

Toward An Inventory of
Jewish Cultural Assets
in the
Former Soviet Union (FSU)
and Eastern Europe:
Key Contacts

Submitted to:

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

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Colonel Seymour Pomrenze
Dr. Jack Ukeles

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CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
	Background	
	Geographic Area	
	Pilot Phase	
II.	CONTACTS LIST AND COMMENTS	3
III.	THE DATABASE	28
IV.	EXAMPLES OF INVENTORIES	31
V.	CONCLUSION	34

I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Jewish people will never recover from the destruction of European Jewry during the Holocaust, nor can it estimate the losses suffered under Communism. For the last fifty years, the Jews have had two sacred tasks:

- To help individual survivors rebuild their lives; and
- To rebuild Jewish life, Jewish communities and Jewish culture wherever possible.

This period is coming to an end. One additional task remains: to preserve the cultural assets of the Jewish people for future generations. These assets are an integral part of the spiritual heritage of the Jewish people.

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture has played a key role in the preservation and enhancement of Jewish culture after the Holocaust.

As part of this commitment, the Memorial Foundation is preparing the groundwork for a full-scale inventory of Jewish cultural assets in the FSU and Eastern Europe.

The Inventory itself is the first phase of the larger effort to develop a plan for the preservation and use of these assets to meet Jewish cultural needs.

The scope of the project, by its nature, is extremely broad. It will cover all cultural assets, including: archives, libraries, collections of artifacts and ritual objects, and monuments.

This project is about locating these assets, documenting their characteristics, assessing their condition and making recommendations for how the most important of these assets can be restored or preserved. The goal is to insure that the Jewish community has access to these resources and that scholars and students in particular can benefit.

The project is not about physically moving or relocating any assets, nor is it about issues of title or ownership.

Geographic Area

The project is expected to cover all areas of the Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe affected by the Holocaust and communist rule, with a primary emphasis on areas of the most important Jewish settlements: Russia; the Ukraine; Belarus and the Baltic States; along with the Czech Republic; Hungary; Poland; and Romania.

Relatively significant collections of material which originated in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union and were "relocated" to Western Europe will be documented as well.

As the financial resources are not yet in place to support the massive effort to document the nature, location, and condition of archives, artifacts, libraries and other cultural assets, we agreed to undertake a pilot phase.

The project will not "reinvent the wheel." It will build on the work done by others in this area. Such an effort must cast a broad information-gathering net. Thus a critical first step is identifying key contacts and work in progress.

We have assembled lists of well-placed contacts in the various countries involved who might inform the process. These individuals are drawn from academic, community, political, and religious life. Some are Jews; others are not. Each was identified for their related experience, their knowledge, their occupation and their potential to direct us to an appropriate source.

The Pilot Phase

The purpose of the pilot phase is to document key resources for conducting the inventory of cultural assets.

The pilot project team consisted of Jacob B. Ukeles and Laura Meislin from Ukeles Associates, and two outstanding experts: Colonel Seymour Pomrenze and Professor Zvi Gitelman. Col. Pomrenze's is one of the foremost experts in Jewish records management and archival work with unparalleled experience in archival work in Europe in the post-holocaust era. He has been able to access key informants from his many years in the archivist community and his reach is extraordinary. Professor Gitelman, Professor of Jewish History at the University of Michigan, one of the great experts on the Jewry of the Soviet Union, has extraordinary contacts in the academic and intellectual worlds in the FSU and Eastern Europe.

In addition to the potential project contacts identified by the core team, the Foundation's relationships and reputation in the Jewish communities of the FSU and Eastern Europe will also prove extremely valuable. Altogether, our collection of first round contacts numbers roughly fifty well-placed people.

II. CONTACTS LIST AND COMMENTS

FORMER SOVIET UNION

BELARUS
RUSSIA
UKRAINE
UZBEKISTAN

BALTIC STATES

LITHUANIA
LATVIA

EASTERN EUROPE

BULGARIA
CZECH REPUBLIC
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
HUNGARY
ROMANIA

UNITED STATES

BELARUS

1. Zelik Pinkhasov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Claims to have a data bank on Jewish population of Belarus and, at one time, called himself the rector of the Jewish University of Minsk.

ADDRESS

Home:

Koltsova Street 26/12

Minsk 220131

Home Tel.. 0172-37-08-83

Fac. 0172-26-55-51

Office Tel. 0172-61-73-74

2. Vital Zajka

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Spent some time at YIVO. Did a brief survey of Judaica holdings in Belarussian archives.

ADDRESS

Home:

Kirava 11-19

Minsk 50

Tel. 0172-27-33-73

Office Address:

Skaryna Centre, Revalucyjnaja 15

Minsk 50

Tel. 0172-20-51-57

Fac. 0172-20-93-50

RUSSIA

1. Ilya Altman

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Established a Holocaust research center. Not sure how much original research is done there as opposed to Holocaust education.

ADDRESS

Buliatnikovskii Pr. 14, Apt. 77
Tel. 388-62-42

2. Michael Chlenov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Active in the Vaad, teaches at Maimonides College, member of Institute of Ethnography, Russian Academy of Sciences. *May know of sources and resources.*

ADDRESS:

Klinskaya St. 16. Apt 102
Moscow 1215475
Tel. 095-451-6524

3. Ilya Dvorkin_

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Rector of St. Petersburg Jewish University. May have emigrated, or is about to do. Has been very active in rediscovering Jewish monuments (literally in cemeteries) in Ukraine, Moldova and elsewhere

ADDRESS:

Old address: Bassienaya 17/100
Tel. 812-295-9543
Fax. 812-273-9086

4. Dmitri Eliashevich

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Also teaches at St. Petersburg Jewish University. Area of expertise: Archives

Co-authored with Victor Kelner "Literature on Jews in Russia, 1890-1945: Books, Brochures, Reprints of Articles, Periodical Editors" (in Russian), St. Petersburg 1994/5. Also authored "Documentary Sources on Jewish History in the Archives of the CIS and the Baltic States: Preliminary List of Collections" (St. Petersburg, Acropolis, 1994).

ADDRESS:

At University:

196247 St. Petersburg

P.O. Box 10

Fax 7-812-268-7568

e-mail elyashev@jewuni.spb.su

5. Igor Svetoslavovich Filippov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: At one time, the head of the Lenin Library. Quit or was fired, said he was interested in the Judaica holdings, especially the Ginzburg collection (which has now been microfilmed for the Hebrew University and National Library).

ADDRESS:

117571 Moscow

Vernadskogo 109, Apt. 145

Tel. 434-84-84

6. Dr. Ekaterina Genieva

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Director General of the Library for Foreign Language and Literature in Moscow. No address available.

7. Alla Gerber

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: She is President of the Russian Holocaust Research and Educational Center

ADDRESS:

113035, Russia, Moscow
Sadovnicheskaya St. 52-239
Tel./Fac.. 09-5233-3362
Office Tel. 231-5876
Home Tel. 137-6974
e-mail Altman@glasnet.ru

8. Alexander Solomonovich Kantsedikas

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: May have emigrated. Area of expertise: Jewish art. Published a three-volume work on Jewish art in the FSU.

ADDRESS:

129110 Moscow
Olimpiiskii Pr. 20, Apt. 121
Tel. 284-79-32

9. Rashid Kaplanov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Academic head of *Sefer*, association for Jewish Studies in FSU. He may know about all sorts of archives since he is very active in Jewish academic life, speaks many languages and travels extensively.

ADDRESS:

Leninskii Prospekt 66/402
Moscow 117296
Tel. 930-7815

10. Victor Kelner

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Bibliographer and historian. Has worked at YIVO and several other American institutions. Employed at the Russian National Library. Very pleasant person

ADDRESS:

Pr. M. Toreza 26, apt. 107

St. Petersburg 194021

Office Tel. 110-58-13

Home Tel. 247-89-03

11. Mark Kupovetsky

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Demographer who teaches at Project Judaica, Russian State University for the Humanities, and elsewhere. Knows demographic archives very well and since he works with students in Project Judaica, may know about other archives as well.

ADDRESS:

Moscow 123-056 Bol'sho Knodratevsky Pereulok 6, k10, apt 59

Phone 254-115

12. Alexander Efimovich Lokshin

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Historian of Russian Jewry, mainly 19th C., teaches at Jewish University of Moscow and elsewhere, has worked a lot in the archives. Has been in Israel and is active in Jewish community. Very cooperative.

ADDRESS:

Novaya Doroga 3, Apt. 810

Moscow

Tel. 263-07-25 (last # available for him)

13. Alexander Militariev
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Executive head of Jewish University of Moscow. May know of other people's research and archives.

ADDRESS:
Mokhovaya 9
103009 Moscow
Tel./Fax 095-203-3441
e-mail jewunimali@glas.apc.org

14. Victoria Motchalova
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Director of *Sefer*, Moscow Center for University. Teaching of Jewish Civilization. Very energetic and knows who is who in Judaica study and research in FSU

ADDRESS:
117334 Moscow
Leninsky Prospekt 32A, Bldg.B., No.808
Off Tel. 938-57-16
Home Tel. 45-8797
Fax 938-0070
e-mail sefer@glasnet.ru

15. Anna Simonova
REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Works at Center for Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections. Microfilming HIAS records in Moscow (1925-1940s). Trained by JTS Prof. Fishman. No address available.

16. Shimon Yakirson
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Perhaps the most knowledgeable bibliophile and expert on rare Judaica holdings, especially in St. Petersburg. May have emigrated. Present whereabouts unknown.

Authored, Hebrew Incunabula: Description of Publications Kept in Libraries of Moscow and Leningrad. (Leningrad, 1988)

17. Natalia Vasilevna Yukhneva

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Has written books on ethnic minorities in St. Petersburg/Leningrad and, though a Russian, participated actively in Jewish activities in late 1980s/early 90s.

ADDRESS:

Institute of Ethnography
Universitetskaya naberezhnaya 3
St. Petersburg
Office Tel. 218-41-41
Home Tel. 272-07-54

UKRAINE

1. Leonid Finberg

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Community leader, not necessarily an academic, but very much involved in all academic and semi-academic activities in Ukraine. He should know everybody and most things.

ADDRESS:

Institute of Judaic Studies
Belorusskaya St. 34, apt. 21
254119 Kiev
Tel./Fac. 044-213-9149
e-mail Leonid@finberg.carrier.kiev.ua

2. Mikhail Girshman

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Professor of literature at Donetsk State University. Has organized a Jewish studies program at his university.

ADDRESS:

Artyoma St. 132/27
340048 Donetsk
Home Tel. 0622-55-57-39
Office Tel. 0622-91-92-85
Fac. 0622-99-17-66

3. Jaroslav Hrytsak

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Young Ukrainian historian. A leader, knowledgeable about archives and other resources. Interested in helping research on Jews. Excellent English.

ADDRESS:

Lviv Institute of Historical Studies

Lviv State University

1 Universitetska St., R. 250

Lviv 290602

Tel. 0322-794-585

Fac. 0322-72-79-81

4. Victoria Khiterer

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Was an archivist in Kiev, possibly in Vernadsky library, and published some materials about the Judaica holding there. ZG heard that she left for Israel. No information on her whereabouts.

5. Igor Krupnik (and Evgeni Starostin)

REFERRED BY Zvi Gitelman, MFRJ

COMMENTS: Final report to the Memorial Foundation is a valuable resource and bibliography. It is entitled "Dispersed Heritage: Jewish Archival, Museum, and Academic Scholarly Holdings in the Former U.S.S.R." (February, 1992). No address available.

6. Efim Melamed

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Professional archivist who has been in the U.S., has published on materials he found in local archives on the tsarist rabbinical school established in Zhitomir.

ADDRESS:

"Creative Production Center"
17 Pobedy St.
Zhitomir 262000
Office Tel. 22-38-72
Home Tel. 37-06-71
Fac. 0412-37-23-51

7. Alexander Naiman

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: An amateur historian who, together with Honigsman, has written a history of Jews in Ukraine and should have some familiarity with relevant archives.

ADDRESS:

Murashko St. 4, apt. 27
Kiev 254050
Tel. 044-211-5472

8. Yohanan Petrovsky

REFERRED BY: MFRJ

COMMENTS: Petrovsky has received MRFJ support in the past. He is an important academic leader and scholar at the Solomon University, Kiev. No address available.

9. Yacov Zisels

REFERRED BY: MRFJ

ADDRESS:

Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine
Kurskaya Street, 6
Kiev 252-049
Fac. 7-044-440-7591

10. Book Chamber of Ukraine

27 Gagarin Avenue

Kyiv 253094

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: They might have information on the upcoming release of a bibliography and guide to the Jews of Ukraine, entitled "Jewry in Ukraine/Scientific-Bibliographical Index.

The Lviv Museum of Ethnography and Crafts has a major collection of Judaica art, the collection of Maksymillian Goldstein. Several artifacts are depicted in A. Kantsedikas' "Masterpieces of Jewish Art: Bronze, vol. 1" (see Kantsedikas entry under Russia). There is a pre-war description and discussion of the collection in "Kultura I Sztuka ludu Zydowskiedgo na Ziemiach Polskich Zbory Maksymilliana Goldsteina" (Lwow, 208pp. in Polish).

UZBEKISTAN

1. Prof. Menashe Mishaelovich Abramov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Has a large Judaica library at home, intends to go to Israel in summer 1998. Has disposed of (unknown how) a large number of manuscripts.

ADDRESS: (still relevant?)

Mulakandova St., pr. 2, house 24 (a museum of a house, with much Jewish ornamentation)

703011 Samarkand

Tel. 35-29-29

Office:

Universitetskii Bulvar 15

Istoricheskii Fakultet

Samarkand

Tel. 35-38-16

BALTIC STATES

ESTONIA

1. Cilja Laud

Chairwoman, Jewish Community of Estonia

Vase 7-11

EE0001 Tallinn

Tel. 372-2-424-257 (H)

Fac. 372-2-424-257 (H)

Tel. 372-2-438-566 (O)

Fac. 372-2-438-566 (O)

e-mail Jkool@infonet.ee

(from AJCommittee DC contact list)

LATVIA

1. Dr. Gregory Kroupnikov

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman, MFRJ

COMMENTS: Lay head of Jewish community in Latvia.

ADDRESS:

59-24 Deglava St.

Riga 226080

Tel. 371-2-572-481

Fac. 371-2-406908

Office-

c/o Rika Ltd.

48/50 Kr. Barona St/

Riga LV-1011

2. Meir Vesterman

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Prominent historian of Holocaust

ADDRESS:

6 Skolas St.
226050 Riga
Home Tel. 956-465

LITHUANIA

1. Esfir Bramson(aite)

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Older librarian/archivist of Judaica. Further contact information through David Fishman.

ADDRESS:

Mickieviciasu 7, apt.8.
Vilnius
Home Tel. 731-354
Office Tel. 222-536

2. Rachile Kostanian

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Works in the state Jewish Museum in the Holocaust section. Rachel speaks perfect Russian, Yiddish and English as well as Lithuanian.

ADDRESS:

Pamenkalnio 12
Vilnius 232001
Tel. 62-07-30 or 66-10-10

3. Meyer Shub

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Professor of "Judaistics" at Vilnius University

ADDRESS:

Virsuliski St. 53/6
232056 Vilnius
Home Tel. 41-13-71
Office Tel. 61-41-63

4. Emmanuel Zingeris

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities

ADDRESS:

53 Gedimino Ave.
LT-2002
Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel. 370-2-22-48-64 or 61-96-82
Fac. 370-2-62-87-29
e-mail Emzing@rc.lrs.lt

EASTERN EUROPE

BULGARIA

NOTES ON BULGARIA

Sofia and Plovdiv would be the places to look. Isai Moscona might have been the last Bulgarian Jewish scholar to serve as a guide, but he passed away. Perhaps there are new people on the scene.

CZECH REPUBLIC

- 1. Leo Pavlat**, Director, Jewish Museum in Prague.
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman, MFRJ

ADDRESS:

Zidovske Muzeum – Praha
Jachymova 3
110-01 Prague 1
The Czech Republic
Fac. 420-2-231-0681

- 2. Bedrich Nosek**
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Worked at Jewish Museum when it was the State Jewish Museum. Is still living in Prague and presumably knowledgeable about book and artiFac.t holdings. Not clear what relations are between Pavlat and Nosek. No address available.

- 3. Arno Parik**
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Was a Museum employee who worked especially on Jewish cemeteries:

ADDRESS: (may be old information)
Spalena 7
110 00 Praha
Tel. 29-12-29

- 4. Alena Hanzlova**
REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Once had a Memorial Foundation grant to photograph abandoned Jewish cemeteries, which she did beautifully. No information on present whereabouts.

5. Dr. Tomas Kraus

Executive Director

Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Maiselova 18

110 01 Praha 1

Tel. 420-2-2481-1030

Fac. 420-2-2481-0912

e-mail Fedzid@vol.cz

(from AJCommittee DC contact list)

NOTES ON CZECH REPUBLIC

Places like Kolin, Brno, Ostrava, Olomouc, Plzn should be searched for Jewish holdings of libraries and museums. Project Judaica's undertaking in the FSU could serve as a model. There are good books on Jewish sites in Prague ("Ctibor Rybar," Jewish Prague, Prague n.d.) and elsewhere, such as Jiri Fiedler's "Jewish Sights (sic) of Bohemia and Moravia" (Prague: Sefer, 1991)

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. Fero Alexander

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Fero is the Executive Chairman, Union of Jewish Communities in the Slovak Republic. He spoke at the American Jewish Committee gathering on the topic of "The Revival of Jewish Life in the Former Communist World; a Firsthand Account," May 1997.

No address available.

HUNGARY

1. **Prof. Geza Komoroczy,**
REFERRED BY: MFRJ, Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: He is the Director of the Center of Jewish Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Science.

ADDRESS:

Center of Jewish Studies
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
P.O. Box 107
H-1364 Budapest
Office Tel. 361-180-966 ext 169 or 406
Home Tel. 361-552-554
Fac. 36-1-117-4970
Personal e-mail Gkomoroczy@isis.elte.hu
Center e-mail Hebraisztika@isis.elte.hu

SECOND ADDRESS:

Center of Jewish Studies
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest V
Pseti Barnabas u. 1.III. 32/33

2. **Trudy Pedersen** (American)
REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENT: Working on George Soros Archives in Budapest project

ADDRESS:

Central European University
CEU-H-1067
Eotvos Utca 14
Budapest, Hungary
e-mail Petersen@ceu.hu

NOTES ON HUNGARY

Obvious places are the Jewish Theological Seminary (perhaps catalogue of library holdings is available) and the Center listed above. The Jewish Museum on Dohanyi Utca (next door to the Templom) has published a book on its treasures but not clear whether there is a catalogue. As in Czech Republic, should have systematic surveys of other towns: Szeged, Miskolc, Debrecen, Keckskemeti, Sopron et al.

POLAND

1. Michal Friedman

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Michal was teaching Yiddish for many years in Warsaw and may know something about archives and libraries. There is a Judaic Studies group at Warsaw University but no available information on it. No information on whereabouts.

2. Konstanty Gebert

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Leading journalist and editor of Midrasz, a glossy Polish Jewish magazine. Not himself a scholar but very bright, perfect English and well connected. Should be able to provide leads and introductions. No address available.

3. Jerzy Kichler

President, Union of Jewish Congregations in Poland

Ul. Twarda 6

00-950 Warsaw

(from AJCommittee DC contact list – see Zozula below)

4. Monika Krajewska

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Has written two fine books on Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Her husband, Stanislaw Krajewski, is, along with Konstanty Gebert, the unofficial spokesman of Polish Jewry, a member of the Catholic-Jewish commission, author of a good popular book in Polish on Jewish history and Judaism, and now active in the Nozyk synagogue. This couple should be invaluable for leads to sources, art collections, etc.

ADDRESS:

Walicow 20, apt. 515
00-851 Warszawa
Tel. 48-22-24-67-81

5. Grazyna Pawlak

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Managing director of ZIH (Jewish Historical Institute). She does not deal with the scholarly side but speaks excellent English and is very energetic. She is working seriously on constructing a museum of Jewish culture near the Ghetto Heroes Monument. ZG thinks that Feliks Tych is currently the director of the Institute and thinks that the scholarly world, not to speak of the Jewish organizational world, has very little information on the holdings of ZIH.

ADDRESS:

ZIH
Tlomackie 3/5
00-090 Warszawa
Tel. 27-92-21
Fac. 48-22-27-83-72

6. Yale Reiser (American)

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: Employed by the Lauder Foundation to organize the archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

ADDRESS:

c/o Lauder Foundation
Twarda 6
00-104 Warszawa
Tel./Fac. 48-22-20-05-56

7. Dr. Joachim Russek

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: In Kracow, Dr. Russek (believed to be not Jewish) heads an institute of Jewish culture which has renovated a former Jewish school or shul. Not sure what institute does. Russek worked with Prof. Jozef Gierowski of the Jagellonian University on Jewish history. No address available.

8. Tomasz Wisniewski

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman

COMMENTS: TW (not Jewish) might be of help in Bialystok. He recently authored "Jewish Bialystok and Surroundings in Eastern Poland." He knows cemeteries and former Jewish buildings but may not know libraries and archives. Familiar with the overall region and its Jewish sites. A 40 year old journalist who was jailed by the Communists during martial law for his dissident activities.

ADDRESS:

Box 351
15-001 Bialystok 1
Poland
e-mail Tomek.wisniewski@Tel.bank.pl

9. Andrez Zozula

Executive Director
Union of Jewish Congregations in Poland
Ul. Twarda 6
00-950 Warszawa
Tel. 48-22-620-4324 or 620-0676
Fac. 48-22-620-1037
(from AJCommittee, DC contact list)

NOTES ON POLAND

ZG suggest a thorough survey of museum and library holdings in places such as Lodz (2nd largest Jewish population in Poland before 1939), Wroclaw (home of Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary), Gdansk (formerly Danzig), Bialystok, Lomza et al.

RUMANIA

1. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Cajal

REFERRED BY: MFRJ

ADDRESS:

Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania
Str. Sf. Vineri 9-11, Sect. 3
Bucharest 70478
Fac. 40-1-312-0869

NOTES ON RUMANIA

ZG reports that, on an MFRJ-sponsored trip to Rumania in 1985, he was amazed by the rich holdings at the Jewish Museum in Bucharest. They are housed in a synagogue. Report of trip was made to Memorial Foundation.

As in Czech Republic and Hungary, there are important places in Rumania to survey for their significance in Jewish history: Cluj, Timisoara, Arad, Piatra, Neamt, Iasi et al. Rabbi Rosen, now deceased, probably knew what was where but we do not know whether the knowledge is documented.

UNITED STATES

1. Karen Benedict

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS Representative to International Council of Archives, Society of American Archivists

Tel. 614-481-4282

2. Dr. Greg Bradsher

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Member of the Federal Government's Interagency Group on Nazi Asset; chair of the SAA Government Records section; former president of the National Archives Assembly
Author of Managing Archives and Archival Institutions

ADDRESS:

Assistant Manager
Modern Military Records,
National Archives and Records Admin
8601 Adelphi Road
Room 2405
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Tel. 301 713-7250
Fax. 301 713-7482
e-mail james.bradsher@arch2.nara.gov

other internet sites: www.state.gov, www.ushmm.org/assets

3. Dr. David Fishman (in the U.S.)

REFERRED BY: MFRJ, Zvi Gitelman, S.Pomrenze

COMMENTS: See Marek Webb below.

ADDRESS:

c/o Jewish Theological Seminary
3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-4649
Fac. 212-749-0752
e-mail Dafishman@jtsa.edu

4. Daniel T. Goggin

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Provides monthly reports of the U.S. Army Offenbach Archival Depot, Wiesbaden Collecting Point.

ADDRESS:

Director of the Office of the National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Tel. 301-713-7000, ext 228

5. Patricia Kennedy Grimsted

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Expert on Ukraine and knowledgeable about Eastern Europe. Authored 1997 article entitled, "Displaced Archives and Restitution Problems on the Eastern Front in the Aftermath of World War II." Has also authored "The Odyssey of the 'Smolensk Archive' during World War II."

ADDRESS:

Harvard University
Ukrainian Research Institute
1583 Mass Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel. 617-495-4574
Fac. 617-495-8097
e-mail Grimsted@fas.harvard.edu
Moscow e-mail Abb@glasnet.ru

6. Dr. Michael Grunberger

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Head Hebraic Section, African-Middle East Division, Library of Congress

ADDRESS:

Library of Congress
Washington DC 20540-4720

7. Martin Horowitz

Jewish Community Renewal/Reconstruction Fund

8. Mark Ittelson

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

ADDRESS:

AJC

Washington, D.C.

Tel. 202-785-4200

9. Mark Talisman

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Expert in Czech/Slovakian Jewish community. Address unknown.

10. Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: She is Executive Producer of The Vilna Project, Inc. which produced the film, "Hidden Treasures" about the Vilna archives. She is born in Vilna. Can provide another angle.

ADDRESS:

130 West 57th Street

NY, NY 10019

Tel./Fac. 212-245-7493

OTHER COUNTRIES

1. Josefine E.P. Leistra

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Spoke at International Conference on "Spoils of World War II." Focus on cultural materials and what happened to them. Also spoke at Bard Institute conference. Expert on Jewish fine arts and decorative arts.

ADDRESS:

Inspecteur
Ministerie an Onderwijs
Cultuur en Wetenschappen
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V. EXAMPLES OF INVENTORIES

1. Marek Web and David Fishman (in the U.S.)

REFERRED BY: Zvi Gitelman, S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: Web is chief archivist at YIVO. Expert (with David Fishman at JTS) on Judaica archives in Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine

Country:	Russia
City/Town:	Moscow
Type Asset (e.g. archive):	Archive
Publication	"Documents on the History and Culture of Jews in Moscow's Archives" (Moscow, 1997)
Inventory Sponsor:	YIVO
Contact #1 Information:	Marek Web YIVO Institute for Jewish Research 555 W. 57th St. NY, NY 10019 Tel. 212-246-6080 Fax. 212- 734-1062
Contact #2 Information:	David Fishman JTS 3080 Broadway NY, NY 10027 212-678-8977

2. Marek Web and Dorit Sallis

Country:	FSU
Region:	Russia, Ukraine, Belarus
Type Asset (e.g. archive):	Archive
Publication:	"Jewish Documentary Sources in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: A Preliminary List"
Name of Researcher/ Team:	Marek Web, Dorit Sallis, editors
Inventory Sponsor:	JTS
Contact #1 Information:	Same as above

3. Miriam Weiner

COMMENTS: Weiner, a co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy" collected a town-by-town index to archives. Archival inventories include Polish State Archives and 75 branch archives, Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. More than 400 Urzad Cywilnego Offices (i.e.local town halls with 20C records); 1,250 Towns represented; 5,375 record entries. Also included in the publication are Holocaust Records, Maps (14), Photographs (500+) and Documents (52).

Co-sponsor, the Routes to Roots Foundation, works in archives of Poland and FSU toward "the inventory, computerization and publication of the surviving Jewish records as well as civil records, listed in a town by town format" (see website www.rtrfoundation.org)

Upcoming projects: "Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova" and "Jewish Roots in Belarus and Lithuania."

Date of Entry:	7/98
Country:	Poland
City/Town:	1,120 towns in Poland
Type Asset (e.g. archive):	Archive inventory
Publication:	"Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories" (1998)
Name of Researcher/ Team:	Miriam Weiner
Inventory Sponsor:	Routes to Roots Foundation and YIVO, in cooperation with Polish State Archives

4. "Hebraic and Judaic Collection of Vilnius"

REFERRED BY: S. Pomrenze

COMMENTS: 52,000+ texts found in monastery, having survived both Nazis and Communists: books, records and newspapers of Vilna's Jewish community. Includes texts dating back to 16th C, children's books from the 19th and early 20C, chumashim and prayerbooks, pre WWII Polish Yiddish newspapers and books clearly identified as coming from the Hevrah Mesitze Haskalah (only Jewish library in the Vilna ghetto during the Nazi occupation). SeparaTel.y held are 312 scrolls

Inventory sponsors are collaborating on issues of transfer and disposition. The cost of cataloguing the Vilnius collection is estimated between \$800, 000 to \$1 million.

Date of Entry:	8/98
Country:	Lithuania
City/Town:	Vilnius/Vilna
Type Asset (e.g. archive):	Bibliography
Name(s) of Researcher/ Team:	Pearl Berger, Chief Librarian Yeshiva University Zachary Baker, senior librarian for the YIVO Herbert Zafren, HUC in Cincinnati
Inventory Sponsor:	YIVO, NFJC et al
Contact #1 Information:	Pearl Berger Yeshiva U 500 West 185th St. NY, NY 10033 212/960-5400 x363 Fax. 212/960-0066 e-mail berger@ymail.yu.edu
Contact #2 Information	Dr. Zachary Baker YIVO
Contact #3 Information	Jerome Chanes NFJC 330 7 th Avenue, 21 st floor Tel. 212-629-0508
State-owned or Private-held?	Collection is currently held in the Bibliographic Center of the National Library of Lithuania. Scrolls are being held in the manuscript area (on metal shelves) of National Library
# of Items in Inventory:	52,000+

IV. THE DATABASE

The database designed for use in the next phase of the project includes: the type of asset(s) covered; the name of researcher/team; contact information; geographic coverage; form of the inventory (computer-based or print), date prepared, etc. It also includes questions about the project itself. Questions are kept purposefully short and factual. The focus is on access, description and condition of the asset. The choice of language has been made with the utmost care given the range of assets we are handling. The complete version appears below and explanation appears in the column on the right.

NAME OF PROJECT:

Cross Reference:

Key Words:

Date of Entry	<i>Should be updated with entry of new information</i>
Country	<i>Country of focus</i>
Region	<i>Region of focus, if applicable</i>
City/Town	<i>If applicable – specify whether asset is in its original place.</i>
Type Asset	<i>For example- archive inventory, art or artifact catalogue, library index or book collection</i>
Name of Researcher/Team	
Contact Information	<i>Coordinates for project leader. Add as many as necessary.</i>
Inventory Sponsor	<i>For example – university or seminary sponsoring the research, publishing the catalogue or inventory.</i>
State-owned or privately held	<i>Speaks to the issue of public access</i>
Project Start Date	
Project Completion Date	
Number of items/entries in inventory	
Language(s) of inventory	
Contents of inventory	<i>For example – documents, books, ledgers, photographs etc.</i>

Additional questions:

- To what extent is collection catalogued? What system is used to catalogue inventory?
- Does the inventory contain information regarding the condition of its contents?
- Is the inventory accessible to the public? Under what conditions?

Other Examples of Databases

Other examples of databases for inventory purposes were drawn from a variety of sources and are for illustrative purposes.

Archives Listing

Call number:
Location:
Box location:
Summary:
Date:
First language:
Provenance:
Arrangement: (e.g. thematic)
Citation:
Creator:
Personal names:
Corporate names:
Topical
Other languages:
Geographic names:

Photographs Listing:

Caption:
Credit line:
Date:
Locale:
Sources:
Subject Classification:
Keywords:

Photographs Listing (alternate example):

Caption:
Credit line: (e.g. "Courtesy of ...")
Date:
Locale:
Sources: (list all)
Subject Classification:
Keywords:

Art Listing:

Artist (include nationality, dates of birth and death):

Title:

Date:

Medium:

Signed, dated, inscribed (note location where signed):

Provenance (previous owners, date and method of transfers):

Exhibition history

Publications

Related works in museum or other public collections

Method of authentication if no provenance or exhibition/publication history

V. CONCLUSION

This report is clearly a preliminary review of the literature and personalities which will enable the development of an inventory of inventories of Jewish cultural assets in the FSU and Eastern Europe. The task is enormous, especially since, as one person knowledgeable in the area commented, "many countries don't even know what they have." With the end of the Cold War and the recovered interest in Jewish life in these countries, many Jewish organizations and institutions in this country and worldwide, are carving out discrete areas of focus for themselves. Already making headlines in this country are efforts by the [exact name of Art Recovery org] to verify the provenance and rightful ownership of various artworks. This work has sometimes called on knowledge of art collections of Jews in Eastern and Western Europe in retracing the history. But perhaps less dramatically, other organizations (e.g. American Jewish Committee), academic institutions (e.g. JTS), museums (e.g. Yad Vashem) and foundations other than the Memorial Foundation (e.g. NFJC) are developing relationships with various communities to explore the potential for documenting Jewish heritage.