the possession of a catalogue of their holdings and that they can only determine whether a certain manuscript is in their custody or not by writing to the "Oeffentliche Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek" in Berlin (Russian Sector) which has the original "Auslagerungslisten" showing which case in what city contains what manuscript. To complicate matters still more, the Preussische Staatsbibliothek adopted new identification numbers for the Hebrew manuscripts a number of years ago, and hence the Steinschneider numbers can no longer be relied upon to identify individual manuscripts. Also, to get at the Hebrew manuscripts in Marburg, it is necessary to check through 5,000 manuscripts in the Oriental division, a job requiring about four days. The microfilming itself can be done in the Marburg Staatsarchiv studio, and Dr. Cremer offered to check the quality of the films in the reading machine available in his office.

Mr. Reibnitz, in the manuscript section of the Tuebingen University library, stated that Tuebingen has 22,000 manuscripts from Berlin (260 cases). He estimated that there are about 500 Hebrew manuscripts in the whole Berlin collection. He suggested that we employ a student in Berlin to copy the "Akzessionsbuecher" 1900-1933 and the "Verlagerungslisten" for us. He also said that all folio and quart manuscripts are in Tuebingen and all octav manuscripts are in Marburg.

We examined a number of manuscripts on the basis of Steinschneider and could locate them without difficulties. This indicates that, contrary to what I was told in Marburg, the original Steinschneider numbers are still correct. Nevertheless, the difficulties in Tuebingen must not be underestimated. While some of the Steinschneider manuscripts are standing together on shelves, others are part of Orientalia and cannot easily be found.

The above mentioned "Mikrokopie" could do the microfilming for us in Tuebingen, according to Dr. Wilhelm Hoffmann, director of the Tuebingen University Library.

5. Drs. Knab and Hannemann of the Badische Landesbibliothek, Karlsruhe, stated, with reference to our "Tentative List" entry No. 472, that the Reuchlin manuscripts, numbering 14 manuscripts of approximately 2,000 pages, are available and may be microfilmed through "Mikrokopie."

It was not until I had almost completed my study that it became clear that the Government of Israel and the Hebrew University would undertake a microfilming program in all of Europe and therefore might as well include Germany. It appeared, consequently, that the actual

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microfilming in Hamburg or elsewhere would merely result in unnecessary duplication of efforts. All information gathered by us will be made available to the Hebrew University. Already important points have been brought to the attention of Prof. Scholem who intended to take up the matter of the manuscript lists in Berlin.

### IV. Pending Claims

A. The Bavarian Archives are not being transferred into JRSO custody because of Mr. Auerbach's opposition to JRSO and Jewish Cultural Reconstruction.

B. The Jewish books in the Munich Municipal Library cannot be recovered for the same reason. Rabbiner Orenstein in Munich told me Auerbach had expressly "forbidden" one, Mr. Hermann in Regensburg, to turn over the archives available there to Orenstein who favors their transfer to JCR.

C. The Augsburg ceremonial objects are held by Orenstein, who cannot transfer them without Landesverband (i.e. Auerbach) approval.

D. In Frankfurt JRSO is trying to recover the ceremonial objects by agreement rather than via restitution proceedings.

E. Dr. Herzfeld, JRSO, Stuttgart, told me that all claims are still pending. JRSO work priorities are:

1. Real Estate
2. Firms, Business Establishments, etc.
3. Cultural Property

As an illustration of how long it takes to process claims, Herzfeld cited a claim for a Meyer's Konversations-Lexikon, which was pending for four months. The "Wiedergutmachungsbehoerde" has some 30,000 claims to process and only a small staff to do so.

F. The "Eppelsheimer Books" in Frankfurt have been reported on by Prof. Scholem. They will not be brought to Wiesbaden.

G. Jewish cultural property in the British and French zones will not become a JCR responsibility (see Section V, below).

In general, it appears that all Jewish cultural property in Bavaria is blocked by Mr. Auerbach who commands many Bavarian key positions. In what is apparently designated to be a demonstration of German patriotism, he takes an offensive position vis-a-vis the "international" Jewish organizations and prevents German authorities from cooperating with the Jewish organizations. He is also said to boast of being a persona non grata with the American occupation forces.

It is evident that the volume of the material that may be expected from all pending claims does not warrant continued JCR activities

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in Germany beyond the end of this year. What will be recovered can be handled by JRSO; distribution will be determined by JCR as heretofore.

### V. JCR and the Jewish Trust Corporation

From my discussions in London with Dr. Oskar Rabinowicz of the Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives; Dr. Joseph Kapralik, Secretary General of the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC); Dr. R. Lachs, general manager of JTC in the British zone of Germany; and with Mr. Jerome Jacobson, General Counsel of the Joint Distribution Committee, in Paris, it appears that the JTC does not contemplate the recognition of a separate agency for cultural property in the British zone. Rather will JTC set up a small staff within JTC confines to be concerned with such property. Moreover, JTC feels competent to rule on the distribution of recovered cultural property. It will, however, take into account expert and professional advice and will wish to consult with JCR, the Roth-Rabinowicz Committee, the Hebrew University, et al. On the point of distribution it must be added that as far as communal property is concerned, a "Special Committee for Communal Property," in which the German Jewish communities will have half of the vote will be competent.

In short, JCR as such will not operate in the British zone, nor will its vote on distribution be the determining factor. JCR experience in administration, search, and distribution will, however, be valuable to JTC. Finally, it is believed that the material to be recovered in the British zone is not likely to be large in volume.

As to the French zone, a separate organization cannot be established because of the French law. Hence, a JTC department will be established with semi-autonomous status: its governing board will be composed of representatives of French Jewish organizations, of the congregations, and of the international Jewish organizations.

A new successor law is not expected until the end of the year. Of all the problems that have to be settled, cultural property will have the lowest priority.

At the moment, the post-war congregations are recognized as legal successors. This means that the 3,000-5,000 books in the Mainz congregational library, the ceremonial objects in the Mainz museum, and the objects saved from destruction in Worms, including the two Machsorim of 1272, as well as the property of nazi-dissolved associations, foundations, societies, all legally belong at present to the 65 members--mostly old widows--of the Mainz congregation.

A recovery of these values for the Jewish people is possible only through a change in the basic French occupation law or by agreement with the Mainz congregations.

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VI. Findings in Austria

Reference is made to Dr. E. G. Lowenthal's excellent report on his investigation trip to Austria, June 17-23, 1950. The following is additional information:

1. Dr. Kissner, deputy director of the Nationalbibliothek, Vienna, stated that nothing of the library's former holdings of Jewish material has been lost. He insisted that of stocks owned by Jews and brought into the library by the Nazis, everything has been returned to the Jewish community. Kissner admitted--reluctantly--that there may be unidentified and unidentifiable stocks of confiscated material among the library's stocks. He insisted that Jewish books were brought in by the Nazis on trucks without lists whatever and were simply dumped into the library. Wherever owners could or can be identified, books have been and will be restored to their owners. There were not only Jewish books. The Kamensky library (Czech) alone amounted to 150,000-200,000 books. Kissner intimated that he intends to keep all unidentifiable books. ("To whom should we return them?"). He said that all identifiable books have been turned over by the Nationalbibliothek to an authority in the "Neue Hofburg," which now has about 80,000 books from all libraries in Vienna. (Note: This authority is identical with the "Buechersortierungsstelle," on which Dr. E. G. Lowenthal has reported.)

Hofrat Brechler furnished the following additional information:

The total Jewish holdings are saved, including all manuscripts.

The library's director, Heigl (suicide), Kulturreferent of the Gestapo, brought into the library everything confiscated by the Gestapo, e. g. the Juedisches Museum objects. Most of these objects were brought in in an incredible condition: they literally looked like ground and had to be swept out with brooms. What was saved, has been restored to the Jewish community.

In general, in case of Gestapo confiscations, the books' origin was blotted out. Brechler kept some separate lists, however. He also marked incoming books "Polizei 1938." Hence, what he calls a book-autopsy is sometimes possible.

Normally books were sent out of, not to, Vienna for purposes of reallocation. Heigl had been an Illegaler in Berlin and director of a cultural section of the Nazis there. Hence many books came from Vienna to Berlin.

The Bad Aussee (Lauffen) books were those of the National Library. All was returned by the US Army.

Brechler had no additional information on reallocations in Germany or Austria. He knew nothing of Tanzenberg. I did not mention it to him.

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2. Prof. Schubert of the Orientalisches Institut, a young Austrian Catholic Hebrew scholar (was in Israel a year ago; speaks Hebrew like a Sabra) stated that about 20,000 volumes belonging to the Jewish community were saved and returned. Included among these books was the library of the Munich Rabbi. They came as an Ahnenerbe-Leihgabe, under the designation of "Lackenbachstiftung" (about 2,000). Others had designations of Burgenland congregations.

3. Mr. Singer, librarian of the Jewish community, told me the following:

In 1942 approximately the whole library was taken away by the Nazis-- a total of 250 cases. The library now has a total of 25,000-30,000 volumes. About 2,500 bound volumes, 200 medical journals, 15 complete Talmud sets, 20 Mishnajot, Rif, Rambam--a total of 4,000 volumes were sent to Israel. In 1949 they received 60-70 cases from Offenbach.

There are very few readers who use the library. The museum objects are mostly still unpacked.

4. Amtsdirector Krell furnished the following additional information:

30 cases with books came back from CSR, where the "Oesterreichische Gewerkschaftsbund" had located them. Not found until now are the manuscripts and the incunables. About 75% of the books have been recovered. Of these 70 cases, totalling 15,000 items and including the complete medical library as well as Judaica and Hebraica, have been sent to Israel in May 1950, i.e. to the HUL Anniversary. (Note: Here the figures conflict with those given by Singer; it is my view that Singer's more conservative data are the more accurate ones.) The medical literature numbered about 10,000 items.

70-100 cases of books have not been opened yet. The Jewish community has no personnel and no space. Included among the recovered books are some of the Theological Seminary.

5. Mr. Trobe, Joint Distribution Committee Director of Austria, pointed out that:

The Austrians consider heirless Jewish property as Austrian property because it belonged to Austrian nationals and because the Jews in Austria were not wronged by an Austrian government, but by the German occupant. Hence, Germany should be held responsible for restitution to Jewry.

At the present time there is no central Jewish restitution authority in existence in Austria. Negotiations with the government have been conducted by the Jewish Community, the Joint Distribution Committee, the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee; all of whom had cooperated in the matter of restitution. There is, however, no single body or successor organization.

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On the question of the recovery of the "Tanzenberg" books (ref. Dr. Lowenthal's report on Austria), no one in Vienna except Trobe knew of these books and Trobe only from Lowenthal's report. It appears advisable to determine whether these books are still under British control, and if so, to turn the whole matter over to JTC. If not, to consider the alternatives of approaching the Austrian government, either through JCR or the Joint Distribution Committee or the Israeli government.

Respectfully Submitted to the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee, at their Meeting on October 9, 1950.

Sept. 1950

Meir Ben-Horin

JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.  
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Field Report No. 22  
Dr. Guido Schoenberger

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT OF TRIP TO FRANCE AND GERMANY  
August 8 - September 7, 1951

Paris, Aug. 9 - Aug. 12 (Thursday - Sunday)

The Jewish Collection of the Cluny Museum is still in storage and I was told by the Conservateur of the Cluny that it is impossible to see the whole or any item of the collection.

The collection of the Archives et Musée d'Art Populaire Juif is quite interesting because of the many models of synagogues which they have assembled. The objects which JCR sent to the collection from New York are on display.

Frankfurt, August 13-August 17

The week was used in preparation for the transfer of the Frankfurt Collection from the custodianship of the City of Frankfurt to JRSO and its final distribution to Israel and the USA. I received word from JCR, New York, that England had renounced its 20% share of museum objects in favor of Israel, so that Israel would receive 60% and the USA 40%.

I had meetings with Dr. Weiner of JRSQ, with Magistrats Rat Koehler of the Rechni-Amt of the City of Frankfurt, Dr. Bingemer, the Director of the Historische Museum and Mr. Max Meyer, chairman of the new Frankfurt Community.

A joint meeting of all concerned was held at the Historische Museum, on Friday, the 17th, at 8:00 A.M. Dr. Rapp, Curator of the Museum and in charge of the stored Jewish objects, interrupted his vacation to join the meeting. Mr. Mayer could not be present, but two other gentlemen of the Community Council attended instead. It was agreed by all present that I should look through all the preserved Jewish objects and:

- (1) Find out what pieces belonged to the City of Frankfurt.
- (2) Assign to the new Frankfurt Community those pieces from the Frankfurt synagogues which they might need for their religious services. In turn, the representatives of the Frankfurt Community agreed not to claim any of the Frankfurt museum pieces formerly belonging to the Jewish Community of Frankfurt.
- (3) Distribute the remaining objects according to the key accepted by JCR: 60% of the museum objects to the museums of Israel; 40% of the museum objects to the museums in the USA; all synagogue objects not requested by the new Frankfurt Community to the synagogues of Israel.

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The Historische Museum offered me a large room to work in, where the boxes which were still in the safe (vaults of a bank) were to be transferred during the week of August 20-24.

Munich, August 20 - August 22

I went to Munich, where I met Director Saul Kagan of the Central Office of JRSO, Nuremberg, and Dr. Metzger of JRSO, Munich. I started working at the Collecting Point, where a great number of paintings and sculptures -- unclaimed by former private owners -- were located and from where they had to be transferred to JRSO headquarters. I checked these works against the lists prepared by the Collecting Points of Wiesbaden and Munich; I determined their DM value for insurance purposes; I advised as to whether these works should be sent to museums in Israel or USA or sold by JRSO. The objects were mostly German paintings of the 19th century, some very good ones, like Menzel or Uhde, and many others of high quality. I assigned the important ones to museums in Israel, very few to museums in the USA, and I set aside the remaining less important ones for possible sale in Germany (surely not in the USA) for the benefit of the JRSO. It might perhaps be a better solution to send all of them, except the few put aside for the USA, to Israel, where the less important ones can be used for ornaments in public buildings such as schools, etc. They are surely of a high enough quality to warrant such a solution. For America, only a few are interesting, i.e. a set of paintings (portraits and scenes) from the Rothschild Altersheim in Frankfurt.

The Munich job was completed on Wednesday morning, the 22nd. Prof. Faison, Director of the Collecting Point, and his assistant, Dr. von Schmidt, were very helpful in every respect. JRSO was to transport these objects to Nuremberg before August 31st.

Nuremberg, August 22 - August 25

Wednesday afternoon I went to Nuremberg. Thursday, I examined a great number of paintings and other art objects similar to those in Munich, which had already been turned over to JRSO by the Collecting Point in Wiesbaden. Here too I evaluated the objects for insurance purposes and advised which should be sent to Israeli museums and which should be sold in Germany. One painting by Max Beckmann turned up which had belonged to the Staedtische Galerie of Frankfurt and which had been taken as "Entartete Kunst." I recommended to Dr. Kagan to return this work to the Staedtische Galerie.

On Thursday, I had an unofficial talk with Dr. Neuland, now the most important representative of the Munich Jewish Community, at the Wiedergutmachungskammer in Fuerth. We discussed the Bavarian Jewish Archives and the Augsburg Synagogue silver, now in the custody of the Munich Community. About this talk I made a special report to Director Kagan and Dr. Arendt. The result was favorable. Dr. Neuland accepted in principle the point of view of JRSO and JCR, namely that the Archives as well as the Augsburg silver should go to Israel. Although unofficial, this talk may prove of some importance in the final official decision regarding these treasures.

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Schnaittach, August 25

Mr. Stammler, the Director of the Heimat Museum, had assembled a considerable number of pieces from the Schnaittach synagogue and from other synagogues in the vicinity, having done a very good job in saving and preserving these pieces. I was assisted in the task of taking over these objects for JRSO by Dr. Maschke of JRSO, Nuremberg.

In recognition of their interest and care, I left 44 objects with the Heimat Museum of Schnaittach.\* The rest I tentatively set aside for distribution, pending the approval of JCR:

95 pieces to Israel; 19 pieces to USA.

As far as I know, the objects were transferred from Schnaittach to JRSO, Nuremberg, on Monday, the 27th.

Frankfurt, August 27 - September 4

On Monday, the 27th, I was back in Frankfurt. The Historische Museum had already unpacked everything and I immediately began to make a short inventory (the old inventories had been destroyed) and at the same time distribute the objects in accordance with the JCR decision. I assigned:

172 objects to museums in Israel  
126 objects to museums in the USA  
164 objects to synagogues in Israel  
93 objects to the new Community of Frankfurt  
15 objects to the City of Frankfurt  
2 boxes with household silver to JRSO, Frankfurt

On Tuesday, September 4, the inventory and distribution were completed.

Offenbach, September 4

On the same day I went to Offenbach, to the Ledermuseum, to inspect the Darmstadt Haggadah, which is there as a permanent loan from the Landesbibliothek, Darmstadt. The manuscript is in excellent condition.

Frankfurt, September 5 - Sept. 7

On Wednesday, the 5th, packing was scheduled to start, but for technical reasons had to be postponed till Thursday.

On Thursday there was a meeting in the Historische Museum between the Frankfurt municipality (Mag. Rat Koehler), the Historische Musem (Dr. Bingemer, Dr. Rapp), the JRSO, Frankfurt (Dr. Weiner) and myself, in order to come to an official agreement on the distribution of the objects in the custody of the Historische Museum among the City of Frankfurt, the new Jewish Community of Frankfurt and JRSO. The question arose as to whether JRSO would have to pay for

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certain objects which the Historische Museum had bought at metal value from the Gestapo or the Staedtische Leihanstalt. JRSO felt that it should not make this payment since restitution by JRSO was to be made only to original owners, in this case the old Jewish Community or private persons. This point was not disputed by the authorities of the City of Frankfurt.

Magistrats Rat Koehler agreed to all proposed transactions, pending the formal approval by the plenum of the Frankfurt municipality, which he expected to receive after September 10th.

At the same time the packing had already been started on. The work was done by a professional packer and a clerk of the firm of Lansberg in Frankfurt, acting for the firm of Bachmann of Bremen. In the presence of a customs official, two boxes were packed for USA (marked JM 101 and JM 102) and three boxes for Israeli museums and Israeli synagogues. These objects have red labels with the following markings: USA Museums, ISR Museums (Israeli museums), and SYN (Israeli synagogues). The numbers on the labels correspond to the numbers on the respective inventory lists. In each box there is a list of items contained in the box.

The objects for the new Frankfurt Jewish Community were left unpacked with the Community. Moreover, all the objects which the Frankfurt Community had previously received (Sept. 5, 1950) were left with the Community of Frankfort for an indefinite period of time.

The objects which belonged to the City of Frankfurt, carrying the city's inventory numbers (x numbers), were left to the city. Since they were unimportant and very few in number, I added one pair of Rimonim (Torah Headpieces), made in Frankfurt by Jeremiah Sobel, ca. 1700, in recognition of the service of the Historische Museum in preserving and safeguarding the objects of the former Jewish Museum and Frankfurt synagogues. The possibility that some more objects of the Jewish Collection of the City might still be found in one of the City's stored boxes was not excluded. Dr. Bingemer and Dr. Rapp agreed that should this be the case, the pair of Frankfurt Rimonim which they received would be sent to the Jewish Museum in New York, for further disposal.

One small Torah Shrine, containing a small Torah Scroll and Torah ornaments, was taken off the USA list when I found that it was claimed by Mr. F.M. Mainz, Den Haag, Holland. The piece was made in Vienna in 1816. It had been given to the Jewish Museum as a loan by the late Mr. Mainz, Frankfurt, the father of the claimant. The Torah shrine was put at the disposal of Mr. Mainz' representative in Frankfurt, Dr. Woerbelauer, Hochstrasse 56.

On Wednesday, Sept. 5, I located the Collection of Jewish Medals and Coins, formerly owned by the late Mr. Goldschmidt of Gotha. This collection had been in the custody of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt since 1938. It was turned over by Dr. Graf Solms, the Director of the Historische Museum, to the Coin and Medal Collection

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of the City of Frankfurt. At a short meeting between Dr. Bingemer and the custodian of the City's Coin Collection I stated that the Collection Goldschmidt was an integral part of the former Jewish Museum of Frankfurt and had to be turned over to JRSO, just like the other objects. Both gentlemen agreed and the collection was brought to the Historische Museum. I made a rapid listing of the number of pieces -- approximately 450 -- and I separated the collection according to the material (silver, bronze, etc.). I could not list the individual pieces in the short time at my disposal. I decided to take the whole collection to the Jewish Museum in New York for further investigation as to ownership and for final distribution. The collection is packed in box JM 101.

When I left the Historische Museum on Thursday, the 6th, at 3:00 P.M., two cases for USA and two cases for Israel were packed, closed and sealed by the customs officials. The third case for Israel still had to be packed.

I left Frankfurt on Thursday, at 8:00 P.M. by plane for Paris-New York and arrived at Idlewood on Friday noon, September 7.

What Still Has to Be Done by JRSO

As far as I know, the following matters still had to be attended to:

1. Official conclusion of the Agreement between the City of Frankfurt, as the trustee of the objects, and JRSO, as the claimant, after the approval of the transaction by the plenum of the Frankfurt municipality.
2. Export permit by the German and the USA authorities.
3. Shipment of the two USA cases to the Jewish Museum, New York. I advised the firm of Bachmann, Bremen and Lansberg, Frankfurt, to ship through the Globe Shipping Co., New York.

I should like to close this report by emphasizing the great and continuous help which I received from Director Kagan, Dr. Weiner and all the other officials of JRSO. I was also able to harvest in many respects the fruits of Dr. Arendt's work on her trip to Germany two years ago. Without all this help and the energetic preparatory work the present results could not have been achieved. Finally, I want to commend the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, which granted me a four weeks' leave of absence and made my trip possible by financing it.

Respectfully submitted

Guido Schoenberger

\* I left the objects in the Schnaittach Museum in accordance with an agreement previously made between JRSO and Mr. Stammler, the custodian of these objects, who was very anxious to keep a small collection. These objects are of minor importance.