
PART 3 – Primary Sources

Primary Sources

3.1 Resources

Provenance and quovadiance research aims at reconstructing the migration path of an object in all its details in order to establish ownership and location respectively. This chapter gives practical information on how to conduct archival research on Jewish ceremonial objects. In general, research on Jewish ceremonial objects may be hindered by at least two factors: 1. Often, the scarce object description in archives or publications does not permit (clear) identification and 2. contrary to fine art, books and archives, the looting of ritual objects was not systematically organized, documented or catalogued by the Nazis, which has resulted in a lack of documentation in war and post-war archives.³⁸⁸ These complications define the problematic and capricious character of research. The researcher, therefore, needs perseverance, patience, and luck. At the same time, the researcher should always be aware that, while an archival document may not help to identify a specific object, it may include information that increases our understanding and completes our overview of the looting and migration paths of Judaica.

This chapter provides guidelines for practical quovadiance and provenance research. In the first case one is looking for a lost object from a pre-war museum/community/other institutional/private collection. A precondition would be the reconstruction of a (partially) lost pre-war/community/other institutional/private collection. In this case collecting as many details about the object as possible in a pre-war inventory, a pre-war catalogue, guide, or any other description, is crucial. Obviously one lacks clues that can be derived from the examination of the actual object (for instance a silver mark or label), and when a photograph of the object is missing, identification is even more complicated and sometimes impossible. In the second case one wants to determine the provenance of an object in a post-war museum/community/other institution/private collection or on the market. Sometimes the provenance of the object is already known. In this case, the researcher knows the beginning and current location and should try to reconstruct the migratory history of the object by searching for documents that unfold each individual step of that history, working from the side of the pre-war owner and from the side of the post-war holder. Reconstructing the migration history of an object without known provenance is often even more complicated and time-consuming because one first has to establish useful leads.

When starting work, you are advised to make a separate folder for each object you are going to research. Every step in the research and the findings of these steps is noted down and added to the folder. You should make copies of relevant documents and put them into the folder. A photograph of the object, should be included too, if available. If any of the collected information is speculative, identify it as such in your notes. Do not forget to document your sources. If you did not find any information, note that down too.

³⁸⁸ The ERR, one of the main plundering agencies was divided into seven special commandos covering practically every area of cultural activity. These were, for instance, *Sonderstab* Bildende Kunst, *Sonderstab* Kirchen, *Sonderstab* Musik and *Sonderstab* Bibliotheken, dealing with fine arts, Christian objects, music and libraries respectively. A separate *Sonderstab* for Jewish ritual objects did not exist. There is reason to believe that the looting of this category of objects had a low priority for ERR. See Julie-Marthe Cohen, "Theft and Restitution of Judaica in the Netherlands During and After the Second World War," Julie-Marthe Cohen, Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek (eds), *Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Jewish Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After*, Crickadarn 2011, pp. 199-252.

This chapter is structured as seven paragraphs on resources (archives and publications) that are arranged in a logical order. As such they can be used as guideline for your research. In the annexes to this chapter, you will find concrete examples of how these resources can be used.

3.2 The Museum Archive

First assemble information from files within your institution as indicated below. Together with the basic object information (material, date, dimensions, etc., see previous chapter) it will give you the basis for identifying and exploring additional resources. Information may be found in:

- Inventory book(s)/list(s)/card system(s): note down all available information: object name, description, dimensions, registered files, acquisition, and date of acquisition – was the object donated, given on loan, or purchased and from whom (note all previous owners and original provenance), etc.
- Condition reports of the object.
- Correspondence about the donation, about the loan, about the purchase (from a private or institutional collector, dealers, or auction house).
- Conservation files: sometimes during conservation, information becomes available about former use of (parts of) the object even prior to its accession by your institution.
- Minutes of board/curatorial meetings that discuss the collection and individual artifacts that were donated, loaned, or offered for purchase.
- Insurance of the collection or of individual objects. The insurance document may prove that an object was in the museum after a certain date. For instance, in Austria an object that came on the market was returned to its original owner because an insurance document was found that showed the object was still in the owner's possession in 1938.
- The present museum database.

3.3 The Community Archive

- Inventories of synagogues and of Jewish communities.
- Board minutes may mention the donation of an object or the loan of an object to an exhibition.
- Loan agreements to exhibitions or other communities may be listed.
- Insurance documents.

3.4 Museum Publications

Secondary sources (see 1.2) such as museum publications or other publications related to your institution often include clues that help to identify an object. Although descriptions of objects are often brief - especially in 19th and early 20th century publications – object descriptions may vary from publication to publication. Therefore note down details from the following publications, while keeping in mind it is important to check each edition:

- Museum guides: these may include descriptions of individual objects, photographs of the objects, and information on provenance.
- Museum catalogues: these were sometimes published several times. Descriptions may vary and sometimes give new information.
- Exhibition catalogues, such as of World Fair exhibitions, War metal exhibitions, national exhibitions, as well as internet exhibitions. Sometimes catalogues appeared in a luxury and commercial edition, the content of which may differ, therefore check both.
- Yearbooks and annual reports: these include new acquisitions, donations, loans, and purchases.

3.5 Publications of Jewish Communities

Jewish communities may have published

- Newsletters and journals
- Yearbooks
- Anniversary publications
- Annual reports

3.6 Other Resources

- Jewish and non-Jewish academic journals
- Jewish and non-Jewish magazines
- Jewish and non-Jewish Encyclopedias
- Auction catalogues
- Newspapers

3.7 Archives and Databases

- National archives consisting of documents relating to the seizure of Jewish assets, like the *Vermögensverkehrsstelle* (Property Transactions Office) in Austria or the LIRO in the Netherlands.
- Vugesta (*Verwaltungsstelle für jüdisches Umzugsgut der Geheimen Staatspolizei* = Gestapo Office for the Disposal of the Property of Jewish Emigrants) archives, only in Austria.
- Photo archives. A photo may include an individual object or be part of a larger image, i.e. a photograph of an exhibition space or installation. A blow-up of a detail of an object may yield identification. It is recommended to look at the physical photograph and at its back as well, for it may include further information and clues.
- One should always check lost & found databases online, i.e. <http://www.imj.org.il/Imagine/irso/>, database of the Israel Museum Jerusalem; <http://www.lostart.de/Webs/DE/LostArt/Index.html>.
- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. (USHMM): <http://collections.ushmm.org/search>.

- Yad Vashem. World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration in Jerusalem: <http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/resources/index.asp>.
- Mémorial de la Shoah. Centre de documentation, Paris: http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsGlobalSearch.jsp?PEGA_HREF_499230533_0_0_setEnglishLocale=setEnglishLocale.
- NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam: <http://www.niod.nl/en/collections>.

For further databases including Jewish ceremonial objects search ‘database’ in the Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica: <http://art.claimscon.org/our-work/judaica/descriptive-catalogue-of-looted-judaica/> and below, Part 4. General Resources, “Judaica and Online Databases – An Overview”.

3.7.1 ARCHIVAL RESOURCES OF PLUNDERING AGENCIES, THE ALLIES AND JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

To use archival materials effectively in the research of World War II provenance and quovadience, a basic knowledge of the history of looting and restitution of Jewish ceremonial objects is important. An overview of this history was published in 2011 in the book *Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Jewish Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After* with contributions on Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, and on JCR that relocated orphaned objects all over the world.³⁸⁹ See also chapters 1.2 “Nazi Agencies Engaged in the Looting of Material Culture;” 1.3 “The Looting of Judaica: Museum Collections, Community Collections and Private Collections - An Overview;” and 1..4 “The Dispersion of Jewish Ceremonial Objects after 1945: Jewish Cultural Reconstruction.”

This *Handbook* includes archival resources of the two principal plundering agencies and the main Jewish and non-Jewish bodies involved in the restitution or new allocation of looted objects, namely:³⁹⁰

Plundering Agencies:

- *Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg* (ERR)
- *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD), *Geheime Staatspolizei* (Gestapo) and *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* (RSHA). (Both the SD and the Gestapo became part of the RSHA in 1939.)
- Additional information regarding confiscation or plundering of Judaica in specific countries will be found in various trust agencies that took on confiscated Judaica, especially from individuals.

Restitution Agencies:

- Allied military forces – SHAEF and OMGUS, as well as related intelligence agencies.

³⁸⁹ Julie-Marthe Cohen, Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek (eds.), *Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Jewish Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After*, Crickadarn 2011.

³⁹⁰ Archival sources of other less prominent organizations involved may be added to this manual in due course, such as the looting body Ahnenerbe or the restituting Jewish Agency, as well as national governments in Eastern European countries, where the nationalization of collections further complicates research.

- Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (JCR), which served as cultural agent of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO), dealing specifically with heirless Jewish cultural property.
- American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC).
- Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC).

War-documentation of Nazi origin:

Nazi-archives include different kinds of documents that may yield information on the looting of Jewish ceremonial objects. Sometimes documents refer to actual objects or crates they were packed, but they may also describe, for instance, the circumstances in which the action of the looting took place. You could look for:

- Monthly and weekly reports, among other documents
- Inventories
- Photos of plunder and loot
- Shipping lists
- Travel accounts
- Evacuation lists
- Shipping papers
- Correspondence

Post-war documentation of the restituting bodies that may include information on (collections of) Jewish ceremonial objects:

- Interrogation reports
- Field reports
- Monthly and weekly reports
- Activity reports
- Inventory lists
- Correspondence
- Restitution forms
- Receipts of in- and out-shipments from Nazi repositories and Allied collecting points
- Transfer receipts
- Claims files
- Property cards from Allied collecting points or other card files
- Photographs
- Memoirs by survivors

In general, one is likely to find less documentation regarding ceremonial objects than regarding art, books and archives. Furthermore, relatively few documents include detailed descriptions with which objects can be identified. Nevertheless, documents often include details that sometimes gain more relevance and become clues at a later stage of the research. It is important to read documents very carefully, to pay attention to numbers that often refer to other documents. In addition, details may become a piece of the puzzle that will give us a better overall picture of the looting or post-war restitution policy concerning Jewish ceremonial objects.

The following paragraphs elaborate on the use of the most important archives for the agencies that were involved in the looting and restitution of Jewish ceremonial objects.

3.7.1.1 *Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)*

A major source for the dispersed ERR archives is Patricia Kennedy Grimsted's online publication *Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder. A Guide to the Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) and the Postwar Retrieval of ERR Loot*, revised and updated edition, 2015-2017. The Guide documents over 30 repositories in which all remaining ERR records are kept, details their contents, and provides links to those records that are online and to sources. It also includes considerable documentation regarding the subsequent fate, post-war retrieval, and restitution of the ERR loot, including key records of post-war U.S., French, British and Soviet agencies seeking to retrieve the ERR loot, particularly those components that incorporated wartime ERR documents or reports on key ERR repositories and staff, including war-crimes trials. In addition, the Guide provides new links to many related sources available on the internet: National Archives College Park (NACP), Maryland; German Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv) in Koblenz, Freiburg, and Berlin-Lichterfelde; The National Archives (TNA) of the United Kingdom, London; the State Archives of Ukraine (TsDAVO) in Kyiv; the Netherlands Institute of War Documentation (NIOD), Amsterdam; and other repositories, with additional digital listings.

If you need to research ERR archives, see Grimsted's Guide

<http://www.errproject.org/guide.php>.³⁹¹

3.7.1.2 *Sicherheitsdienst (SD), Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei), and Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA, Amt VII)*

The RSHA was formed in September 1939 as a centralized umbrella administration combining the Gestapo with the SD, the Security Police (SiPo), Foreign Intelligence and Criminal Police (Kri-po). Already in the mid-1930s both the Gestapo and especially the Security Service (SD) Main Office (SD Hauptamt) began their library and archival plunder.³⁹² RSHA consisted of seven different offices. Amt VII for Ideological Research and Evaluation (*Weltanschauliche Forschung und Auswertung*), serving a collecting function aimed at eventual propaganda research and intellectual analysis of different groups of declared enemies,³⁹³ aimed at looting Jewish book collections and Jewish archives. Grimsted has revealed much documentation of this looting agency in German and Russian

³⁹¹ Grimsted lists only files that 'contain significant ERR or ERR-related documentation regarding cultural plunder, related Rosenberg operations, and plunder by or for the M-Aktion, the Hohe Schule (Rosenberg's would-be institution of higher learning for the Nazi party), its library and institutes, as well as documents relevant to tracing the fate and restitution of the cultural loot seized by the ERR'. Thus, the Guide does not necessarily include files relevant regarding Jewish ceremonial objects.

³⁹² Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, F.J. Hoogewoud, Eric Ketelaar (eds.), *Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues*, Bultth Wells 2007, p. 33. SD Hauptamt prioritised the collection of books and archives for research and propaganda publications relating to the declared enemies of the Reich. First they confiscated collections in the Reich itself, and then in 1938-1939, in annexed territories such as Austria, Silesia and the Sudetenland.

³⁹³ The Amt VII was organised at the end of 1941 by Dr Franz Alfred Six for Ideological Research and Evaluation, emphasising collection of libraries and archives for research about the enemies of the Reich. Dr. Paul Dittel took over Amt VII in March 1943. Grimsted, *Returned from Russia*, p. 48.

archives.³⁹⁴ However, to date we know very little about the active engagement of the SD, Gestapo and RSHA in the looting of Jewish ceremonial objects. Some concrete information is given below.

Records of the SD, Gestapo and RSHA are kept in the Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde (BArch-Lichterfelde), in the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA) in Moscow, and in the National Archives in College Park (NACP).³⁹⁵ According to Patricia Grimsted, ‘when fleeing at the end of the war the RSHA destroyed many of its most compromising office records’. However, RSHA did not manage to destroy all of the files that could reveal the archival operations of Amt VII.³⁹⁶ Future research of archival material of the SD, Gestapo and/or RSHA may therefore possibly reveal information that attests that Jewish ceremonial objects were indeed seized by these agencies. Archival material found by the Russians in two RSHA evacuation research centers, may include information relevant for us:

- A large part of RSHA administrative files, including many from the predecessor SD *Hauptamt*, ended the war in Wölfelsdorf (now Polish Wilkanów), a remote Silesian village about 6 km southeast of Habelschwerdt (now Polish Bystrzyca Klodzka), across what is now the Polish-Czech border. These files were all transferred to Moscow.³⁹⁷
- One large group of original SD *Hauptamt* administrative records, many of them involving archival and library confiscations were found in the castle of Schlesiersee (now Polish Slawa). The entire group of original RSHA files was transferred from Russia to Germany in an archival exchange in 1997, and has subsequently been incorporated into Bestand R 58 in the Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde (BArch-Lichterfelde).³⁹⁸

Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde

Finckensteinallee 63, 12205 Berlin, Germany
Tel. +49 30 1877700

The archival finding aid is available online through the research tool Invenio. It permits access to all of the available descriptive information about the Federal Archives' holdings (many on microfilms). The original SD/RSHA documents are not yet digitized and need to be ordered for the reading room in advance. To prepare your visit, use <https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/basys2-invenio/login.xhtml>.

Go to BESTÄNDE and then click NORDDEUTSCHER BUND UND DEUTSCHES REICH (1867/1871-1945). Then go to INNERES, GESUNDHEIT, POLIZEI UND SS, VOLKSTUM and

³⁹⁴ Grimsted, Hoogewoud, Ketelaar (eds.), *Returned from Russia*, esp. chapter 2; Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, “Twice Plundered or ‘Twice Saved’? Identifying Russia’s ‘Trophy’ Archives and the Loot of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt,” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, vol. 15, issue 2, pp. 191-244.

³⁹⁵ For the latter, see <https://www.archives.gov/iwg/declassified-records/rg-242-seized-foreign-records/>.

³⁹⁶ Grimsted found that RSHA records found by the Americans after the war in Zell-am-See (near Salzburg) and returned to Germany in the 1960s contain scant documentation from or relating to Amt VII. This is apparent in the Bundesarchiv finding aid: Reichssicherheitshauptamt: Bestand R 58, comp. Heinz Boberach (Koblenz: Bundesarchiv, 1992 = Findbücher zu Beständen des Bundesarchivs, vol. 22; reprinted from the 1st edn [Koblenz, 1982], covering files still retaining signature nos. 1-1591.

³⁹⁷ Two large fonds with many SD Hauptamt and Amt VII files still remain in the Russian State Military Archive in Moscow (RGVA, fonds 500k and 501k), these have not been satisfactorily processed and described. (still anno 2016, check Grimsted). For copies of the Russian-language *opisi* for fond 500 and German-language translations see: BArch-Lichterfelde, Bestand R 58, Findbuch Nr. 1-Bundesarchiv Abteilungen Potsdam, translated by G. Weber, Oct.-Dec. 1993.

³⁹⁸ Bestand R 58 (folders 7001-777), see finding aid available in the reading room of the BArch-Lichterfelde, entitled Hauptkommission zur Untersuchung Nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen in Polen. Institut für Nationales Gedenken.

find R 58 REICHSSICHERHEITSHAUPTAMT. Choose from the file description what documents you are interested in seeing and consult the finding aids in the reading room. You will probably need help.

Grimsted refers to the group in the Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde when she writes that ‘Recently reprocessed RSHA records in Berlin also provide much more hitherto unknown information about other archival confiscation and transports from Austria. For example, as early as April 1938, the SD set up a special Aussenstelle in Eisenstadt (not far from Vienna), where they seized the card files and archival materials of the proto-Nazi Vaterland [sic! Vaterländische, eds] Front, as well as materials from the Jewish Museum, a Masonic lodge (Schlaraffialoge Eisenstadt), and several Jewish individuals. Packing and shipping papers survive for many of their shipments to Berlin.’³⁹⁹

The ‘Eisenstadt Jewish Museum’ collection is referred to in BArch-Lichterfelde R 58, archival number 7151, p. 1, 4 and 12:

File number 7151 (p. 1) is a letter from the SD Sonderkommando, Vienna, dated 9 April 1938, regarding the inspection and packing activities in Eisenstadt. The file dates from before the formation of the RSHA in 1939. The letter refers to different collections, among which is a ‘Jewish Museum’ in Eisenstadt, that was believed to be of ‘exceptional value’.⁴⁰⁰ A decision had to be made if the ‘Museum’ was to remain sealed or if the head of the *Sicherheitshauptamt* was going to decide about transfer.⁴⁰¹ Some days later it had been decided that the ‘Jewish Museum’ in Eisenstadt should be taken into custody and seized being the property of the Reich and should be administered temporarily.⁴⁰²

This example might shed some light on a certain interest of the SD in a private Judaica collection that was mistaken as a Jewish Museum. Although no further details are given here and so far no details about what happened to the collection after confiscation are known (more details may be found in other files), it is a known fact that the seized objects were transferred into the custody of the *Burgenländisches Landesmuseum* (then *Landschaftsmuseum*) in Eisenstadt where they remained till after the war and were eventually restituted to pre-war owner Sandor Wolf’s heiress and auctioned off.⁴⁰³ As mentioned above, very little is known about the RSHA Amt VII activities regarding the seizure of Jewish ceremonial objects. For example, while preparing an exhibition and catalogue on the fate of the collection of the pre-war Jewish Museum in Berlin, historian and former director of the *Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum*, Hermann Simon, did not find any documentation that indicates that the RSHA looted ritual objects from the museum.⁴⁰⁴ Only one ritual object of the old museum collection has surfaced so far, namely a washing vessel that is today in the collection of

³⁹⁹ See: SD Hauptamt Sonderkommando reports and inventories (Vienna, Eisenstadt and Innsbruck, 9 April 1938; Eisenstadt, 13 April 1938, BArch-Lichterfelde R 58 (Polen)/7151). Here cited after Grimsted, *Returned from Russia*, p. 50. See also BArch-Lichterfelde, R 58/7151, „Unterlagen über die Tätigkeit des SD-Sonderkommandos Wien bez. des Raubs von Kulturgütern in Staaten, die dem Reich angegliedert wurden.“

⁴⁰⁰ It is supposed that the ‘Jewish Museum Eisenstadt’ refers to the private Judaica (books and/or objects) collection of Sandor Wolf. On Wolf, see: Dieter Szorger: *Sándor Wolf (1871–1946) Gründer des Landesmuseums*. In: *Burgenland. 90 Jahre – 90 Geschichten*. Begleitband zur Ausstellung, Wissenschaftliche Arbeiten aus dem Burgenland (WAB) Band 137, Landesmuseum Burgenland, Eisenstadt 2011.

⁴⁰¹ „Jüdisches Museum in Eisenstadt: Hiebei [sic!] soll es sich um ein ausserordentlich wertvolles Institut handeln. Es ist zu entscheiden ob es vorläufig versiegelt bleiben soll oder ob durch den Chef des Sicherheitshauptamtes eine Entscheidung über Überführung oder Verbleib des Museums getroffen werden muß.“

⁴⁰² Letter from the SD Subsection Wien, Aussenstelle Burgenland an den SD Oberabschnitt Donau, 13 April 1938, re: packing, transfer of the seized material. „Das jüdische Museum in Eisenstadt wurde beschlagnahmt und eingezogen und ist Eigentum des Reiches, und wird vorläufig kommissarisch verwaltet.“ BArch-Lichterfelde, R 58 (Polen)/7151, p. 12.

⁴⁰³ https://www.univie.ac.at/geschichte/2010/s_wolf.html.

⁴⁰⁴ Chana Schütz and Hermann Simon (eds.), *Auf der Suche nach einer verlorenen Sammlung: das Berliner Jüdische Museum*, Berlin 2011.

the ZIH (see below).

Instead, items other than ritual objects from the pre-war Jewish museum Berlin were discovered after the war. Both Simon and Jacob Hübner, who contributed to the research for the catalogue, assume that these were looted by the RSHA: after the war, paintings of small dimensions (*kleinformatische Bilder*) were found in the basement of the *Reichskulturkammer* in the Schlüterstrasse in Berlin.⁴⁰⁵ Simon doesn't rule out the possibility that these had first been brought to the Eisenacherstrasse 11/13, one of the two sequestered Masonic buildings in Berlin, where the SD *Hauptamt* and RSHA amassed archives and books.⁴⁰⁶ After the war these paintings of small dimensions were eventually handed over to the JRSO.⁴⁰⁷

In 1951 a convolute of 3,926 engravings, reproductions, and photos and a copper washing vessel were handed over to the ZIH by the Polish Ministry of Art and Culture from the museum storage in Schloss Narozno in Bozkow (Eckersdorf).⁴⁰⁸ Hübner suggests that the washing vessel may have arrived there from Wilkanof (Wölfelsdorf), the RSHA's (Amt VII C 1) archival facility that was taken into use when evacuation started from Berlin in 1943. However, Hübner's assumption cannot be verified as there have not been found any Nazi inventories of the Wölfelsdorf archival cache.⁴⁰⁹ Most of the archives, books and objects found at the Wölfelsdorf storage was taken by the Red Army Trophy Brigades.⁴¹⁰ It is not known if these transports included Jewish ceremonial objects.

The Jewish Museum Berlin positives (*Diapositive*) after the war found their way to the collection of the Lebuser Landesmuseum (Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej) in the West Polish Zielona Góra (Grünberg). According to an employee of the Bezirksmuseum in Lezno, they were most probably discovered in the RSHA Amt VII evacuation research center in the castle of Schlesiensee (now Polish Slawa).⁴¹¹ Again, there are no verifying documents.

3.7.1.3 The Office of Military Government for Germany, U.S.

OMGUS and SHAEF records are held by the National Archives at College Park (NACP)

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

<http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/>

Archives of the Allied Forces that deal with the looting and restitution of Jewish cultural objects, in particular the U.S. Army, are kept in the National Archives at College Park (NACP). Today, these

⁴⁰⁵ The large paintings (*grossformatigen Bilder*) were probably stored separately from the small paintings after November 1938 and were lost (with the exception of a Steinhardt painting). See Schütz, Simon, *Auf der Suche*, p. 29.

⁴⁰⁶ Gestapo and SD Hauptamt amassed significant archives along with books in the basements of their two sequestered Masonic buildings in Berlin, starting in 1936 at Emserstrasse 12/13 and starting in 1938 at Eisenacherstrasse 11/13. Grimsted, *Returned from Russia*, p. 47.

⁴⁰⁷ Hermann Simon, „Auf der Suche nach einer verlorenen Sammlung. Was geschah nach dem 10. November 1938 mit den Beständen des Berliner Jüdischen Museums?“, in *Auf der Suche nach einer verlorenen Sammlung*, op. cit., p. 17-46, p. 37.

⁴⁰⁸ The transfer protocol (*Übergabeprotokoll*) is published in Jacob Hübner, „Auf der Suche nach Objekten des Berliner Jüdischen Museums in Polen“, Chana Schütz and Hermann Simon, *Auf der Suche nach einer verlorenen Sammlung. Das Berliner Jüdische Museum (1933-1938)*, p. 82. For an image of a photocopy of a drawing from the Berlin collection, see Eleonora Bergman, “The Jewish Historical Institute: History of Its Building and Collections,” Cohen, Heimann-Jelinek, *Neglected Witnesses*, p. 192). For an image of ritual objects coming from Bozkow, see *ibid*, p. 184.

⁴⁰⁹ Grimsted, *Returned from Russia*, p. 57.

⁴¹⁰ Torah scrolls were brought to Moscow with presumably the RSHA Wölfelsdorf archives, but then transferred to the State Historical Museum (GIM) in Moscow in 1946. Their subsequent fate is unknown.

⁴¹¹ Hübner, *Auf der Suche*, p. 77, note 14.

documents can be accessed online by searching Fold3, a database including documents, images, and other material covering American military history. Access to Fold3 is free for the entire series listed as 'Holocaust Era Assets'. See <https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/>.

The following instructions aim at facilitating the use of the database. It is recommended to use the instructions in conjunction with the database. Headers and titles in Fold3 are given in capitals.

SEARCHING THE DATABASE FOLD3

Upon accessing the database the user can select between ALL TITLES or WORLD WAR II. In the first case choose HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, in the latter HOLOCAUST COLLECTION. The resulting files are the same.

The HOLOCAUST COLLECTION consists of 37 PUBLICATIONS that are further hierarchically arranged in SERIES, CATEGORIES and PAGES.⁴¹² Among the 37 PUBLICATIONS, only those relevant for provenance/quovadiance research of Jewish ceremonial objects are discussed below.

- Following the given order of the PUBLICATIONS (starting with - the not relevant - ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT REPORTS), the first PUBLICATION with relevant records on Jewish ceremonial objects is the ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION, which includes the most important records concerning the looting and restitution of Jewish ceremonial objects.⁴¹³

ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OFFENBACH ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

These records are arranged in the following SERIES:

- SERIES: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1946-1949: these include correspondence, memorandums, procedures, and reports relating to the administration of the Monuments Fine Art & Archives (MFA&A) program at the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD), records from the Office Military Governor outlining the OAD responsibilities concerning restitution. The material is very diverse. The following CATEGORIES are relevant in relation to our research.
- CATEGORY: 1949 CORRESPONDENCE OAD
Example: PAGE 54: letter of 13 May 1949 about 100 cases of books belonging to Jewish institutions and 5 cases of Jewish textiles being handed over to the Central Collecting Point in Wiesbaden.⁴¹⁴
- CATEGORY: OAD FILES 1946
Example: PAGE 8 is a letter of the Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse to the Commanding Officer of the Liaison & Security Office in Biedenkopf, dated 18 December 1946, about the release of a 'menorah' (candelabrum), 'any Torah scrolls or other Jewish

⁴¹² You can SEARCH or BROWSE the database as indicated in the red strip at the top of your screen. You can SEARCH the complete database by keyword on every level. Because this way produces probably numerous results, it is recommended to narrow down your domain by BROWSING the database, choosing a SERIE or CATEGORY, and then search for keywords in PAGES. Please note that searching by keyword is no guarantee that you will find every document that in fact includes that keyword.

⁴¹³ This collection is named after State Department Officer Ardelia Hall, who was responsible for the transfer of the records from Germany to the U.S. It includes records of the American Central Collecting Points (CCP) in Marburg (closed in June 1946), in Munich (that specialized largely in materials subject to restitution to foreign countries), in Offenbach and Wiesbaden, of which only the latter two are relevant for your research.

⁴¹⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232179275>.

ritual objects originally the property of the Jewish community of Cologne' to be deposited at the OAD with 'the other displaced Jewish religious and cultural objects.'⁴¹⁵

Example: PAGE 77, letter accompanying the transference of papers, namely receipts for removal of library and religious objects from the OAD.⁴¹⁶

Example: PAGE 179, hand receipt dated 24 July 1946 of objects turned over from MFA&A Section Wiesbaden to the OAD on the 24th of July 1946, among which: 9 Torah scrolls, 2 Torah coats, 4 complete covers for Torah cupboards, 1 Torah top, 1 Torah cloth velvet memorial label (and Masonic objects).⁴¹⁷

Example: PAGE 303, 29 March 1946: request for investigation of Torah Scrolls. It is requested that an investigation be made regarding some 30 Holy scrolls reported to be located near Regensburg.⁴¹⁸

- CATEGORIES: S [SEYMOUR] J POMRENZE

Example: PAGES 7 AND 8: This is a list entitled 'packing-list' and 'silver sets' with includes box numbers 1-11, containing objects and referring to photographs ('plate numbers') showing silver objects that are numbered. For these photographs, see [PUBLICATION] ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OFFENBACH PHOTOGRAPHS, PPHOTOGRAPHS OF OPERATIONS AT OFFENBACH, ALBUM IV, SECTION 1 [PAGES 1-21].

- SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO RESTITUTION CLAIMS [1946-1950].

- CATEGORIES: CORRESPONDENCE: no documents referring to Jewish ceremonial objects were found.

- SERIES: CULTURAL OBJECT RESTITUTION AND CUSTODY RECORDS 1946-1951.

- CATEGORY: AJDC [AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE], OAD 1. Much, if not most, correspondence in this category relates to books, such as the distribution of books to Displaced Persons (DP) camps. Ceremonial objects were given on loan, though, to communities in the American Zone for use during the Jewish holidays to be returned to the OAD at the end of the holiday season.⁴¹⁹

Example: PAGE 152: In a letter dated August 5 1946 Prof. Koppel S. Pinson, educational director of AJDC informs Capt. Isaac Bencowitz, director of the OAD that the Jewish Community of Nürnberg turned over to him the 'collection of Jewish books and religious articles belonging to that community' and that he should like to turn over this entire collection to the OAD. The entire Jewish community was emigrating in the following weeks and the transportation of the materials to the OAD should therefore be carried out.⁴²⁰

- CATEGORY: AUSTRIA OAD 2

- CATEGORY: BELGIUM OAD 3

- CATEGORY: CZECHOSLOVAKIA OAD 4

- CATEGORY: DANISH OAD 5

⁴¹⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232178218>.

⁴¹⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232178287>.

⁴¹⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232178389>.

⁴¹⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232178514>.

⁴¹⁹ Series: Monthly Report OAD, September 1946, p. 6 (<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232711713>)

⁴²⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232161241>.

- CATEGORY: DIVISION CORRESPONDENCE OAD 6
- CATEGORY: FRANCE OAD 7
- CATEGORY: GREAT BRITAIN OAD 8
- CATEGORY: GREECE OAD 9
- CATEGORY: HUNGARY OAD 10
- CATEGORY: ITALY OAD 12
- NETHERLANDS OAD 13

Example: PAGES 113-115: Receipt⁴²¹ with an accompanying list, dated 26 June 1946, signed by Isaac Bencowitz, director of the OAD and the Dutch liaison officer, Major Graswinckel. The materials include, for instance, 2 boxes marked with the abbreviation NIRO [= Niederlande Rosenthaliana], ‘containing library and archival material from the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, Amsterdam’, and 2 boxes, marked with DIV, ‘containing Toroth cloth covers’.⁴²²

Example: PAGES 124-126: A receipt dated 31 May 1946 included a list of coins with short descriptions. See for instance ‘1 gold coin Asscher’, These coins have been identified in the meantime as objects of the Jewish Historical Museum collection.⁴²³

- CATEGORY: NORWAY OAD 14
- CATEGORY: POLAND OAD 15
- CATEGORY: USSR OAD 17
- CATEGORY: YUGOSLAVIA OAD 19
- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT⁴²⁴ A-E [1 of 4]

Example: IN-SHIPMENT A-E, PAGES 10, 11 AND 13:⁴²⁵ In a letter of 27 February 1947 is written that 4 or 5 cases of Jewish ceremonial objects that were found in a cellar at Backnang, a town in the Bundesland of Baden-Württemberg were to be delivered at the OAD. A letter of 14 August 1947 from the MFA&A of OMGUS Land Wuerttemberg-Baden to OMGUS for Hesse, again referred to this discovery and the removal of ‘two wooden boxes [...] without tops, of Jewish religious objects, some silver, mostly broken or otherwise damaged, unwrapped’ to the OAD.⁴²⁶ On 6 April 1948 the Office of Civilian Agency for Property Control of OMGUS in Backnang was authorized to move these objects to the OAD (IN-SHIPMENT A-E, PAGE 10). On the same day the Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Württemberg requested the return of these objects (435 pieces), explaining that in summer of 1944 the Gestapo had confiscated the ritual objects that the Kultusvereinigung had to have assemble from all Jewish communities in Württemberg.⁴²⁷

⁴²¹ When cultural objects were returned to the country of origin, the Americans and the receiving party signed a receipt. The receipt was accompanied by a list (called schedule A) describing in general terms the items included in the transfer.

⁴²² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163132>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163133>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163134>.

⁴²³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163143>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163144>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232163145>.

⁴²⁴ These CATEGORIES consist of receipts of incoming cultural objects, between 1946-1949 - arranged alphabetically by place of origin of the shipment, although information may be scattered - including correspondence on the looting and discovery of Jewish ritual objects that are to be shipped-in at the OAD. Information is not object specific, but can be revealing in regard to the looting of Jewish ritual objects of Jewish communities in Germany. Records in this CATEGORY are not complete (an incoming transport mentioned in a monthly report was not found).

⁴²⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536047>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536047>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536050>.

⁴²⁶ See “in-shipment F-K”, p.96, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536274>.

⁴²⁷ Page 10, 6 April 1948, Stuttgart, “Movement of cultural objects is authorized as stated below: 2 wooden boxes, [dimensions], without tops, of Jewish religious objects, some silver, mostly broken or otherwise damaged, unwrapped.” From Office of Civilian Agency for Property Control, Backnang to OAD Offenbach, APO 633 US Army. Letter from

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT F-K [2 of 4]
Example: PAGES 44-46:⁴²⁸ On 26 April 1948 the OAD received 5 cases of religious objects from the Foreign Exchange Depository Eucom [=European Command].⁴²⁹ These included 8 lots, for instance, ‘1 lot of cloth bands woven with silver and gold plated metal weight about 10.850 kilograms coming from synagogues.
- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT L-T [3 of 4]
- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT U-Z [4 of 4]
Example: PAGE 155:⁴³⁰ Letter, dated 12 June 1947, in which the OAD reports that the OAD director inspected ‘seven large crates’ of unidentified ‘miscellaneous vestments, silver articles’ and two large bronze candelabra’ and ‘about seventy-five Torah Rolls which are not crated’, all of these objects ‘held in a special store-room at Festung Marienberg in Würzburg’.⁴³¹
- CATEGORY: JRSO [Jewish Restitution Successor Organization].⁴³²
- CATEGORY: MOVEMENT TO WIESBADEN⁴³³
- CATEGORY: OUT-SHIPMENT OFFENBACH⁴³⁴
Example 1: PAGE 19 is a hand-receipt dated 15 May 1949: ‘Today the following material was turned over to CCP Wiesbaden: 100 cases of books belonging to Jewish Institutions Germany; 5 cases Jewish textiles’.⁴³⁵

Chief Restitution Branch Economics Division. (p. 11), letter from the Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Württemberg, to Property Center Office Backnang, 6 April 1948. [...] We request herewith release of the Synagogue relics – 435 pieces declared by you. By order of the Gestapo these religious objects had to be assembled here from all communities in Württemberg. Summer 1944 the Gestapo took these objects over from us and it seems because of the air raids they were brought to Rudersberg. (p. 13) From Headquarters OMG Württemberg-Baden, 27 February 1947 to Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse. The following information has been received from the Land Property Control Chief, this headquarters: ‘We are this day issuing instructions to the Civilian Agency for Property Control to direct the delivery of a collection of Jewish religious ornaments to the Archival Depot in Offenbach, Main, following instructions to this effect received from Property Control Branch, OMGUS, which has coordinated the subject with Education & Religious Affairs Branch, OMGUS’. It is understood that there are four of five cases of subjects ornaments in a cellar at Backnang and that delivery to Offenbach will probably not be effected in the near future.

⁴²⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536222>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536223>,
<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536224>.

⁴²⁹ On the Foreign Exchange Depository Group of the Office of the Finance Adviser, OMGUS, 1944-1950, see <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/microfilm/dn1924.pdf>

⁴³⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536712>.

⁴³¹ For more information, see also pages 150-154 and the Overview.

⁴³² These pages include out-shipment receipts of Jewish cultural properties, i.e. the transference of books from the OAD to JRSO when it closed down in 1949 and date from May/June 1949. Thus, when the OAD closed down in 1949, not all the objects stored there were transferred to the CCP Wiesbaden. This category does not include receipts of Jewish ceremonial objects. It does include some correspondence, i.e. about the kind of action to be taken regarding several hundred Torah scrolls (page 63), see: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232162850>.

⁴³³ This category consists of letters of recommendation of employees whose work is terminated due to completion of operations and transfer of depot to Wiesbaden, see pages 2-26, and receipts for final shipments of furniture, equipment and other contents to the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point in 1949.

⁴³⁴ This category includes invoices of expenses and receipts of equipment used in the OAD and returned to the institutes it was borrowed from, dating from 1948 and 1949 when the OAD was in the process of closing down. In this category the information on Jewish ceremonial objects is general and scarce of details. Out-shipments are dated but not numbered. The category does not include out-shipments of restitutions of Jewish ceremonial objects to the countries of origin in 1946 and 1947. For more information on those restitutions, one should turn to “Monthly Reports” or “[Series] Cultural Objects Restitution and Custody Records 1946-1951”.

⁴³⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536735>.

Example: PAGE 87 is a hand-receipt of 5 October 1948 for 2 candlesticks handed over to the CCP Wiesbaden.⁴³⁶

Example: PAGE 88 is a hand-receipt of 4 October 1948 for 36 cases containing silver ware handed over to the CCP Wiesbaden.⁴³⁷

Example: PAGE 95 is a hand-receipt of 20 9 1948 of 93 cases containing silver ware handed over to the CCP Wiesbaden.⁴³⁸

Example: PAGE 96 is a hand-receipt of 20 9 1948 of 14 cases with silver ware handed over to the CCP Wiesbaden.⁴³⁹

- SERIES: MONTHLY REPORTS

These include the period from March 1946 till August 1947. The reports consist of reports providing detailed information on the administration of the OAD and the progress of the restitution of objects in the Depot's custody. The reports are arranged chronologically by date.⁴⁴⁰ The information regarding Jewish ceremonial objects is general, for instance, the number and type of transferred objects without further details. Information in the monthly reports can sometimes be linked to more detailed information in other SERIES (see below).

- CATEGORY: MONTHLY REPORT OF THE OAD MARCH 1946

Example: PAGE 3 mentions the receipt of 'Holy scrolls (Toroth) and other religious ceremonial articles stored temporarily at the Fine Arts Collecting Point, Wiesbaden', which were returned to the OAD on 20 March 1946. After their return they were neatly arranged in cabinets, barred with iron bars and the room itself was partitioned off from other rooms and the doors were locked.⁴⁴¹

Example: PAGES 7-8 list items that were shipped out from the OAD as of 25 March, among which '10 medals Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam' (PAGE 8).⁴⁴²

Example: PAGE 22 is a list of religious objects and other valuables that on 31 March 1946 were in the OAD. It gives the type (27) and numbers of objects, for instance: 'Crowns (Kisre Torah), Torah: 38', 'Covers, plush and others 293' and 'Curtains, Torah, Ark: 7'.⁴⁴³

PUBLICATION: ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OFFENBACH PHOTOGRAPHS⁴⁴⁴

This PUBLICATION consists of 4 SERIES of which only the third PHOTOGRAPHS OF OPERATIONS AT OFFENBACH is relevant in the framework of our manual. This SERIES includes four albums, ca. 1945.⁴⁴⁵ For Jewish ceremonial objects see following paragraphs.

⁴³⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536803>.

⁴³⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536804>.

⁴³⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536811>.

⁴³⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232536812>.

⁴⁴⁰ <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/microfilm/m1942.pdf>, p. 4.

⁴⁴¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232711382>. There are no records in the "In-Shipment" categories that refer to this in-shipment from Wiesbaden.

⁴⁴² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232711387>.

⁴⁴³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232711401>.

⁴⁴⁴ M 1942 - Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points ("Ardelia Hall Collection"): Offenbach Archival Depot, 1946-1951;

⁴⁴⁵ The photo albums are also found in the "Publication: OMGUS-Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives", in "Series: Photographic History of the Offenbach Archival Depot". For further copies see the personal papers of Colonel Seymour Pomrenze, first director of the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD), in the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) based at the Center for Jewish History (CJH) in New York, <http://findingaids.cjh.org/?pID=1463157#serIIsubser1>, Series II: Offenbach Archival Depot, Subseries 1, original materials, 1809, 1945-1949, box 2, folder 7 ('Photographic

ALBUM 1 consists of 7 SECTIONS. SECTION I, PAGE 7 shows a photograph of Torah scrolls ('desecrated by the Nazis') and 'Religious articles piled in cases, unsorted'.⁴⁴⁶ It shows a crate with the initials JPIS, which refers to the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam. SECTION V, PAGE 9-11 and 13, shows Jewish ceremonial objects, such as Hanukkah lamps and candelabra, 'religious covers, plush and others', and rimonim, in the Torah Room on the second floor.⁴⁴⁷ ALBUM II consists of 7 SECTIONS. SECTION VI, PAGE 9-12 shows Jewish ceremonial textiles, such as parochot and Shabbat cloths.⁴⁴⁸ ALBUM III consists of 1 SECTION of 69 PAGES and is entitled 'The Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) of which the Offenbach Archival Depot has become the Antithesis'. ALBUM IV, SECTION 1 [PAGES 1-21] includes photos of 'unidentifiable' loot from Jewish synagogues in the OAD.⁴⁴⁹

PUBLICATION: ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OMGUS RECORDS⁴⁵⁰

- SERIES: ACTIVITY REPORTS [all from 1945], are subdivided in 22 CATEGORIES, arranged by Army unit and thereunder chronologically by month. This SERIES consists of (semi-) monthly reports on Monuments Fine Art & Archives (MFA&A).
- CATEGORY: MONTHLY REPORT ON MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT – SEVENTH UNITED STATES ARMY JULY (GREATER HESSE) 1945
Example: PAGE 5: Together with books, Torah scrolls and manuscripts, ceremonial objects were discovered in the sub-cellars in the Bockenheimer Landstrasse 70, the former premises of the *Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage* (IEJ) and, between 10-19 July, were removed to the Central Collecting Point in the former Rothschild Library, Untermainkai 15 in Frankfurt a/Main. There the ceremonial objects were 'locked up in director's room with the more valuable objects in the safe there'. The report also gives information about the discovery of the loot in Hungen, stating that 'Comprehensive investigation was made of the previously reported deposits of the same institution at Hungen, Oberhessen, which is still under local military guard as a G-2 intelligence target. There are approximately 1,200,000 additional volumes and various other cultural objects which it is the intention to transport to the other Collecting Point in Frankfurt a/Main, the University, already requisitioned, but not yet

History', vol. I), p. 15-18 and box 3, folder 4 (Unidentifiable loot from Jewish synagogues collected at the Offenbach Archival Depot'), see: Patricia Grimsted, *Guide*, USA, section 10.6.1, page 192. Individual photographs of the OAD Album are also available at the Yad Vashem photo database, see Grimsted, *Guide*, section 4.1.

⁴⁴⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232549888>.

⁴⁴⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550002>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550005>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550009>.

⁴⁴⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550535>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550539>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550543>.

⁴⁴⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550584> (and following pages). Many objects have been identified as coming from Dutch collections, i.e. the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam and of the Portuguese-Jewish and Ashkenazi Amsterdam communities. The photographs are published in *Neglected Witnesses*, p. 209-217.

⁴⁵⁰ OMGUS is an abbreviation for the Office of Military Government for Germany, United States. It was established in October 1945 and was responsible for administering the U.S. zone of Germany and the U.S. sector of Berlin, and served as the U.S. element of the four-power Allied occupation of Germany. It took control of identifiable works of art or cultural materials of value discovered in its zone, regardless of their ownership, and returned them to the governments of the countries from which they had been stolen. OMGUS records in fact include the Ardelia Hall Collections. Together these collections are rich in the documentation of recovered and restituted cultural objects.

- repaired.⁴⁵¹ There was the intention to remove the ceremonial objects from Hungen to the Collecting Point in the Frankfurt University building.
- CATEGORY: THIRD U.S. ARMY REPORTS - JANUARY THRU MAY 1945 Example: PAGES 31-40: these pages are a ‘Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Semi-Monthly Report for the period ending 15 April 1945’, which reports on interrogations and discoveries of loot described in detail. Among the discovered loot is the one in Hungen, which was inspected on 9 April (see esp. PAGES 34-36).⁴⁵²
 - SERIES: GENERAL RECORDS, 1938-1948. They consist of 342 CATEGORIES
The most prominent subjects include general information on the German fine arts programs, the status of German monuments and museums, the planning of the monuments and fine arts program in the occupation zone, and German art looting activities during the war.⁴⁵³
 - CATEGORY: MUSEUM FRANKFURT: HISTORISCHE MUSEUM
Example: PAGES 137-139: list of objects from the Jewish Community in Frankfurt that were kept in the Historical Museum of Frankfurt.⁴⁵⁴
 - SERIES: RESTITUTION AND CUSTODY RECEIPTS, 1945-1951, consists of correspondence and receipts for cultural objects restituted to countries, for the return of cultural objects to German institutions, for interzonal exchange of cultural objects, and for the change of custody of cultural objects in the U.S. zone. The 90 CATEGORIES are arranged in the RECEIPTS – GENERAL, subdivided in CATEGORIES of individual countries (nos. 58.1-58.18). What follows are RESTITUTION RECEIPTS, arranged by year and by the number of the receipts, CUSTODY RECEIPTS that regard the return of cultural objects to German institutions. Only in very few cases it concerns the transference of Jewish ceremonial objects to Jewish communities in Germany. Annexed to the receipts is a shipping list (“Schedule A”) that sometimes includes details on the objects.
 - CATEGORY: 58.5 HOLLAND (GREATER HESSE)
Example: PAGES 44-48. The receipt with number 245 is dated 31 October 1946 and signed by the Dutch Liaison Officer Major Graswinckel for loot to be restituted from OAD to the Netherlands. The shipping list (PAGES 46-48) includes Jewish ceremonial objects and some

⁴⁵¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295560668>.

⁴⁵² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295525779>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295525780>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295525781>; The same report is also found in “Ardelia Hall Collection: Wiesbaden Administrative Records, Activity Reports, Monthly Report: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, April 1945”, and in [category] “World War II, [publication] World War II European Theatre Army Records, 1-Subject File, 147-G-5, Internal Affairs, Field Reports, p. 20-21”. See also: Julie-Marthe Cohen, “Theft and Restitution of Judaica in the Netherlands During and After the Second World War,” Cohen, Heimann-Jelinek, *Neglected Witnesses*, pp. 199-252, esp. pp. 204-208.

⁴⁵³ https://www.fold3.com/title_755/ardelia_hall_collection_omgus_records#description. Among the 342 categories in this serie, several may include information about Jewish ceremonial objects. The examples here are from a selected group of categories.

⁴⁵⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343459>, p. 137 (English). <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343470> p. 138 (English).

<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343477> p. 139 (English).

<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343573> p. 147 (German).

<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343582> p. 148 (German).

<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293343590> p. 149 (German).

masonic objects that were received by civil officer Lion Morpurgo on 30 October 1946.⁴⁵⁵ At the end of the list with plate numbers and object nos. that refer to ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OFFENBACH PHOTOGRAPHS, ALBUM IV, SECTION 1.⁴⁵⁶

Example: PAGE 58-62, esp. PAGE 62.⁴⁵⁷ The receipt with number 233 is dated 30 August 1946 and signed by the Dutch Liaison Officer Major Graswinckel for loot to be restituted from OAD to the Netherlands.⁴⁵⁸ The shipping list includes Jewish ceremonial objects with short descriptions, i.e. ‘1 glas David Montezinos’.⁴⁵⁹

- CATEGORY: LOG – CUSTODY RECEIPTS

The logbook gives the following information: number of the custody receipt, date, place, owner and signature.

Example: PAGE 2: custody receipts in Bavaria, see i.e. [number] 1, [date] 5 September 1945. [place] Munich, [owner] Israelitic Congregation, [signature] Siegfried Neuland.⁴⁶⁰ To understand how the logbook works, you can turn from here to the CATEGORY: CUSTODY RECEIPTS BAVARIA I (the custody receipts are ordered according to region and within each region chronologically). On PAGE 6-8 you will find the custody receipt with the list of Jewish ceremonial objects (Torah mantles, parochot, Torah shields, etc.) that were kept in the Oberfinanzpraesidium (the financial headquarters built from 1938 till 1941 by the National Socialists) and were given into the custody of the Munich Jewish community.⁴⁶¹

- CATEGORY: LOG-RESTITUTION – SHIPMENTS

This CATEGORY provides lists of shipments according to country in alphabetical order, giving date of shipment, number of receipt, place from where the shipment took place, the number of items included in that shipment (sometimes with specification on shipment). The term ‘Jewish ritual objects’ does not appear in the list as such, but may be included in the term ‘miscellaneous’.

Example: PAGE 15, receipt no. 233 is a transport of 36 items from Offenbach on 30 August 1946.⁴⁶² With this information go to CATEGORY: RECEIPTS FOR CULTURAL OBJECTS JANUARY – DECEMBER 1946, PAGE 119-123, especially PAGE 123, which is a list enumerating ceremonial and other objects (some were identified as belonging to the Jewish Historical Museum).⁴⁶³ Thus ‘miscellaneous’ can refer to Jewish ceremonial objects. One can also search for the restitution receipt in the CATEGORY: 58.5 (HOLLAND GREATER HESSE), see PAGES 58-62.

- CATEGORY: LOG-RESTITUTION RECEIPTS

The LOG-RESTITUTION RECEIPTS is a register with specific information on restitutions from the U.S. zones in Germany: Württemberg-Baden (1-24/100), Miscellaneous (including Berlin, nrs. 1-130/200), Greater Hesse (201-298/600) and Bavaria (601-777). Restitution receipts are numbered, but the list is incomplete, since many numbers are missing. In addition the date of the receipt is given, as is the location where the restitution took place,

⁴⁵⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293427399>.

⁴⁵⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232550584>.

⁴⁵⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293427476>.

⁴⁵⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293427457>.

⁴⁵⁹ Some of the objects in the list have been identified as objects of the prewar collection of the Jewish Historical Museum Amsterdam. Identical copies of these receipts are also found in Ardelia Hall Collection: Offenbach Administrative Records, Cultural Object Restitution and Custody Records.

⁴⁶⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293339461>.

⁴⁶¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293340175>.

⁴⁶² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293434478>.

⁴⁶³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293342227>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293342239>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/293342282>.

the country that received the items and the name of the person of the receiving country who signed the receipt. With these data one can proceed as indicated in the previous LOG CATEGORIES.

PUBLICATION: ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: WIESBADEN ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

This SERIES consists of shipment files, location registers, control cards, custody receipts and other kinds of records documenting the custody and movement of cultural objects. A one-volume summary of incoming shipments and outgoing shipments of cultural objects, which includes the destination, and other information concerning each shipment, is located at the beginning of the series. The volume serves as an index to the individual shipment folder files that follow it. Also included are some Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point inventory control records, such as location registers, property control cards, and custody receipts for cultural objects received by the collecting point. It is arranged by type of record.⁴⁶⁴

- SERIES: ACTIVITY REPORTS: This series consists of monthly and consolidated reports from monuments and fine arts offices in Land Hesse and Bavaria to higher head-quarters, including reports on the status of the collecting points, consolidated and district summaries of monuments and fine arts activities. Some early reports on the status of the collecting points (in Greater Hesse) include information on the movement of Jewish ceremonial objects. There is no detailed information on individual objects. The SERIES is arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically by month or date.⁴⁶⁵ It comprises 67 CATEGORIES, including:
 - CATEGORY: MONTHLY REPORTS of OMGUS for HESSE, FEBRUARY 1946
Example: PAGES 21-23 are a MFA&A report on the status of the collecting points of the OAD and of the Rothschild Library in Frankfurt in the month of February 1946 (date of the report is 1 March 1946). According to the report the total of the collections of the Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage was transferred to the OAD. On 21 February 1946 two truckloads of paintings, cult articles [9 boxes], textiles and robes [8 boxes], a candelabrum, vases [3], megillot [2 boxes] and Torah scrolls [appr. 500] were removed [from the Rothschild Library] to the Central Collecting Point at Wiesbaden.⁴⁶⁶
Example: PAGES 55-56 report on the status of the Collecting Points and OAD, dated 10 March 1946. On PAGE 56 is written that:
1) Restitution work to the Netherlands has begun, including material from Bibl Ros, PIG, JHM, NISeminarium 2) the entire collection of books and archives was being transferred from the Rothschild Library Collecting Point to the OAD and two truckloads of cult objects and paintings have been taken to the Wiesbaden CCP.⁴⁶⁷
 - CATEGORY: MONTHLY REPORT: UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER, OCTOBER 1945 – NOVEMBER 1946

⁴⁶⁴ M 1947 – Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points (“Ardelia Hall Collection”): Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1945-1952, see: <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/art/key-series-descriptions/key-series-descriptions-09.html>.

⁴⁶⁵ <https://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/art/key-series-descriptions/key-series-descriptions-09.html>, see (e).

⁴⁶⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232023303>.

⁴⁶⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232023519>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232023524>.

Example: PAGES 165-167: This is a report about the status of the Collecting Point of the Rothschild Library, dated 5 December 1945.⁴⁶⁸ At the time the following Jewish ceremonial objects were on hand: 299 Torah scrolls, 130.000 books (Judaica and Hebraica), archives (no numbers given), religious objects (no numbers given): tapestries, carpets, candlesticks, glasses, tabernacles, Torah crowns.

- CATEGORY: [ILLEGIBLE]: the name of this CATEGORY is misleading. It comprises (weekly) reports of the MFA&A from July 1945 till 7 May 1946, including relevant information on the Collecting Point in the Rothschild Library in Frankfurt a/M and the removal of Jewish ceremonial objects that were discovered in the IEJ in Frankfurt a/M. Example: PAGES 4-5 are a MFA&A report for July 1945, dated 7 August 1945,⁴⁶⁹ according to which ‘After securing the requisition and approval for necessary repairs of the former ROTHSCHILD Library,⁴⁷⁰ Unternmainkai 15, Frankfurt a/Main, the removal of approximately 130.000 volumes, which had been discovered in the sub-cellar at 70 Bockenheimer Landstrasse (the former premises of the INSTITUT ZUR ERFORSCHUNG DER JUDENFAGE, founded by DR. ALFRED ROSENBERG) were removed during the period of 10-19 July 1945 to this Collecting Point [Rothschild Library] [...] Thora-scrolls and manuscripts, stored in a special room set aside for that purpose. Ceremonial objects, locked up in director’s room with the more valuable objects in the safe there [...]

Example: PAGE 16, Weekly report dated 15 August 1945, and signed by J.H. Buchman, Capt. FA, MFAA Officer: ‘On Friday, 10 August 45, the deposits of the “Rosenberg Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage” at HUNGEN, Oberhessen, was again visited, and pictures were made by an official army photographer with a purpose of documenting the present physical condition of these collections.’⁴⁷¹

Example: PAGE 22, Weekly report, dated 12 September 1945: [At the Rothschild Library Collecting Point] ‘the disinfection of books has now reached 8600 and the recommendation to further preserve the thora-scrolls by wrapping each in cloth or placing them in separate boxes was taken under advisement. During the week also various items were released in conjunction with Property Control to be used in the Jewish religious services by military units in the American and British zone as well as by local civilians.’⁴⁷²

Example: PAGE 24, Weekly report, dated 20 September 1945: ‘Plans were made at a meeting of the Monuments and Fine Arts Officer of Darmstadt (M 6642) and of USFET to evacuate the collections at Hungen (H 822092) into the Central Collecting Point at Offenbach (M 7367) [...]’.⁴⁷³

Example: PAGE 26, Weekly report, dated 26 September 1945: ‘The present staff [of the Rothschild Library Collecting Point] continues to increase with a number of Hebrew experts totaling nine and others being selected to go to Hungen (H 822092) to supervise the packing of the collections there.’⁴⁷⁴

⁴⁶⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/231969701>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/231969711>,
<https://www.fold3.com/image/231969722>.

⁴⁶⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979790>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979800>.

⁴⁷⁰ This was the original collecting point in 1945 before the I. G. Farben building in Offenbach was put into use.

⁴⁷¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979898>.

⁴⁷² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979954>.

⁴⁷³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979975>.

⁴⁷⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231979999>.

Example: PAGES 47-49 are a Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Status of Collecting Point Report of the Rothschild Library , dated 5 October 1945.⁴⁷⁵ PAGE 48: at the time there are approximately 299 Thora scrolls: 299, 130.000 books (Judaica & Hebraica).⁴⁷⁶

Example: PAGE 52: In this weekly report, dated 8 October, it is stated that ‘Labor has been provided for clearing the Offenbach (M 7367) building which is to be used as a Collecting Point’ [...] ‘Arrangements are completed for sending ten (10) men to Hungen (H 822092) for packing books and cultural objects of the Research Institute on the Jewish Question.’⁴⁷⁷

Example: PAGE 60, Monthly Report of MFA&A, dated 1 November 1945: ‘The second [activity] was the expansion of Collecting Point work to include packing and dispatch of collections at Hungen (H 822092) to Frankfurt a/Main and Offenbach (M 7367) for salvage, sorting, identification and storage against the day of restitution of the loot gathered by Rosenberg’s Research Institute on the Jewish Question. The Rothschild Library Collecting Point work was assured for the winter by a monthly allocation of [?] from civilian supply. Gradually the cataloguing activity will be transferred from this (Rothschild Library Collecting Point) to Offenbach where the main staff will be at work, and the former will then become the repository for the more valuable objects, i.e. the religious articles, incunabula, etc.’⁴⁷⁸

Example: PAGE 64, Weekly report, dated 6 November 1945: ‘The Collecting Point activities this week were marked by [...] the dispatch of sixteen (16) box cars to Hungen to speed up the loading of the collections which are marked for Offenbach, several truck loads were also dispatched from Hungen, their contents being mainly the Italian Jewish Library of Florence, and manuscripts collections of the Alliance Israelite, Paris. Part of the Rothschild Library Collecting Point staff has already been transferred to Offenbach to commence the activities of salvaging, sorting and identifying the various collections’.⁴⁷⁹

Example: PAGE 67: Weekly report dated 20 November 1945: ‘The reports of progress in loading the collections at Hungen (H 822092) for the Collecting Point at Offenbach (M 7367) indicate that that [sic!] operation will be concluded by the end of the month or at the latest in the first week of December. [...] During the week a documentary record in motion picture film was made of the earlier work of the Section which led to the establishment of the Collecting Points, both of which were also visited by archivists from the higher echelons.’⁴⁸⁰

Example: PAGE 72: Monthly report MFAA dated 1 December 1945: ‘During the month of November the most important work accomplished was the evacuation of the collections at Hungen (H 822092). In all, thirty (30) car loads of books were dispatched from Hungen to the Collecting Point at Offenbach (M 7367) and in addition, approximately fifty (50) truck loads of books, church ornaments and cultural objects were deposited in the Offenbach Collecting Point’.⁴⁸¹

Example: PAGE 77: Weekly report dated 4 December 1945: ‘The major event of the week was the completion of the collection stored there. The second train of thirteen (13) loaded freight cars has left Hungen for the Offenbach (M 7367) Collecting Point. [...] Oil paintings,

⁴⁷⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980208>.

⁴⁷⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980216>.

⁴⁷⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980259>.

⁴⁷⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980332>.

⁴⁷⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980372>.

⁴⁸⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980398>.

⁴⁸¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980451>.

silver church ornaments and sets of table were brought from Hungen and stored at the Rothschild Library Collecting Point.’⁴⁸²

Example: PAGE 98: Weekly report dated 29 January 1946: ‘It has been decided to remove the collections of the Rothschild Library, Untermainkai 15, to the Collecting Point at Offenbach as soon as transportation and labor can be allocated.’⁴⁸³

Example: PAGE 103: Weekly report dated 26 February 1946: ‘Evacuation of the Rothschild Library Collecting Point to the Offenbach Archival Depot continues, and should be completed within another week. [...] Two truckloads of Judaic cult objects and objects of art were removed from the Rothschild Library and sent to the Central Collecting Point, WIESBADEN, for cataloguing and safe-keeping.’⁴⁸⁴

In order to find out what kind of Judaic cult objects were involved, one would have to go to PUBLICATION: ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: WIESBADEN ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS / SERIES: CULTURAL OBJECT MOVEMENT AND CONTROL RECORDS / CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 26 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 31 (DECEMBER 24, 1945-FEBRUARY 21, 1946), IN-SHIPMENT 31, PAGE 27-31. The in-shipment is dated 21 February 1946. On PAGE 27 a ‘House No.’ 3165 is given that refers to this shipment. Each art object (mostly paintings) has its own number (i.e. 3165/12 painting by M. Oppenheim, Moses praying, oil on canvas, 14 x 10). The ceremonial objects were not individually listed.⁴⁸⁵ See also below, CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT LOG: RECORDS 1-69 (20 VIII 1945 - 5 VIII 1946).⁴⁸⁶

- SERIES: CULTURAL OBJECT MOVEMENT AND CONTROL RECORDS, including 273 CATEGORIES.⁴⁸⁷
- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENTS, nos.: 0-283 (July 10, 1945 – May 7, 1952).⁴⁸⁸ Please note that:
 - IN-SHIPMENT 32 includes in-shipment 33 as well.
 - IN-SHIPMENT 103 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 110 (MARCH 20, 1947 – APRIL 17, 1947) also includes in-shipments 111 and 112 as well.
 - IN-SHIPMENT 113 (APRIL 18, 1947) also includes in-shipments 114-119.
 - IN-SHIPMENT 120 (MAY 17, 1947) also includes in-shipments 121-127.
 - IN-SHIPMENT 128 (JULY 4, 1947) also includes in-shipments 129-135.

⁴⁸² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980499>.

⁴⁸³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980710>.

⁴⁸⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980764>.

⁴⁸⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061568> (page 27) <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061589> (page 28)

⁴⁸⁶ See: “Category: In-Shipment Log: Records 1-69 [20 VIII 1945 - 5 VIII 1946]”, in-shipment no. 31, refers that the in-shipment arrived at the CCP Wiesbaden on 21 February 1946 and includes “Jewish things from Frankfurt, 2 trucks, House Nr. 3165/1-90 = pictures. Rollen und übrige Kisten durch Offenbach – out-shipment abgeholt den 20.3.46.”, see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231942355>.

⁴⁸⁷ This series consists of consists of shipment files, location registers, control cards, custody receipts, and other kinds of records documenting the custody and movement of cultural objects. A one-volume summary of incoming shipments and outgoing shipments of cultural objects, which includes the shipment number, the date received or shipped, the number of objects included, places of origin or destination, and other information concerning each shipment, is located at the beginning of the series. This volume serves as an index to the individual shipment folder files that follow it. Also included are some Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point inventory control records, such as location registers, property control cards, and custody receipts for cultural objects received by the collecting point. This series is arranged by type of record. <https://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m1947.pdf>.

⁴⁸⁸ For an overview of in-shipments see: “Category: In-Shipment Log: Records 1-69 [20 VIII 1945 - 5 VIII 1946] and Records 160-276 [16 January 1948 – 23 January 1951]”. Records 70-159 are missing.

These in-shipment files, including letters and lists with specification of the objects, refer for the most part to art objects, but also include important information on Jewish ceremonial objects (and books and archives), in particular during the period when JCR became involved in the distribution of Jewish cultural objects. JCR handed over Jewish ceremonial objects to the CCP Wiesbaden it had received after discovery in a location. In-shipments files include a reference to out-shipment number, and may include, for instance, correspondence relating to found objects and declarations.

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 236 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 244 (AUGUST 12 1949 TO FEBRUARY 23 1950), IN-SHIPMENT 243

Example: PAGE 59:⁴⁸⁹ letter in German, dated 13 February 1950, from JCR Wiesbaden to CCP Wiesbaden about two candlesticks (numbered WIE 6623/1-2) and two shofar horns (numbered WIE 6624/1-2) that are believed to have been in the possession of the Jewish community of Ziegenhein [Ziegenhain] (Hessen) and were given to JCR Wiesbaden (the letter does not say who handed the objects over to JCR).⁴⁹⁰ The file includes a note referring to the Wiesbaden out-shipment number 257. For further tracking down the destination of these objects, go to the CATEGORY OF OUT-SHIPMENTS.⁴⁹¹

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 246 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 257 (APRIL 11, 1950 – JUNE 26, 1950), IN-SHIPMENT NO. 254.⁴⁹²

Example: PAGES 48-50. The date of this in-shipment is 6 June 1950. It concerns a singular object: a Torah curtain, with no. WIE 6636. Out-shipment, given in the file, is no. 195. The file also includes a letter of 6 June 1950, from I.E. Lowenthal of JCR to the CCP Wiesbaden, in which is stated that the Torah curtain was received by JCR from JRSO in Kassel and that it will be ‘disposed of ... together with the shipment of Torah scrolls within the next fourteen days.’ For further information you turn to CATEGORY OUT-SHIPMENT 191 THROUGH OUT-SHIPMENT 196 (MAY 17, 1950 – 15 JUNE, 1950), OUT-SHIPMENT 195, PAGES 58-62 where you will find the matching information.⁴⁹³

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 246 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 257 (APRIL 11, 1950 – JUNE 26, 1950), IN-SHIPMENT 256, dated June 16, 1950.

Example: PAGE 57:⁴⁹⁴ This is a memo from JCR to notify the CCP Wiesbaden that it received 48 wimples ‘probably originating from the 18th and 19th century’ that were safekept

⁴⁸⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231919204>.

⁴⁹⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231919176>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231919187>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231919204>. See also “Category: In-Shipment Log: Records 160-276, p. 24”; The in-shipment is recorded on 14 February 1950. The objects came from JRSO, Kassel, through Lowenthal, probably originating from the Jewish Community Ziegenhain, Hesse. It is mentioned here that the candlesticks are iron. See <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231942895>.

⁴⁹¹ See “Out-Shipment 255 through Out-Shipment 263 (January 18 1951 – February 1, 1951), Out-Shipment 257”, pp. 23-28. According to a list in the out-shipment file (dated January 1951) the objects were shipped, together with 68 other Jewish ceremonial objects, of which in-shipment numbers were given too, to Israel via HUL. See: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231970241>, and following pages.

⁴⁹² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920354>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920365>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920373>.

⁴⁹³ See <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231916663> and following pages. Objects were out-shipped on 7 June 1950 and handed over to JCR Paris, together with 15 Torah scrolls (WIE 6627 and 6631) and 41 Torah wimples (‘penants’) (WIE 6625). The file includes a “Receipt for Jewish Cultural Properties”, which is dated May 29, 1950 and an accompanying list (schedule A), of the objects (15 Torah Scrolls, 41 Torah Wimples and one Torah Curtain were shipped in one case). A further step in tracking down the destination of these objects would be searching the JCR archives, headquarters in Paris.

⁴⁹⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920461>.

by the Kassel Jewish community'. These objects are numbered WIE 6638, the out-shipment number given is 231.⁴⁹⁵

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 268 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 275 (SEPTEMBER 5, 1950 – DECEMBER 20 1950)

Example: PAGES 2-3, is a letter dated 5 September 1950 from I.E. Lowenthal⁴⁹⁶ to the CCP Wiesbaden about an in-shipment from Weinheim a.d. Bergstrasse (North Baden, US Zone):⁴⁹⁷ 'This is to advise you that today we have received from the Heimatmuseum at Weinheim a.d. Bergstrasse 7 Jewish ceremonial objects and one book as per enclosed list.' On the following page, dated 1 September 1950 and entitled: 'Jüdische Kultus-Gegenstände aus Weinheim/Bergstrasse', these objects are described as follows: first the Wiesbaden numbers are given, then the number of objects, the dimensions, name of object. Note that dimensions can be important data for identifying an object. The objects are: 'Wie 6660, 1 [piece], 36 cm. hoch, Synagoge-Hängeleuchter, Messing – mit Anhänge-Tellerchen und 2-Stäbchen (28 und 45 cm. lang)', etc.⁴⁹⁸ On a separate note one finds the out-shipment number for the objects: 257 (for WIE 6660-6663).⁴⁹⁹

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 246 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 258 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 267 (JULY 21 1950 – AUGUST 25 1950), IN-SHIPMENT 258, dated 21 July 1950.

Example: PAGE 2-5:⁵⁰⁰ Lowenthal declares to have collected from the Jewish Community in Karlsruhe and handed over to the CCP Wiesbaden, three silver cups, a book and 2 complete and 9 incomplete Torah scrolls. The file includes an enclosure with details of the silver cups (i.e. Silberner Weinbechter, gehämmert, mit hebräische Aufschrift: 'Geschenk von Meir Wilmersdorf und seine Frau Meitla, aus Bareit, für die Synagoge der Stadt Kielsheim, den 18. Ijar 5566' (1806)). Out-shipment numbers for the cups are WIE 6640 (2 cups) and 6641 (1 cup).

- CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 268 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 275 (SEPTEMBER 5, 1950 – DECEMBER 20 1950), IN-SHIPMENT 269

⁴⁹⁵ For "Out-shipment 231", see: Category Out-shipment 226 through Out-shipment 236 (October 6, 1950 – October 26, 1950), pp. 64-71, see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967668> and following pages. The out-shipment, dated 9 October 1950 and including books as well were sent to New York and Peru.

⁴⁹⁶ Dr. I.E. Lowenthal was the authorized representative of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Inc. working in Europe. He received the objects from the CCP Wiesbaden that were to be distributed to Jewish "public or quasipublic religious, cultural or educational institutions". The transfer of Jewish cultural properties to JCR was agreed in Frankfurt on 15 February 1949 between the Office of Military Government (US) for Germany and JCR. It concerned those Jewish cultural properties that were "wrongfully separated from owning individuals and organizations in Europe during the period of Nazi rule and were subsequently taken into protective custody by Military Government." [quotes from a standardized "Receipt for Jewish Cultural Properties"].

⁴⁹⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921277> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921286>.

⁴⁹⁸ Wie 6660, height: 1.36 cm, 1 synagogue lamp, messing, with an additional small plate and two rods (28 and 45 cm long); [Wie 6660] height: 1, 32.5 cm synagogue lamp, messing; Wie 6661, height: 1, 40 cm, 1 Hanukkah lamp, brass, corroded; Wie 6662, 21 cm, d-mess. [?] 2 plates, pewter, engraved in Hebrew letters "M D" and d. [?] word: "Bassar"-meat; Wie 6663, 2, 7.5 x 8, 8.5 x 9, 2 "Mezuzot" parchment; Wie 6664, 1 Hebrew book: "Menorat Hamaor", Fürth – 1767."⁴⁹⁸

⁴⁹⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231970241> and following pages: "Out-shipment 255 through Out-shipment 263 (18 January 1951 – 1 February 1951)", Out-Shipments, pp. 23-28, dated 23 January 1951. The objects were part of a transport of 72 Jewish ceremonial objects that were transferred to Israel via the HUL (Hebrew University Library).

⁵⁰⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920534>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920547>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920558>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231920570>

Example: PAGES 5-7, dated 8 September 1950:⁵⁰¹ Lowenthal (working for JCR at the CCP Wiesbaden, Landesmuseum) notified the property officer of the CCP Wiesbaden, that they collected from Düsseldorf one complete Torah scroll with wimple (binder) and mantle. The Torah scroll is marked: “JCR, No. 51”. Wie 6665”. The objects came from the Jewish Community in Kommern. The Torah scroll is 69 cm., it was a manuscript on parchment and in good condition. The mantle was made of red velvet with in gold embroidery ‘ausgenähte’ [sic! aufgenähte] sewn on Hebrew letters K. T. [= Keter Torah]. The out-shipment number is 229’.⁵⁰²

○ CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENTS LOG: RECORDS 1-69

These are books with handwritten registration of in-shipments, giving the in-shipment number, the date of in-shipment, objects brought in (i.e. painting, sculpture), the name of the person who brought the object in, and the WIE number (initially called House numbers, sometimes abbreviated H. numbers).

Example: PAGE 19:⁵⁰³ ‘Shipment no. 31, came in: 21.2.46, Jewish things from Frankfurt, 2 trucks, H. Nr. 3165/i-90 = pictures. There is an additional remark: ‘Rollen und übrige Kisten durch Offenbach – out-shipment abgeholt den 20.3.46’ (Scrolls and the other crates through Offenbach – out-shipment collected 20.3.46).⁵⁰⁴ The content of this shipment can be found in PUBLICATION: WIESBADEN ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS / SERIES: CULTURAL OBJECT MOVEMENT AND CONTROL RECORDS / CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENT 26 THROUGH IN-SHIPMENT 31 (DECEMBER 24, 1945 – 21 FEBRUARY 21, 1946, PAGES 28-31 (Short descriptions of 90 paintings).⁵⁰⁵ There is no further information on the scrolls and crates.

○ CATEGORY: IN-SHIPMENTS LOG: RECORDS 160-276

Example: PAGE 28:⁵⁰⁶ ‘In-shipment 259, dated 24.7.50, from JRSO, Kassel, originating from Ziegenhain, Hesse, by mail, for processing and transfer to JCR, 1 complete Torah scroll with velvet mantle, embroidered/ slightly damaged, no. JCR 45, 1 complete Torah scroll, slightly damaged, no. JCR 46, 1 complete torah scroll/ slightly damaged No. JCR 47, 3 Torah fragments, WIE 6644’.⁵⁰⁷

○ CATEGORY: INVENTORY LOCATIONS WITHIN WIESBADEN CENTRAL COLLECTING POINT [2 of 2]

Example: PAGE 122: This is a receipt, dated 21 May 1946, from the OAD, for objects coming from 2 safes from the Rothschild Library, Frankfurt. The items include: 1 bundle

⁵⁰¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921304>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921312>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921327>.

⁵⁰² Out-shipment 226 through Out-shipment 236 (October 6, 1950 – October 26, 1950), Out-shipment 229, pp. 240-241 and 245-247. <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967443>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967454>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967486>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967495>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231967503>. The scroll, binder and mantle were transferred to the American Joint Distribution Committee headquarters in Paris.

⁵⁰³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231942355>.

⁵⁰⁴ This is the same in-shipment mentioned in the weekly report of 26 February 1946 (see: M 1947- Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points ("Ardelia Hall Collection"): Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1945-1952: Wiesbaden Administrative Records; Category: Activity Reports; Series: [illegible]; p. 103; online available at: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231980764>).

⁵⁰⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061589>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061599>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061614>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232061627>.

⁵⁰⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231942938>.

⁵⁰⁷ For JCR numbers, see “Publications: Wiesbaden Administrative Records, Series: Cultural Object Movement and Control Records, Category: Receipts for Jewish Cultural Properties, 1949 [Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, 1-11, 1-18].

documents, 11 books, 1 wooden casket, 12 candlesticks (8 candelabra and 3 menoroth), 4 plates 33 'Thora-tops' [rimonim], 4 pieces permanent light holders, 8 pointers, 11 candleholders for candlestick, 9 candleholders for permanent light, 31 wine cups, 3 cartons with coins, 2 big crowns, 5 menorah pieces, 1 small Thora-ornament, 1 coffee pot, 1 bread basket, 2 big cups, 1 big plate, 1 cover to large cup, 1 mesusa, 34 bundles paper (from Hungen), 36 boxes with manuscripts, 5 bundles paper, 2 documents, 121 books, 1 hammer.⁵⁰⁸

You could now look for further information in PUBLICATIONS: OFFENBACH ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS / MONTHLY REPORTS / MONTHLY REPORTS OF THE OAD, MAY 1946, PAGE 6:⁵⁰⁹ '21 May 1946: The two safes in the Rothschild Library in Frankfurt were opened. Two cases of religious articles and 7 cases (70x53x50 cm) of manuscripts were removed and brought to the OAD.'

- CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER, INDEX, 1-1143. N.B. This category also includes the numbers 1144-2388.
- CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER: 2389-3383
- CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER: 3384-4468
- CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER: 4469-5813
- CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER: 5814-6331

These CATEGORIES consist of photographs of Jewish ceremonial objects, each object with its own number. The first CATEGORY begins with a three pages index (PAGES 2-4)⁵¹⁰ with numbers that correspond to the objects (numbers run from 1-6331);⁵¹¹ There are WIE numbers that are higher than 6331. These objects do not appear among the photographs, probably because these objects were brought in after the objects here were photographed. Objects are classified according to type. Photos include metal objects only.

- CATEGORY: OUT-SHIPMENTS 1-403 (NOVEMBER 19, 1945 – AUGUST, 21, 1952). The first out-shipment took place on 19 November 1945, the last (number 403) on 21 August 1952. Each out-shipment is numbered and forms part of a file, which includes: 1) in-shipment number(s), which refers to the place the shipment came from, i.e. the OAD; 2) a 'Receipt for Jewish Cultural Properties', signed by OMGUS (Cultural Affairs Advisor Property Division) and JCR, 3) a 'Memorandum of Agreement' on Jewish Cultural Property between OMGUS and JCR, dated 29 January 1949 and a list ('Schedule') with the received items.
- CATEGORY: OUT-SHIPMENT 134 (JULY 11 1949)

⁵⁰⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232018103>. For more documents (no Jewish ceremonial objects) turned over to the OAD from Frankfurt (dated 30.9.46), see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232018066>

⁵⁰⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232711451>.

⁵¹⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232031440>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232031448>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232031454>.

⁵¹¹ For illustrations of an index page and a number of photographs, see *Neglected Witnesses*, pp. 57-61. According to Dana Herman, Mordecai Narkiss, then director of the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem arrived in Wiesbaden towards the end of April 1949 and found 5,713 classified and numbered objects, photographed and catalogued as follows: Seder Plates (including Torah Shields found among boxes of Seder plates): 76; Goblets: 224; Collections 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; Atarot: approx. 2000. In addition there were 3,177 unnumbered objects, namely: 1,421 ribbons with mounted silver plates; 1,351 silver in scrap condition; 320 candleholders for Hanukkah in fair condition and 85 pieces of jewelry (Herman, *Hasbanat Avedab*, p. 188-189). In a field report Joshua Starr writes about the circumstances under which the inventory was prepared (Field Report #7, 11 April 1949, JRSO 923a, Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem; see *ibid.*, p. 188, n. 136).

Example: PAGES 1-129;⁵¹²

This is the out-shipment file of the largest number of unidentified or unclaimed Jewish ceremonial objects. They arrived in the CCP Wiesbaden from the OAD in two shipments, IN-SHIPMENT numbers 197 and 218. The objects were handed over to JCR and the AJDC for further distribution. Through its unique WIE number the destination country of each item can be tracked down. The file includes:

PAGE 1: File cover.

PAGE 2: Out-shipment number, date (11.VII.1949) and description of objects: 'silver JCR'.

PAGE 3: In-shipment numbers: 197 and 218, objects coming from Offenbach.⁵¹³

PAGES 4-5: Memorandum of Agreement.⁵¹⁴

PAGES 6-26: these pages include a number of 'Receipts for Jewish Cultural Properties' and a list (Schedule) of ceremonial objects (material) that were transferred from the OAD to the CCP Wiesbaden. On every receipt (top right), the destination was later added by hand.

PAGES 27-29: WIE-numbers of pairs of rimonim (each single rimon is numbered) and single pieces;

PAGE 30:⁵¹⁵ this is an index of Jewish ceremonial objects that corresponds (although more comprised) with the index in the CATEGORY: JEWISH DEVOTIONAL SILVER, INDEX, 1-1143. The list here is headed by the following text: DEVOTIONAL SILVER FROM OAD, Offenbach. The objects were given a 'General House number: WIE 5572' (the total amount of objects was grouped under one number).⁵¹⁶

PAGES 31-33:⁵¹⁷ classification of marked objects according to language or otherwise: Hebrew, German, France, Poland, Greece, Austria, Holland, Yugoslavia.⁵¹⁸

PAGE 34: marked objects from Hungary and marked objects of unknown provenance.⁵¹⁹

⁵¹² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231909878> and following pages.

⁵¹³ In-shipment 197 refers to in-shipment 201, see: In-Shipment 200 through In-Shipment 209 (September 29, 1948 - 30 October 1948), in-shipment (4.10.1948), pp. 6-17 (only silver objects), see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231941750> and following pages. It included 36 cases of silverware (WIE [house number] 5572). In the in-shipment 201 file the following information on in-shipment 197 is found: 14 cases with silverware (dated September 20, 1948), 93 cases with silverware (dated September 20, 1948) Included is an identical index list that was also found in "Category: Jewish Devotional Silver, index 1-1143, pp. 2-4, see above. For in-shipment 218, see: "In-Shipment 216 through In-Shipment 219" (February 11, 1949 – April 14, 1949), pp. 41-43. Also this in-shipment (March 30, 1949) includes only silver. Neither of these in-shipment numbers include textiles. According to the Series: directory of property received: Summary of Out-Shipments, p. 16, out-shipment no. 134 includes in-shipment number 222 as well, see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232048071>: 'Out-shipment 134, July 11, 1949, in-shipment numbers 197, 201, 218, 222, to USA, Gr. Britain, South Africa, Israel, Dr. B. Heller on behalf of JCR, special receipt, 209 boxes = 10710 objects, silver plus textiles, see: "Report Figures", CCP counting: 7 [?] textiles, 13 [?] silver / mounted / ? prayer shawls, 9821 + 22 single items.' For in-shipment 222, see pp. 1-39, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231944243> and following pages. For 5 cases of textiles, see 4th transport (May 13, 1949) <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231944404>, p. 30, and 16th transport (June 7, 1949) 2 [?] textiles, see: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231944556>

⁵¹⁴ The memorandum confirms the transfer to JCR of "a. Jewish books, archives and miscellaneous documents in various languages. b. Torah Scrolls and miscellaneous church and synagogue vestments, altar covers, prayer shawls, etc. c. Jewish ritual objects of precious metals and including precious stones. d. Miscellaneous Jewish paintings and furnishings. e. Such other Jewish cultural properties as JCR and Military Government shall agree to transfer. Such properties shall be transferred upon a custody receipt, which shall contain a statement as set forth in Appendix A hereto." For the complete text of the memorandum, see pp. 4-5.

⁵¹⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910076>.

⁵¹⁶ See <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910076>.

⁵¹⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910103>.

⁵¹⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910083>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910090>;
<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910096>.

⁵¹⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910103>.

PAGES 86-89: WIE numbers (objects) designated for synagogues in Europe sent to the AJDC, Paris, for distribution.

PAGES 90-93: WIE numbers – silver objects – sent to England.

PAGES 94-98: WIE numbers - scrap - other than silver

PAGE 99: WIE numbers – demolished textiles

PAGES 100-115:⁵²⁰ WIE numbers – ceremonial textiles from OAD – according to WIE number (number starts with T: T 1 – T 976). This is an important list. It gives more or less detailed information on the physical appearance of the objects. For instance T 1 is a Torah curtain, green velvet with silver embroidery ‘Mirl, d[laughter of] David’, 1854.

PAGES 116-117:⁵²¹ This is a ‘List of various objects of Jewish interest’. These WIE numbers start with the letter V (Varia). Objects may have some distinctive descriptions, for instance, V 56, bronze Hevra kadisha token for Moses Leuwarden (PAGE 117).⁵²²

PAGES 120-129: correspondence about the transport of these objects from the CCP.

- CATEGORY: OUT-SHIPMENT 255 THROUGH OUT-SHIPMENT 263 (JANUARY 18 1951 – FEBRUARY 1, 1951), OUT-SHIPMENT 257
Example: PAGES 23-28.⁵²³ This file includes a list of 72 objects out-shipped in January 1951, giving the following details: Curr[ent] No., date of in-shipment, Wiesbaden JCR number, Wiesbaden CCP number, origin i.e. in-shipment from, type of ceremonial object. 82 objects were shipped to Israel via the Hebrew University Library. For instance, 57 ceremonial objects came from Mainstockheim.⁵²⁴
- CATEGORY: RECEIPTS FOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROPERTIES, 1949-1951. These are receipts for Jewish cultural objects (ceremonial objects, books), transferred from the Central Collection Points to JCR.⁵²⁵
- CATEGORY: RECEIPTS FOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROPERTIES, 1949 [JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, 1-11, 1-18]. These are standardized receipts for the transference of objects to JCR. The receipts are signed by a representative of the CCP Wiesbaden or of the Offenbach Archival Depot and a representative of JCR. Annexed is the list of items, described in general terms. The receipts are numbered by hand in the right upper corner. Receipts 1-9 refer to books. JCR 10 - JCR 16, all dated 7 July 1949, refer to Jewish ceremonial objects.⁵²⁶ The annex with general description is followed by more detailed lists, which include the country of destination, whether the objects are for use in synagogues or for museums, crate numbers, signature (=abbreviation of country or institutions), number of items included in the case and the WIE numbers of the object involved.
PAGES 2-4: receipt no. JCR 1.

⁵²⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910537> and following pages.

⁵²¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910675> and following pages.

⁵²² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231910684>, pp. 118-119 are copies.

⁵²³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231970262>. The list includes a Wiesbaden CCP number, and two more ‘new’ numbers: a ‘current’ number and a Wiesbaden JCR number. The objects were destined for Israel via HUL = Hebrew University Library. All the objects originate from German Jewish communities.

⁵²⁴ Other objects came from Tauberbischofsheim, Dittlofsroda, Karlsruhe (Wertheim), Kassel (Ziegenhain), Weinheim and Cologne. For more detailed information, go to Wiesbaden Administrative Records, Cultural Object Movement and Control Records, In-Shipment 258 through In-Shipment 267, In-Shipment 264, pp. 53-59, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921100>, and following pages; <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231921122>, and In-Shipment 265, pp. 60-61.

⁵²⁵ An illustration of a Receipt for Jewish Cultural Properties is published in *Neglected Witnesses*, p. 317. The “Categories: Receipt for Cultural Objects” refer to art objects.

⁵²⁶ See pp. 91-144: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019362> and following pages. Receipt no. 10 in fact also included three cases with 60 objects for South Africa.

PAGES 5-48:⁵²⁷ lists with WIE-numbers destined for different countries and institutions.
 PAGES 5-7: Synagogues in USA, case numbers signed with JRSO;
 PAGE 8-16: for synagogues in Israel, case numbers signed MRI (Ministry of religions, through the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Jerusalem); PAGES 16 includes A-numbers, which indicate parchments with sacred texts (phylacteries and Torah scroll fragments).⁵²⁸
 PAGES 17-20: list of damaged ceremonial (silver) objects sent to England, cases indicated by SC (scrap silver);
 PAGES 21-24: for designated synagogues in Europe to be sent for purpose of distribution to American Joint Distribution Committee, Paris, cases signature AJDC;
 PAGES 25-27: List of scrap other than silver, 5 cases containing 495 items.
 PAGE 28: list of demolished ecclesiastical textiles (not included items, destroyed by moths).
 PAGE 29-48: list of ceremonial objects ecclesiastical art, with case numbers signed with JCR, and with JCR number and destination in handwriting (top right): JNMB (Jewish National Museum of Bezalel).
 PAGES 49-66: List of various objects of Jewish interest sent from Offenbach Archival Depot to Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point. These PAGES contain WIE numbers preceded by a letter: V for Varia (PAGES 49-50) and T for textiles (PAGES 51-66). Contrary to objects of silver or brass, these objects were not photographed in Wiesbaden CCP. In these lists each item has a description. A number of objects feature names and/or descriptive information that may help you to establish identification of the object and former ownership. For each WIE number you can establish country or institution of destination by searching the number in the loading lists.
 PAGES 49-50:⁵²⁹ ‘List of Various Objects of Jewish Interest sent from Offenbach Archival Depot to Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point’. These objects are marked V-numbers, nos. 1-122, including plaques, medals, chevra kadisha tokens, amulets, coins, mizrachim, miniature bust, wood sculpture, collecting boxes, (Passover) plates.
Example: PAGE 50:⁵³⁰ ‘V 56, Hevra Kadisha token for Moses Leuwarden, bronze’. You will find V 56 in case nr. 56 signed: JNMB (=Jewish National Museum Bezalel), see PAGE 118.⁵³¹
Example: PAGE 50:⁵³² V 63, hevra kadisha token for unnamed member, found on IMJ provenance research database online.
 PAGE 51-66: list of T-numbers, Jewish ritual textiles, nos. 1-976.⁵³³
Example: T87 described as: ‘Torah cover red velvet, silv. embroid 20 c’.⁵³⁴ In 2007, this Torah mantle was identified as a Dutch Torah mantle, dated 1763, that before the war belonged to the Jewish Community of Leiden. The Leiden Jewish community had given the

⁵²⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232018767> and following pages.

⁵²⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232018851>. Objects with A-numbers were not photographed in CCP Wiesbaden.

⁵²⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019085>

⁵³⁰ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019090>

⁵³¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019520>. See the World War II Provenance Research Online:

<http://www.imj.org.il/imagine/irso/en/showsearch?search=token>; The object belonged to the prewar Jewish Historical Museum collection.

⁵³² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019090>

⁵³³ For an identical list, see “Wiesbaden Administrative Records, Cultural Object Movement and Control Records, Out-shipment 134 (July 11, 1949), pp. 100-115.

⁵³⁴ p. 52, see <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019109>

object on loan to the Jewish Historical Museum in 1936.⁵³⁵ When the museum collection was confiscated by the ERR in 1943, the mantle was among the looted objects. After the war, the mantle found its way to the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem through the CCP Wiesbaden. In fact, one can find the mantle in the Israel Museum World War II Provenance Research Online Database – the database includes a WIE number for each object.⁵³⁶ The description given in the list here is scarce and the date is not correct. The mantle has rich imagery (Jacob’s dream and the binding of Isaac) and Hebrew texts. Thus, one should be aware that descriptions are scarce and information may not be accurate.

Example: PAGE 54: T222 is a Torah mantle described as ‘brocade, torn, silk and silver embroidery, Chaim Binger, 19th c.’⁵³⁷ The WIE number T222 found its way to the Jewish National Museum of Bezalel.⁵³⁸ Indeed, the mantle is found on the Israel Museum WW II Provenance Research Database. There, the origin of the mantle is attributed to Poland, which is a mistake.⁵³⁹ It bears the Hebrew name of Chaim Mordechai Binger, who was a renowned copier and illustrator of Hebrew manuscripts. He was born in 1756 in Amsterdam and died in Amsterdam on 28 December 1830. There are indications that strongly imply a match with an object in the prewar Jewish Historical Museum collection.⁵⁴⁰ First, the prewar JHM catalogue includes a ‘Torah scroll, complete, with mantle’ (‘wetsrol, volledig, met mantel), donated by the Ladies Binger, the donors of several other objects bearing the name of Chaim Mordechai Binger. Second, on an inventory of the Jewish Historical Museum collection in German handwriting made by the Nazi’s at the end of 1943, probably when the loot in the IEJ in Frankfurt was moved to Hungen, one finds the following description: [no.] 110 ‘Thora doppel Rolle, 65 cm lang Hülle roter Brokat, mit Wappen, ohne no.’, which in fact matches the T1222 description and dimension.⁵⁴¹

Example: PAGE 52: T111 is described as: red velvet miniature, 19th c.⁵⁴² The object appears on the list with items destined for the Bezalel Museum.⁵⁴³ The Israel Museum Database describes the object as a small Torah mantle, Poland, late 18th, early 19th century, with Hebrew inscription ‘Chaim son of Mordechai Binger’. The object matches JHM prewar inv. no. 411, with description: ‘Morning prayers written by Chaim ben Mordechai Binger for his grandson who bears the same name, 28 Adar II 5584 (28 March 1824), with mantle.’⁵⁴⁴ An inventory list made by the Nazis at the end of 1943 also gives the dimensions of the object: 20 cm.⁵⁴⁵

⁵³⁵ See Appendix 3A “Relics of the Second World War: Dealing with Missing and Misplaced Objects in the Jewish Historical Museum Collection, p. 207ff

⁵³⁶ <http://www.imj.org.il/Imagine/irso/judaica/vdeju.asp?case=Torah%20mantles>, see “Torah mantle with depictions of Jacob’s Dream and the Binding of Isaac, Netherlands 1763.”

⁵³⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019123>

⁵³⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019524>

⁵³⁹ <http://www.imj.org.il/Imagine/irso/en/item?id=255705>

⁵⁴⁰ There is a third object bearing the name of Chaim son of Mordechai Binger. This is T942, described as “mappa yellow silk, 20th c.” JCR handed the object over to the Jewish National Museum of Bezalel. On the Israel Museum WWII Provenance Research Online Database it is attributed to Poland, 1778. The object is described in the prewar Jewish Historical Museum as silk mappa embroidered with [in Hebrew] Chaim som of Mordechai Binger (‘zijden mappa waarop geborduurd [H], prewar inv. no. 541b).

⁵⁴¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295527348>

⁵⁴² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019109>

⁵⁴³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019524> (case no. 57).

⁵⁴⁴ ‘Ochtendlofzeggingen geschreven door Chaim Ben Mordechai Binger ten behoeve van zijn gelijknamige kleinzoon, 28 adar II 5584 (28 maart 1824) met manteltje’.

⁵⁴⁵ See: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/295527349>, p. 15.

Example: PAGE 61, 'no. T645, Mappa, painting on linen, Naphtali s. David (Heinz Gruenebaum), 1923'. The binder found its way to the collection of the Bezalel Museum and is published on the Israel Museum WW II Provenance Research Online Database.⁵⁴⁶ We may have identified this person, see <http://www.zentralratjuden.de/de/article/4684.aus-den-gemeinden-juedisches-leben.html>: 'Im Alter von 90 Jahren ist Henry Gruen, Vorstandsmitglied der Jüdischen Liberalen Gemeinde Köln, verstorben. 1923 in Köln geboren, kam Gruen, ursprünglich Heinz Grünebaum, 1938 mit einem Kindertransport nach Großbritannien und lebte ab 1947 in den USA. 1971 zog er erneut nach Köln und engagierte sich maßgeblich in der liberalen Gemeinde Gescher LaMassoret.' With this information you could try to trace Heinz Gruen's heirs.

PAGES 67-90: receipt numbers JCR 2-9

PAGES 91-96, JCR 10: three cases signed BDSA (Board of Deputies South Africa) with 60 objects for synagogues in South Africa. With list of WIE numbers;

PAGE 97: 3 cases signed CRJM (Committee on Restoration of Continental Jewish Museums, Libraries and Archives, London, England) with 66 objects (silver, brass) destined for England. With list of WIE numbers. See also PAGES 17-20: list of WIE numbers, cases signed SC 1-25, containing scrap silver, 3713 items destined for England.

PAGES 98-100: receipt number 9.

PAGES 101-121, JCR 11:⁵⁴⁷ standardized receipts with annexed list: '61 cases containing 2053 Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass, textiles)', cases signed JNMB (Jewish National Museum of Bezalel). With list of WIE numbers. See also PAGES 29-48, JCR 11, 72 cases signed JCR, ceremonial objects ecclesiastical art, for JNMB,

PAGES 122-124, JCR 12, standardized receipts with annexed list: '24 cases containing 668 Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass, textiles)', cases signed MRI (Ministry of Religion Israel). No list of WIE numbers. For list of WIE numbers, see PAGES 8-16: 26 cases are signed MRI, for synagogues. Objects to be sent to the Ministry of Religions through the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Jerusalem.

JCR 13, PAGES 127-129, for AJDC: standardized receipts with annexed list: '10 cases containing 303 Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass).' No list of WIE numbers. For list of WIE numbers, see PAGES 21-24, 11 cases signed AJDC, for synagogues in Europe to be sent for Purpose of Distribution to American Joint Distribution Committee, Paris. JCR 14, PAGES 132-134, for ??? [illegible]: standardized receipts with annexed list: '25 cases containing 3713 irreparably damaged Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass).' No list of WIE numbers.

JCR 15, PAGES 137-139, for US: standardized receipts with annexed list: '83 cases containing 3841 non-commercial damaged and undamaged Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass, textiles).' No list of WIE numbers. For list of WIE numbers, see PAGES 5-7: 11 cases are signed JCRS, for synagogues.

JCR 16, PAGE 142-144, for South Africa: standardized receipts with annexed list: '3 cases containing 66 Jewish ceremonial objects (silver, brass).' No list of WIE numbers.

- CATEGORY: RECEIPTS FOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROPERTIES, 1950 [JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION]. These include 62 JCR receipts, most referring to books. Only two receipts include Jewish ceremonial objects.

⁵⁴⁶ <http://www.imj.org.il/imagine/irso/en/judaica?cat=Binders>, see description: Torah binder (*wimpel*) Germany 1923.

⁵⁴⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019422>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019429>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232019436>

Example: PAGE 41-43: receipt number JCR 32, dated 29 May 1950, include 15 Torah scrolls, 41 Torah wimples and 1 Torah Curtain, sent to Paris.⁵⁴⁸ In Paris the main office of the American Joint Distribution Committee was located. The AJDC was responsible for the distribution of 'heirless' objects in countries other than the U.S. and Israel.

Example: PAGE 80-82: receipt number JCR 45, includes 7115 Jewish books and 48 Torah wimples, sent to JCR New York.

- CATEGORY: RECEIPTS FOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROPERTIES, 1951_[JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION].

Example: PAGE 2-4, receipt no. 1, dated 19 January 1951, includes 4 cases containing '72 Jewish ceremonial objects' that are sent to Israel, via the HUL (Hebrew University Library).⁵⁴⁹

- SERIES: DIRECTORY OF PROPERTY RECEIVED.⁵⁵⁰

- CATEGORY SUMMARY OF OUT-SHIPMENTS.

The summary, with an overview of out-shipments, gives information on: shipment no./ date of out-shipment/ in-shipment no. / place to which shipped / persons accepting custody / type of receipt [i.e. custody, special, restitution] / Amount and class of objects / Type (i.e. safekeeping, restitution, transfer within US-zone, international transfer, return to German Museum) Restitution Law 59) / Remarks.

Most out-shipments refer to art. Jewish ceremonial objects are included too. With the out-shipment number one can turn to CULTURAL OBJECT MOVEMENT AND CONTROL RECORDS / OUT-SHIPMENTS for more details.

- SERIES: GENERAL RECORDS.⁵⁵¹ Most CATEGORIES in this SERIES refer to art objects. Relevant CATEGORIES are:

- CATEGORY: JEWISH CLAIMS: JEWISH CULTURAL PROPERTY

Correspondence deals with the question of the disposition of unidentified Jewish cultural objects by OMGUS to Jewish institutions such as the Jewish Agency to the benefit of the Jewish people.

- CATEGORY: JEWISH CLAIMS: JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

This CATEGORY includes:

Example: PAGE 16-21: (correspondence about) the agreement between OMGUS and JCR.

⁵⁴⁸ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232020064>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232020068>,
<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232020076>

⁵⁴⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232020788>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232020796>,
<https://www.fold3.com/image/115/23202080>

⁵⁵⁰ This series consists of out-shipments summary lists from CCP Wiesbaden, pages 1-41 and property shipments received at the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point (In-shipments), pages 42-86. The series further includes types of properties shipped, repository from which the property was shipped, and the disposition of the property; it is arranged numerically by shipment number and thereunder by date.

⁵⁵¹ This series consists of correspondence, memorandums, reports, press clippings, and custody receipts. The most prominent subjects are art loans, art exhibitions, Jewish cultural objects, and monuments and fine arts policy planning. The records also include a draft monograph on war damage to German monuments (300 pages, 1950), records relating to the history of the Offenbach Archival Depot (1946-1947), and photographs of the Hungarian Crown of St. Stephen. Arranged alphabetically by subject or by type of record. See: <https://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m1947.pdf>, p. 3.

Example: PAGES 46, 48, 49: Letter dated 8 July 1949 from the OMG for Hesse, Property Division to the Director OMG for Germany (US) about receipts for Jewish Cultural Properties: 16 receipts of properties [books and ceremonial objects] in OAD and Wiesbaden transferred to JCR in accordance with the Frankfurt Agreement of 15 Feb 1949 between the OMG (US) for Germany and JCR: overview of JCR numbers, date and number and type of items.⁵⁵²

Example: PAGE 107: List of devotional silver from OAD, Offenbach, General House no. WIE 5572.⁵⁵³

‘Nos. 1-153: various objects, such as: goblets, besamim boxes, trumpets, chanukka, candle sticks.

Nos. 154-229: seder plates & Torah shields

Nos. 230-453: goblets (havdala, Shabbat, pesach, seder)

Nos. 454-512: collecting boxes

Nos. 513-1756 besamim boxes

Nos. 1757-3041: Shabbat – Chanukka

Nos. 3042-3591: chanukka candlesticks

Nos. 3592-4083: Torah shields

Nos. 4084-5015 rimonim

Nos. 5016-5089: Torah crowns (keter Torah)

Nos. 5090-5830 Torah hands (jad)

Nos. 5831-5866 eternal lights (ner tamid)

Nos. 5867-6326 various objects, incl. table silver & plates

Nos. 6327-6646 various objects

Not numbered objects:

1421 pieces ribbons with mounted silver plates

1351 pieces of demolished silver objects

320 parts of candlesticks belonging to the numbers 3042-3591

85 pieces of jewelry i/a silver box No. 6069.

3177 items not numbered

6644 items numbered

9821 items

+ 13 boxes small pieces of silver plates, such as are mounted on the girdles (uncountable)

two pieces missing: no. 89 + 1887 / not received from OAD’.

Example: PAGES 108 and 109: devotional silver (from OAD) numbers marked: Hebrew.⁵⁵⁴

Example: PAGE 110: Devotional silver (from OAD) numbers marked: Hungary and unknown.⁵⁵⁵

Example: PAGE 111: Devotional silver (from OAD) numbers marked:

German, France, Poland, Greece, Austria, Holland, Yugoslavia; and summary of number of items per country/language.⁵⁵⁶

⁵⁵² <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989073>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989090>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989099>. For the content of these JCR shipments, see: M 1947 - Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points ("Ardelia Hall Collection"): Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1945-1952: Wiesbaden Administrative Records; Series: Cultural Object Movement and Control Records; Category: Receipts for Jewish Cultural Properties, 1949, pp. 5-48 and 97-144.

⁵⁵³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989605>

⁵⁵⁴ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989614>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989624>

⁵⁵⁵ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989631>

⁵⁵⁶ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231989640>

- SERIES: STATUS OF MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS, AND ARCHIVES
- CATEGORY: HUNGEN INVESTIGATION HOHE SCHULE
Example: PAGES 2-9 is a report of an investigation trip to Hungen, where the storages of the Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage were, 2 August 1947.⁵⁵⁷

PUBLICATION: ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: WIESBADEN PROPERTY CARDS

- SERIES: PROPERTY ACCESSIONS
- ARTWORK CLASSIFICATION: LIGHTING APPLIANCES
- PROPERTY CARD NUMBER⁵⁵⁸
Example: WIE 6660/1-2: with 2 photos: 2 chandeliers, brass, H: 36,0 cm, B. 32.5 cm, depot possessor: Heimatmuseum Weinheim a.d. Bergstr., arrival condition: good. Description: one with appending plate and two rods. Eight-armed. The 2nd with six arms. Arrival date: 5.9.1950, exit 23 Jan. 1951. History and ownership: sent to Wiesbaden CCP by mail from the Heimatmuseum Weinheim, a.d. Bergstr. for processing and transfer into the custody of the JCR Inc.⁵⁵⁹
Example: WIE 6649/1-9 (with photo), WIE 6650 (with photo), WIE 6651 (with photo), WIE 6653, WIE 6654/1-5.⁵⁶⁰
- ARTWORK CLASSIFICATION: RELIGIOUS OBJECTS (TEXTILES)
- PROPERTY CARD NUMBER: WIE 6655/1-38: these are 38 pieces of ceremonial textiles, namely: ‘5 curtains = parochet, velvet-silk; 14 thoral [sic!] mantels, velvet-silk, 4 table cloths “Schulchan”, velvet-silk, 1 small cloth f. prayer-desk “Amud; 11 torah penants, 1 small talis bag, velvet, 1 prayer cap, velvet, 1 talis, depot possessor: Mainstockheim, in-shipment 264, out-shipment 257, ‘the items were discovered at Mainstockheim by representatives of the JCR Inc., sent to WCCP for processing and transfer to the custody of JCR Inc., arrival date: 1.8.50, exit: 23 Jan. 1951.’⁵⁶¹

PUBLICATION: OMGUS – MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS, AND ARCHIVES

- CULTURAL PROPERTY CLAIM APPLICATIONS
- L35 NETHERLANDS, JOODSCH HISTORISCH MUSEUM BAV.

⁵⁵⁷ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/232897751> and following pages.

⁵⁵⁸ Property card numbers include the following entries (not all information is provided): WIE number, classification, author, measurements, depot possessor, depot cat., identifying marks, bibliography, subject, material, arrival condition, description, presumed owner, inv. no., cat. no., (for office use: claim no., other photos (yes, no), Neg. no., out-shipment, in-shipment, file no., movements), arrival date, exit, history of ownership, condition and repair record, location (house, floor, room) and photograph.

⁵⁵⁹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922534> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922546>

⁵⁶⁰ WIE 6649/1-9: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922476> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922480>

WIE 6650: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922485>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922493>

WIE 6651: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922499>, <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922505>

WIE 6653: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922512> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922517>

WIE 6654/1-5: <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922524> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231922528>

⁵⁶¹ <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231941538> and <https://www.fold3.com/image/115/231941546>

Example: PAGES 1-19: Inventory of the Jewish Historical Museum in German handwriting, made by the Nazis at the end of 1943, with crate numbers, descriptions of the objects, dimensions and inventory numbers.
PAGES 21-28: inventory in Dutch.

3.7.1.4 Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.

Initially the work of JRSO, serving as ‘a trustee for recovering property of economic value’ and that of JCR, which ‘set its sights on recovering property of cultural value’ overlapped. In 1947 therefore JRSO and JCR signed an agreement ‘in which the JCR agreed to act as an agent of the JRSO in tracing, restituting and allocating Jewish books, Jewish ceremonial objects, and other Jewish cultural property found in the U.S. zone in Germany’.⁵⁶²

The most important source for the history of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc. is Dana Herman’s thesis *Hashavat Avedab. A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.*⁵⁶³

JCR materials are not kept centralized but can be found in various archives and among JRSO fonds. As JCR worked with several other organisations and agencies, such as the Office of the Military Government of the U.S.A (OMGUS), the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) and the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC), you should also consult the finding aids of the respective archives of these organisations and agencies to look for relevant material.

Other important JCR files can be found in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) in Jerusalem,⁵⁶⁴ and in a number of other archives in Israel and in the U.S.A. and Canada.⁵⁶⁵

The following lists archival sources containing JCR and JRSO records, which are accessible online in the National Archives College Park and in the archives of the American Joint Distribution Committee, but not so in the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem. Information may be contained in the personal archives of people involved in JCR.

The National Archives in College Park (NACP), Maryland, U.S.A.

The NACP includes a huge amount of documentation on the distribution of heirless Jewish ceremonial objects, especially in the ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: OFFENBACH ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS and the ARDELIA HALL COLLECTION: WIESBADEN ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS. Original documents are accessible online in the FOLD3 database. JCR worked closely with OMGUS on the recovery and distribution of Jewish ceremonial objects. IN-SHIPMENTS and OUT-SHIPMENT files in the WIESBADEN ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS may be particularly helpful in tracing the provenance of objects.⁵⁶⁶ See 3.7.1.3 Office of the Military Government for Germany, U.S.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

On the use of the website <http://archives.jdc.org>, see 3.7.1.5 American Jewish Distribution Committee

⁵⁶² <http://art.claimscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Descriptive-Catalogue-of-Looted-Judaica-3-February-2016.pdf>, p. 28.

⁵⁶³ Dana Herman, *Hashavat Avedab. A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.* Department of History McGill University, Montreal, October 2008.

⁵⁶⁴ For records of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, New York-Administrative Files 1946-1975, see: Grimsted’s *ERR Guide*, chapter 4, paragraph 4.3.3.

⁵⁶⁵ Herman, *Hashavat Avedab*, reference list of primary sources, pp. 338-340.

⁵⁶⁶ Generally JRSO records relate to the relocation of art.

When you go to SEARCH THE ARCHIVES (top right), then to SEARCH OUR TEXT COLLECTIONS and type keyword 'Jewish Cultural Reconstruction', you will find 1125 hits. Hits may refer to files, which include a number of documents, or to a singular document. When you enter a file, the titles of the documents will give you an idea of relevance for your research. The following folder numbers include relevant documents.

Example: Folder number 1744 entitled: JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION 1949-1950. There are nearly 100 documents in this folder, which are ordered alphabetically. Go to 'MEMORANDUM FROM HANNAH ARENDT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, RE: DISTRIBUTION OF CEREMONIAL OBJECTS, NEW YORK DEPOT'. This Memorandum of 18 August 1950 includes a list of the distribution of 'museum pieces' from the New York Depot of JCR that had been allocated and were ready for shipment. It concerned 1,698 out of a total of 3,800 ceremonial objects defined as 'museum pieces'. In addition, a list of object categories of distributed items was given, i.e. 4 eternal lights, 212 Torah shields.⁵⁶⁷ The numbers given here may be useful to institutions that received objects through Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and try to determine the provenance of their collections.

Example: In Folder number 1744, scroll down to the document 'Letter from Education Department - AJDC, Paris to Mr. Solomon Tarshansky - AJDC, New York, Re: Ceremonial Objects', from Judah J. Shapiro (director of Education) and dated February 09 1950 (Item ID 612346).⁵⁶⁸ The document is a letter in which Shapiro informs the NY AJDC office about the completion of the distribution of the ceremonial objects that 'were recovered from the Nazi loot in Germany'. The following countries had received objects: Austria (9 pieces), Belgium (14 pieces), Greece (3 pieces), Italy (19 pieces), Denmark (1 piece), France (219 pieces), Holland (6 pieces), Sweden (5 pieces) and Norway (3 pieces). As for France, objects were distributed among the Jewish communities of Rouen, Le Havre, Epinal, Fontainebleau, Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Strasbourg, and Metz. Four pieces were given to the Jewish Museum in Paris and ten pieces to the Rabbinical School. As for the Netherlands, all six pieces were given to the *Nidche Israel Jechanes* synagogue in Amsterdam.⁵⁶⁹ The Norway pieces were given to the Jewish community of Oslo. Although the objects in this letter are not identified as such, further documentation may be found in the AJDC archives (or among AJDC papers in other archives) and archives of other organisations, which may shed light on the provenance or quovadience of the objects. Significant hints for further research could be the names of the two persons dealing with this case (searching for their names may help you to find follow-up documents), the date and the handwritten annotation on the letter 'Jewish Cult. Recon.' Having retrieved the information on the Amsterdam synagogue, you turn to them to find out if the objects can still be identified.

The Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP)

Hi Tech Village 3/4

Edmond J. Safra Campus of the Hebrew University on Giv'at Ram, Jerusalem.

Tel.: +972-2-6586249

E-mail address: cahjp@nli.org.il

⁵⁶⁷ http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR_45-54/NY_AR45-54_Orgs/NY_AR45-54_00163/NY_AR45-54_00163_00703.pdf#search='ceremonial%20objects'

⁵⁶⁸ http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR_45-54/NY_AR45-54_Orgs/NY_AR45-54_00163/NY_AR45-54_00163_00762.pdf#search='ceremonial%20objects'

⁵⁶⁹ *Nidche Israel Jechanes* is a small synagogue in the old Jewish quarter of Amsterdam. It was founded by Russian Jews from St. Petersburg in 1884 and is still in function anno 2016.

The CAHJP, now under the National Library, hold administration files from the JRSO New York, Frankfurt and Berlin offices, as well as personal and community files from the various offices. The files were shipped from Frankfurt, Berlin and New York to Jerusalem between 1975 and 1979. The administration and community files in the CAHJP are open to the public, though the CAHJP website does not provide online access to the original documents. Finding aids will support you in ordering relevant material during your visit.

To search the database (<http://cahjp.huji.ac.il>) go to SEARCH HOLDINGS in the red strip at the top of the page. The SEARCH TERM 'Jewish Cultural Reconstruction' gives no hits, however JCR files can be found among JRSO fonds. Enter the SEARCH TERM 'Jewish Restitution Successor Organization'.

The database offers finding aids for the following JRSO entries:

FINDING AID: The Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO) – New York - Administration Files

See <http://cahjp.huji.ac.il/content/jewish-restitution-successor-organization-jrso—new-york-administration-files>. Scroll down the page and open the pdf.

The finding aid is organized according to RECORD NUMBER (JRSO/NY, no. ...), CATEGORY, DESCRIPTION, DATE and REMARKS.

Relevant documents may, for instance, be found in:

RECORD NUMBER 615, CATEGORY: COMMUNITIES, DESCRIPTION: FRANKFURT: JEWISH MUSEUM, DATE: MAY 1955-MAY 1956.

RECORD NUMBER: 923a-d, CATEGORY: JCR, DESCRIPTION: JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, DATE: 1949-1950

RECORD NUMBER 877a-t, CATEGORY: RESTITUTION, DESCRIPTION: RESTITUTION OF JEWISH PROPERTY, GENERAL, AJDC, 1944-1958.

FINDING AID: Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO) - Hessen - Community property

See <http://cahjp.huji.ac.il/content/jewish-restitution-successor-organization-jrso-hessen-community-property>.

There is only one file relating to ritual objects: RECORD NUMBER JRSO/Hes 209, Frankfurt/M, list of ritual objects in the main synagogue Hauptsynagoge, Börneplatz 18 – Allerheiligenstr. 78 (Dominikanerplatz) ('Liste des [sic!] von Kultusgegenständen in der Synagoge'), dated 16.9.1953.

FINDING AID: Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO) - Berlin - Restitution of Jewish institutional property in Berlin

See <http://cahjp.huji.ac.il/content/jewish-restitution-successor-organization-jrso-berlin-restitution-jewish-institutional-prope>

There is one file relating to ritual objects, see SIGNATUR: JRSO/Bln 650.

Personal archives of individual JCR members in public archives

Salo Baron (executive director of JCR) Papers are kept in Stanford University, Special Collections (M580)

Hannah Arendt (executive secretary of JCR) Papers, Manuscript Division (MSS11056) can be found in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Gershom Scholem (working in conjunction with JCR in Europe) Archives (Arc. 4° 1599/23) are kept in the National Library of Israel. Gershom Scholem was. [Check this again and find it].

Mordechai Narkiss (working in conjunction with JCR in Europe): his correspondence is filed in the Israel Museum archive according to different dates and subjects. Some of his files are kept in the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. Some of his correspondence can be found in the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People.

3.7.1.5 The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC)

The AJDC Archives are located in two centers, namely in:

- AJDC's NY headquarters, 711 Third Ave, 10th Floor, New York, New York, tel.: +1 212-687-6200; email: archives@jdc.org
- Beit HaDefus Street 11, Lobby 2, Floor 3, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem, Israel, tel.: +972 (0)2-653-6403; email: Archives@jdc.org.il

The American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) was established in 1914 as the first Jewish organization in the United States to dispense large-scale funding for international Jewish relief. In the immediate post-Second World War period, it worked largely on behalf of the surviving remnant of European Jewry, the *She'erit Hapletah*. It was also one of the five umbrella organisations that oversaw and financed the work of the JRSO and thus also of JCR.⁵⁷⁰

AJDC was responsible for the distribution of heirless objects in all countries with the exception of Israel and the Americas.⁵⁷¹ The AJDC was among the first Jewish organisations to send representatives to Offenbach in order to secure rights for heirless Jewish cultural property. This was long before JCR arrived on the European scene.⁵⁷² The Holocaust Collection of the NACP includes correspondence between AJDC and the U.S. Army Central Collecting Points (CCP), about the loan of books and Jewish ritual objects intended for the DP camps.

In the aftermath of the Second World War AJDC's European Headquarters office was located in Paris, to be moved to Geneva in 1958 (in 1977 the archives were moved to the AJDC archives in Jerusalem, see <http://archives.jdc.org/explore-the-archives/finding-aids/geneva-office/1945-1954/>).

The AJDC offices in Paris and Antwerp were used by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction as storages for heirless Jewish property for shipments to Israel or other cities in Europe.⁵⁷³

⁵⁷⁰ Dana Herman, "A Brand Plucked Out of Fire: The Distribution of Heirless Jewish Cultural Property by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., 1947-1952," Cohen, Heimann-Jelinek (eds.), *Neglected Witnesses*, p. 37, note 27. For more on the history of the JDC in the post-war period, see Yehuda Bauer's *Out of the Ashes: The Impact of American Jews on Post-Holocaust European Jewry*, Oxford 1989.

⁵⁷¹ *Descriptive Catalogue*, p. 34. Synagogue objects for Western Europe were distributed by the JDC offices in Paris. This is indicated on the July 1952 world distribution list, Geneva IV, Box 32, File 1B, JDC Archives, Jerusalem. See Herman, *Brand Plucked out of the Fire*, p. 38, note 29. On the distribution of ceremonial objects to several Italian communities, see for instance http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR_45-54/NY_AR45-54_Orgs/NY_AR45-54_00163/NY_AR45-54_00163_00641.pdf#search=ceremonial%20objects. Between 1946 and 1947, AJDC distributed some 25.000 books that were collected in the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD) in Displaced Persons camps (DP-Camps). See Herman, *Hasavat Avedab*, pp. 164-167.

⁵⁷² Herman, *Hasavat Avedab*, p. 167.

⁵⁷³ Herman, *Brand Plucked Out of the Fire*, p. 46.

According to Dana Herman there are limited extant records describing the allocation of books and ceremonial objects by the AJDC office in Paris to Jewish communities throughout Europe, and to Jewish communities in Persia and North Africa, who had also requested material.⁵⁷⁴

In Poland AJDC resumed its work after the Second World War but was not allowed to continue to work between 1950 and 1957 and between 1967 and 1981 because of the Soviet policy.⁵⁷⁵ The AJDC supported the activity of the Central Jewish Historical Commission, established in 1944, whose major task was to collect materials that were related to the Holocaust.⁵⁷⁶ The Polish branch of AJDC assembled a small collection of Judaica that was transferred to the Jewish Historical Institute (ZIH, which in 1947 grew out of the Central Jewish Historical Commission) in Warsaw in 1950. The ZIH archive includes AJDC documents on this transference that are not mentioned on the AJDC website.

Relevant Finding Aids for the AJDC archives can be found at: <http://archives.jdc.org/explore-the-archives/using-the-archives.html>. The archives are arranged by AJDC office, i.e. where the archival records were created (although the Geneva records were at least partly created in the AJDC head office in Paris). Most records in these collection have been digitized and are searchable online through the textual collections portal of the AJDC Archives database.

The following records may include relevant information:

Records of the New York office of the AJDC, 1945-1954

Records of the Istanbul office of the AJDC, 1937-1949

Records of the Geneva office of the AJDC, 1945-1954 (see below, 'searching the AJDC database')

Records of the Warsaw office of the AJDC, 1945-1949⁵⁷⁷

Records of the Stockholm office of the AJDC, 1941-1967

You can search the AJDC database by keyword and by AJDC office. When you enter a file, the titles of the documents will give you an idea of relevance for your research. The following examples include relevant documents.

By keyword

Example: You can research the database by going to the ONLINE COLLECTIONS DATABASE, then go to SEARCH THE ARCHIVES, and search for any keyword in SEARCH OUR TEXT COLLECTIONS. If you look for keyword 'religious objects', you will find 635 hits. Most records that appear are part of the RECORDS OF THE GENEVA OFFICE OF THE AJDC, 1945-1954. By clicking on a document title you can access the digitized document (or click on the digitized document directly). File titles include folders (in which case you won't see a pdf-file). Then click on the file title, go to the tab LOOK INSIDE to view the records within the file, including full PDFs of the original documents.

⁵⁷⁴ Ibid, p. 47. Figures from one list indicate that while the number of books the JDC distributed to these areas was not large in comparison to Israel or that of the United States, it covered a large geographical area. Jewish institutions in Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, Rome, Strasbourg and even cities outside continental Europe, such as Algiers and Tehran, were all listed as recipients of between four and 528 books (pp. 47-48).

⁵⁷⁵ Eleonora Bergman, "The Jewish Historical Institute: History of Its Building and Collections," Cohen, Heimann-Jelinek (eds), *Neglected Witnesses*, p. 189.

⁵⁷⁶ Separately, the AJDC financed the work associated with the preservation and arrangement of the Ringelblum Archives (the first parts of which were excavated in 1946) and the search for the second part of these archives (excavated not earlier than 1950).

⁵⁷⁷ In 1950 the ZIH received more than 100 artefacts, mostly ritual objects, from the Joint. According to an uninventoryed list in the Institute's Art Department, these artefacts included sixty-six Judaica objects, such as Torah crowns, pointers, hanukkah lamps, spice boxes and Torah shields. The list does not give provenance information for these objects. See: Bergman, *Jewish Historical Institute*, p. 192. On p. 189, note 18 Bergman writes: "The role of the Joint in relation to the looting and restitution of objects in Poland has never been investigated."

Continue by clicking on the third document on the first page: 'Minutes of the first meeting of the Advisory council on Jewish cultural and religious objects in the British zone of Germany Held on the 14th November 1951'.

These minutes include a report of Dr. I.E. Lowenthal, the head of the department for Jewish cultural and religious objects in the British Zone of Germany with the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC), of the work undertaken during the nine month period that he had been with the JTC. In his report Lowenthal wrote that the work had begun only almost six years after the end of the war and that material found in the British Zone was widely scattered. Up to that point, the objects that were traced had been claimed. The findings so far had been mostly archival material, secondly books, and only very few ceremonial objects, but no effort had been made to start with collecting material.⁵⁷⁸

The above information could be useful, or even include clues, for somebody who is looking for the provenance of an object that is known to have come from the British zone. Further research into these files may lead to more details and provenance of the object.

B. By AJDC office

After choosing an AJDC office, for instance RECORDS OF THE GENEVA OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE 1945-1954,⁵⁷⁹ scroll down the page and click on ARRANGEMENT if you want to search the database by ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATIONS, SUBJECT MATTER, or COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.

YIVO⁵⁸⁰

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is located at 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011-6301, phone: 212-246-6080, and can also be contacted through: archives@yivo.cjh.org.

The AJDC papers in YIVO are grouped under Record Group (RG) no. 335. There is no finding aid available online. For a full description, see:

<http://yivoarchives.org/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=33169&q=american+joint+distribution+committee>.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research: Leo W. Schwarz (Director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for the U.S. Occupation Zone in Germany during the years 1946-1947) Papers, 1946-1947, RG 294.1.

A finding aid is available online:

<http://yivoarchives.org/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=34406&q=american+joint+distribution+committee>

Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP)

- The CAHJP are located in the Hi Tech Village 3/4 at the Edmond J. Safra Campus of the
- Hebrew University on Giv'at Ram, Jerusalem. Tel.: +972-2-6586249, e-mail address:

⁵⁷⁸ [http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/Geneva45-54/G45-54_SM/USHMM-GENEVA_00020/USHMM-GENEVA_00020_00637.pdf#search=religious objects](http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/Geneva45-54/G45-54_SM/USHMM-GENEVA_00020/USHMM-GENEVA_00020_00637.pdf#search=religious%20objects)

⁵⁷⁹ The Geneva files of 1945-1954 constitute the documentary record of JDC's global overseas operations in the immediate post-World War II (WWII) period and demonstrate the international scope of JDC's relief activities: documenting heirless Jewish properties and facilitating reparations payments and restitution proceedings. The materials in this collection include: correspondence; committee and board meeting minutes; field reports from worldwide staff; cables; supply lists; restitution laws and statutes; summaries of statistical reports; case files.

⁵⁸⁰ Yiddish acronym for Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut (known in English as the Yiddish Scientific Institute).

cahjp@nli.org.il.

For the finding aid: <http://cahjp.huji.ac.il/content/american-jewish-joint-distribution-committee-joint-jdc-or-ajjdc-0> (open pdf at the bottom of the webpage). Original documents are not accessible online.

3.7.1.6. The Jewish Trust Cooperation

In 1950 the British Occupation Authorities founded the Jewish Trust Corporation in the former British zone of occupation in northwest Germany as a Jewish body to pursue claims for the restitution of heirless property.⁵⁸¹ It was based on the model of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, which had been established in the American zone in 1948. By 1980 it closed down its operations.⁵⁸²

Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem

Many of the JTC's records are held by the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish People.⁵⁸³ Documents are not accessible online, but finding aids are available.

See for instance the finding aid of the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC) – London (Main Office) – Administration Files, <http://cahjp.huji.ac.il/content/jewish-trust-corporation-jtc—london-main-office—administration-files>

The following files may, for example, include relevant information:

No. 444 a-b (Communities, Institutions & Organizations)

Berlin: Jewish Community, File I [Administration B.3], 1950 - 1957

No. 445 (Communities, Institutions & Organizations)

Berlin: Jewish Community, File II [Administration B.3] 1957 - 1970

No. 093 (Communities, Institutions & Organizations)

Berlin (Jewish Community): Indemnification claims against the city of Berlin re the community property [original binder no. 5] 1956 - 1961

No. 457 Communities, (Communities, Institutions & Organizations)

Berlin: Jewish Museum, incl.: paintings [Administration B.12] 1952 - 1960

⁵⁸¹ The French founded the Branche Francaise, which too functioned as the legal heir to heirless and public Jewish property. In December 1951 the JCR took over the French zone. (see: *Descriptive Catalogue*, p. 30).

⁵⁸² Dana Herman writes: “An insider has already written a history of the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC), but an objective analysis of its activities in the British and French zones using the available archival sources should be undertaken.” (*Hasavat Avedah*, p. 330.). She is referring to Charles I. Kapralik, *Reclaiming the Nazi loot: the history of the work of the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany*, Jewish Trust Corporation, London 1962 and idem, *The History of the Work of the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany*. Vol. II, Jewish Trust Corporation, 1971.

⁵⁸³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Trust_Corporation.