

HOLOCAUST ERA ASSETS CONFERENCE Prague, June 2009

Holocaust-Era Judaica and Jewish Cultural Property: A World-Wide Overview

Presented by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO)

The following is an overview based on preliminary data. It represents the results of the current best efforts research of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (“Claims Conference”) and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (“WJRO”) and is based upon information obtained by the Claim Conference/WJRO to date. It may contain factual or other errors. Governments, non-government organizations, and individual experts are invited to make corrections and comments on the website of the Claims Conference at www.claimscon.org.

The main organizations of the world Jewish community active in the restitution of property looted from victims of the Holocaust, namely the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), have been working with Jewish communities around the world to bring increased attention to the restitution of looted Judaica and Jewish cultural property. The organizations have been focusing on the systemic issues involved in the restitution of Judaica with the intent of improving and creating processes to enable more communities and individual owners and heirs to recover their property and to ensure that Judaica is held in appropriate places and is appropriately used. In this regard, extensive research has been done over the past years on the status of provenance research and of claims processes for the identification, location, and restitution of Judaica in most, if not all, relevant countries, and discussions have been held with many, if not all, ministries of culture and other relevant organizations.

Partly in preparation for the Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague, in the beginning of 2009, the WJRO and the Claims Conference made public over the website of the Claims Conference (<http://forms.claimscon.org/Judaica/>) a *Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica* that provides for the first time since the end of World War II a worldwide “snapshot” of what is known concerning the fate of Judaica that was spoliated by Nazi Germany and its allies. After a summary of the history of Nazi looting of Judaica and of restitution efforts after the war, detailed information is presented there for 47 separate countries, as well as a list of relevant archives, a bibliography, and a list of the leading experts in the field throughout the world.

Using the information in the Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica, this paper provides a summary of what is known concerning the current location of looted Judaica and the state of provenance research worldwide – with brief individual country summaries appended - and offers some suggestions for the future so as to ensure the identification and return of plundered Judaica, which is important in itself but also important for ensuring knowledge of the history of the Shoah and for remembrance.

Claims Conference/WJRO Policy

In regard to looted art and cultural property, including Judaica, the current approach of the Claims Conference/WJRO is as follows:

1. The commitment to the restitution of looted cultural and religious property to their original owners is a continuation of the commitment in the past and present to restitution of other forms of looted Jewish property.
2. The Claims Conference/WJRO prioritizes at present two areas:
 - (a) Provenance research – so that information regarding the location of looted items is publicly available;
 - (b) Establishment of fair and just claims processes for claimants.
3. The Claims Conference/WJRO does not take on the representation of individual claimants.
4. The effort to ensure that Judaica is held by or used by appropriate bodies is of the utmost moral importance. Particular focus should be on *tashmishey kedusha* and *tashmishey mitzvah*. Prioritization regarding this effort is critical after completion of current research and review of existing research. The types of solution in any given case to be sought will vary from country to country and from case to case.

Definition of Judaica

By “Judaica” is meant historical and literary materials relating to Judaism. Included are not only objects that carry a quality of holiness (*tashmishey kedusha*) or that are essential to the performance of a particular ritual or commandment (*tashmishey mitzvah*), but also those that have no intrinsic quality that can be defined as sacred or holy. Included are not only archives, libraries, and objects relating to Judaism as a religion but also daily objects of Jewish life as well as those relating to Jewish organizations and Jewish life generally.

The classic example of an object carrying a quality of holiness is a Torah scroll, and the fate of Torahs and other handwritten ritual scrolls containing the name of God is of particular concern to religiously observant Jews.¹

With the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, the dual foci of Jewish life became the home and the synagogue – thereby increasing the quantity of Judaica held by individual families and communities. In addition, other features of Jewish life in the

¹ For a full description of the definition of Judaica, please see the Introduction to the *Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica*, pp. 7-8, <http://forms.claimscon.org/Judaica/>

Diaspora such as the constant threat of exile and prohibitions on synagogue construction, resulted in a proliferation of elaborate portable objects. At the same time, the development of Jewish law through the didactic discourse of Rabbis led to an explosion in Jewish books. These and other factors resulted in hundreds of thousands of items of Judaica being held by European Jewish families and communities on the eve of the Nazi era.

Current Location of Judaica Looted by the Nazis and their Allies

The spoliation of Jewish cultural and religious property was an official part of the Nazis' campaign against those labeled as "ideological enemies of the Reich." Aside from objets d'art, a myriad number of Jewish cultural and religious objects were also looted from 1933 to 1945, including various kinds of Judaica, such as ritual, sacred and/or everyday objects, books, and archives. Numerous looting agencies, both within the Reich (including those territories that were annexed to Nazi Germany such as Austria, Poland, Silesia, and Czechoslovakia), as well as agencies operating outside it in the Nazi-occupied territories and in countries allied with Nazi Germany were responsible for what can be called the greatest theft in the history of humanity.

In addition to what was taken by the Nazis and their allies, at the end of the war there was also Judaica that simply remained abandoned as the result of the murder of its owners.

Most of the Judaica of Europe was removed from its countries of origin. Much of that which had been taken by the Germans or that remained abandoned was then taken by the Soviet trophy brigades and removed again to the former Soviet Union. While some of the looted Judaica that was not destroyed during World War II was eventually returned to the families and communities to whom it had belonged before the War, the extent of the genocide was so great that in most cases the families and communities no longer existed.

Much Judaica, whether truly heirless or not, wound up in government repositories in many countries and in many cases the government attempted to return the Judaica to individuals or the Jewish communities. However, in Eastern European countries large amounts of Judaica were deposited with governmental institutions— for example in Poland, where the government deposited large amounts of Judaica in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, and in the Soviet Union, where the government deposited huge collections originally from Jewish libraries into state libraries in Minsk and elsewhere and placed archival collections in the Osobyi Arkhiv (Special Archive) in Moscow, now part of the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA).²

As a result of this history - and partly, but only partly, as a result of the tremendous geographic and demographic changes in world Jewry in the middle of the twentieth century - Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies may be found today in a great many countries around the world. There are 28 countries in which foreign Judaica

² For a full description of the spoliation of Judaica and restitution attempts after World War II, please see the "Overview: Historical Background" in the *Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica*, pp. 9-33, <http://forms.claimscon.org/Judaica/>

(Judaica that was looted by the Nazis and their allies in other countries) is specifically *known* to be located. But the actual number of countries in which objects of Judaica are to be found that were looted during the Holocaust and not returned to their original owners is much greater.

Due to a lack of records, it is not possible to provide a complete survey of how many books, ceremonial objects and Torah scrolls were internationally distributed following the war. The distribution of “heirless” Judaica by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and the Jewish Successor Restitution Organization (entities formed by international Jewish organizations after the war), which has been studied, is only *part* of what happened in the West.

No distributions of heirless Judaica were made by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction to East European countries due to the rise of communism, but a number of East European countries received foreign heirless Judaica in other ways, as previously noted. However, no study has yet been made of the distribution of Judaica brought into the Soviet Union by the trophy brigades, nor for the most part have there been studies of the distribution of Judaica in other countries of Eastern Europe.

For various reasons, some countries currently have comparatively large amounts of Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies during the Holocaust. In some cases this is primarily foreign Judaica looted in other nations that was then brought into the country. In others it is Judaica left in the country because of the murder and/or flight of its Jewish citizens. In others it is Judaica that at the end of the War was in geographic areas subject to changing borders and therefore is now in the country. In still others it is Judaica that was looted during the War but returned by the Allies to the country, though not necessarily to the original individual and communal owners. In others it is the result of several or all of these factors.

Provenance Research on Judaica

Some provenance research has been conducted on holdings of Judaica, and some projects regarding the provenance of library holdings generally (e.g., the National Library of Austria) have been very extensive. However, for the most part there has been far less done to investigate the ownership history of Judaica than there has been in regard to paintings and other objets d’art.

In Table 1 are listed those countries that are known to have conducted at least some provenance research on Judaica. They are divided between those in which a substantial amount of Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies is located and those in which at least some such Judaica is located. The inclusion of a country in the table is not meant to imply that the degree of provenance research conducted to date has been adequate, nor does it imply that restitution has taken place. Generally where provenance research has been carried out, it has been conducted only on a very few collections (e.g., that of the Israel Museum in Israel, that of the Library of Congress in the United States, the Vienna Jewish Community and Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary collections in Russia, etc.).

In Table 2 are listed those countries that are not known to have conducted or be conducting provenance research on Judaica. In some cases provenance research may have been carried out, but it has not been made public. The countries are divided between those in which a substantial amount of Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies is or is thought to be located; those in which at least some such Judaica is or is thought to be located; and those for which there is not sufficient information to make a determination.

Please also see the individual country summaries appended to this paper.

TABLE 1
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONDUCTED OR ARE CONDUCTING AT
LEAST SOME PROVENANCE RESEARCH REGARDING JUDAICA

COUNTRIES IN WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF JUDAICA LOOTED BY THE NAZIS AND THEIR ALLIES IS LOCATED

Czech Republic
Germany
Israel
Lithuania
Netherlands
Poland
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States

COUNTRIES IN WHICH AT LEAST SOME JUDAICA LOOTED BY THE NAZIS AND THEIR ALLIES IS OR IS THOUGHT TO BE LOCATED

Austria
Belgium
Holy See
South Africa

(Inclusion in the Table does not necessarily mean that the amount of provenance research is adequate or that restitution has taken place)

TABLE 2
COUNTRIES NOT KNOWN TO HAVE CONDUCTED OR BE
CONDUCTING PROVENANCE RESEARCH REGARDING JUDAICA

COUNTRIES IN WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF JUDAICA LOOTED BY THE NAZIS AND THEIR ALLIES IS OR IS THOUGHT TO BE LOCATED

Belarus
 France
 Hungary
 Italy
 Romania

COUNTRIES IN WHICH AT LEAST SOME JUDAICA LOOTED BY THE NAZIS AND THEIR ALLIES IS OR IS THOUGHT TO BE LOCATED

Argentina	Greece
Australia	Latvia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Norway
Brazil	Portugal
Bulgaria	Serbia
Canada	Slovakia
Croatia	Spain
Denmark	Sweden
Estonia	Switzerland
Finland	Uruguay

COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

Albania	Macedonia
Cyprus	Moldova
Iceland	Monaco
Ireland	Montenegro
Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Luxembourg	Turkey

(Note that some countries have done historical research on the subject, but that is not the same as provenance research on current collections)

Suggestions for Future Action

The public focuses most of its attention on the restitution of expensive artworks, but if anything, the restitution of Judaica is of even greater moral importance. This is particularly true in regard to Torahs and other objects that carry a quality of holiness. While the types of solution by which Judaica is ultimately held or used by appropriate bodies may vary from country to country and from case to case, at the very least there needs to be full public knowledge of where all Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies is located. Specific suggestions by the Claims Conference/WJRO for future action are as follows:

- *Although many aspects of the identification and restitution of looted art overlap with issues concerning Judaica, separate attention should be given to Judaica.* The Claims Conference/WJRO welcomes the decision by the organizers of the Prague Holocaust Era Assets Conference to make Judaica and Jewish cultural property a separate topic at the June 2009 meeting.
- *Efforts should be made to identify, and catalogue all items of Judaica, regardless of their monetary value, that are found in government and private archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories;* In order to assist with the development of such efforts, the Claims Conference/WJRO at the beginning of 2009 made public a *Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica* with coverage of 47 countries and listings of archives and experts and a bibliography (<http://forms.claimscon.org/Judaica/>).
- *Efforts should be made to research as much as possible the provenance of all unique items of Judaica and to make the results publicly known, preferably over the Internet.* Unique items include items of importance to the Jewish world, due to their historic, artistic or cultural importance – irrespective of their monetary value – and include archives and libraries of Jewish organizations and entities.
- *Provenance research should be the responsibility of governmental and private institutions generally as well as Jewish institutions whether governmental or private.* The Association of European Jewish Museums (AEJM) and the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM) have both passed resolutions in this regard, and it is hoped that the states participating in the Prague Conference will proceed with this task.
- *Instruction guides and manuals on how to do provenance research on Judaica should be developed and made available over the Internet.* At present there is nothing comparable to the *AAM Guide to Provenance Research* in regard to Judaica.³ The AEJM has begun to plan for the creation of such a manual, and both AEJM and CAJM have begun to hold training workshops for provenance research.

³ Yeide, Nancy H. Akinsha, Konstantin. Walsh, Amy. *The AAM Guide to Provenance Research*. Washington: American Association of Museums, 2001.

- *All Torahs and other handwritten ritual scrolls throughout the world should be internationally registered.* Torah scrolls occupy a unique place in the spiritual heart of the Jewish people and their use needs to be in accordance with the beliefs of their original owners. Due to the fact that Torah scrolls look alike and can be resold at relatively high prices, they are subject to theft and to black market operations that cross borders. International registration systems exist that provide ways of uniquely identifying Torahs and have been proven to greatly reduce theft in those countries where it has been done. The Claims Conference/WJRO has been working to make more widespread international registration of Torahs possible at little or no cost.⁴ Hopefully such registration can also be a step towards resolving the incongruous situation that currently pertains in a number of countries where there is a resurgence of Judaism but congregations have to import Torahs while at the same time large numbers of Torahs are kept by Government repositories in the very same countries.

- *All attempts should be made return Judaica to its original owners – whether individuals, communities or Jewish institutions.* Where the unique items comprise books, archives or libraries but the institution that formerly owned the property no longer exists, they should be held by an appropriate institution and made available for research by qualified researchers. In cases where it is not possible to return a “unique” item, these items should be subject to public display (together with appropriate recognition of the history of the object) at an appropriate institution.

- *A system should be developed to circulate Judaica internationally with appropriate guaranties from judicial seizure.* Due to the Holocaust and its aftermath, there are numerous situations in which the ownership of Judaica is or is likely to be disputed and where it is desirable to make items of Judaica accessible to scholars and the public in more than one country. As discussed in the Working Group on Judaica and Jewish Cultural Property in preparation for the Prague Holocaust Era Assets Conference, a system to circulate such Judaica internationally with appropriate guaranties from judicial seizure may be the best way to handle such matters and may also induce countries to make their Judaica holdings more publicly known.

- *“Other Judaic” Objects*– Many of the ceremonial objects and books that were looted were mass produced and cannot be linked to a specific individual or community. For these items, it is appropriate that
 - (a) the fact that the item was looted be recorded when the item is on display or by the institution using the item or, if a book, in a stamp in the inside of the book. The unique origin of the item will then be recognized for all time and will pay tribute to the Jews and Jewish communities that were destroyed; **and**

⁴ So far discussions have been held in particular with representatives of all the Jewish communities of Ukraine and with the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine in this regard.

- (b) the looted item should be held in an appropriate place and used in an appropriate manner. The item should be kept by an appropriate entity in a place befitting its religious and cultural significance.

Provenance research on Judaica throughout the world is important on moral grounds. It is important for the preservation and understanding of Jewish culture. And it is important for Holocaust remembrance. As argued in this paper, it is also a worldwide matter.

Summaries by Country

This country-by-country overview focuses on where Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies is known to be located and whether provenance research has been conducted on Judaica in the given country. This overview does not focus on restitutions that have already taken place or on the legal provisions or procedures in each country for restitution. (Please see the Claims Conference/WJRO paper on looted art for a worldwide overview of restitution issues.) Because items distributed by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (JCR) clearly were looted by the Nazis and their allies, information on Judaica distributed by the JCR that entered a country is listed first.⁵ More detailed information on each country, including sources, may be found in the Claims Conference/WJRO *Descriptive Catalogue of Looted Judaica* at <http://forms.claimscon.org/Judaica/>

Country Name: ALBANIA

Little or no information is available as to whether Albania holds any significant Judaica. So far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on Judaica holdings in Albania.

Country Name: ARGENTINA

Argentina received 5,053 books and 150 museum and synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. So far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on these JCR holdings or on other Judaica that may have reached Argentina during or after World War II.

Country Name: AUSTRALIA

Australia received 33,077 books from the JCR after World War II. While some provenance research has been carried out on looted art holdings in Australia's cultural institutions, so

⁵ Information on object distribution by the JCR/JRSO kindly provided by Dana Herman (Herman, Dana, *Hashavat Avedab: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.* PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008, p 264).

far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on these JCR holdings or on other Judaica that may have reached Australia during or after World War II.

Country Name: AUSTRIA

A number of provenance research projects in Austria have focused at least in part on Judaica holdings. Some Judaica objects have been restituted by Austria's Ministry of Culture following research conducted by the Commission for Provenance Research and a positive recommendation by the Restitution Committee. The database of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism (National Fund) provides an online listing of art objects "which might have been, according to latest provenance research, seized under the National Socialist regime." The database does not provide a separate listing for Judaica, but a few Judaica objects can be found in various categories.

The Jewish Museum of Vienna has been conducting provenance research on most of its holdings, but is currently still working on the remaining part of the collection. Past research has shown that the Museum, which is not the legal successor to Vienna's pre-war Jewish museum, holds 50% of the collection of the pre-War museum, while the other 50% has been lost. Some of the ongoing research is on private donations – e.g., objects from the Max Berger collection. In addition, provenance research has been carried out on the Jewish Community's library holdings, which, like the ceremonial objects, are on permanent loan to the Jewish Museum. Preliminary research indicates that due to restitution errors after the war, part of the Community's holdings today do not correspond to the holdings of the original library.

It is not known to what extent provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Austria's state and regional museums.

(See also Israel, Poland, Russian Federation)

Country Name: BELARUS

Libraries in Belarus, in particular the National Library of Belarus (NBB), hold books and other Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies from a number of Jewish communities in Europe. Many of these books have not been identified or catalogued. Specific library collections known to be held by the NBB include the Library of Jewish Societies of France ("Bibliothèque 'Efim Pernikof'") and the libraries of prominent French Jewish families, such as that of the Rothschild family. Some books stemming from Yugoslav Jewish communities, as well as a few books from the Jewish Sephardic community in Salonika are also held in Belarus.

In addition to books, Jewish religious artifacts are in various archives and museums such as

the State Museum of History and Culture of Belarus in Minsk. Torah scrolls are known to be in the State Historical Archive of Belarus, the Historical Museum of Mogilev, and the Historical Museum of Vitebsk., and presumably are to be found in other state institutions as well.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica held in Belarus.

Country Name: BELGIUM

Belgium received 824 books from the JCR after World War II.

Between 1944 and 1967 the Office de Récupération Économique (ORE) became the official Belgian service for the discovery, identification, and restitution of cultural goods on an international level. Among other responsibilities, the ORE was also entrusted with auctioning off objects, including 565 Hebrew books whose origins were unknown but were assumed to have been plundered and were of Jewish origin. The books were sold to the Central Jewish Consistory of Belgium in 1948.

The Jewish Museum of Belgium conducted full provenance research in 2002 in conjunction with the country's Historical Commission. Additional provenance research, as far as is known, especially on the above-mentioned Judaica or on other Judaica held in Belgium, is not being conducted.

(See also Russian Federation.)

Country Name: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

It is unclear how much Judaica and of what sort is in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Library of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina holds ancient Jewish books, including a Haggadah, but the provenance of these books is unclear.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica held in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Country Name: BRAZIL

Brazil received 2,463 books from the JCR after World War II. In addition, the Advisory Council on the Question of Jewish Cultural and Religious Objects that was established by the Jewish Trust Corporation under the British Occupation Authorities donated looted Jewish books to the Jewish community in Sao Paulo.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on these books or on other Judaica that may have reached Brazil during or after World War II.

Country Name: BULGARIA

Due to the lack of a Jewish library within the boundaries of contemporary Bulgaria, the Jewish Research Institute at the Central Consistory of Jews was founded in 1947. An infusion of money allowed the purchase of several hundred manuscripts as well as 6,000 books in Hebrew, Ladino and Bulgarian. By 1951, the decision was made to move the institute into the system of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, first to the Institute of Bulgarian History and, from January 1964 onwards, to the Institute of Balkan Studies. Religious objects, on the other hand, were kept at the Central Sofia Synagogue. Today most of these pieces may be found at the General Religious Council of Israelites and at the Jewish Museum of History in Sofia, founded in 1993 (under the guidance of the National Museum Centre at the Ministry of Culture). During the 1960s and 1970s, some of the Hebraica was moved from the Ashkenazi synagogue to the library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 1980, this collection became part of the Central Record Office.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica held in Bulgaria.

Country Name: CANADA

Canada received 2,031 books and 151 museum and synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. Special attention in the distribution of objects was given to the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Manitoba and to the Dominican Institute of Medieval Studies in Montreal. In addition, one special book, an Usiel Hague book on Jews in China, was presented to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The Canadian Jewish Congress was responsible for distributing these books and ceremonial objects. There are no surviving inventories that would help establish what kinds of objects were distributed and

where they went, so the current location of many of these objects is unknown. Generally speaking, most objects were silver chanukiot, Torah ornaments, and old books, including prayer books. No or few items were Torah scrolls or other items with a quality of holiness. About 400 books are still in the collection of the Canadian Jewish Congress, though some may have gone to Montreal's Jewish Public Library. About 45 European ceremonial objects are also still with the Canadian Jewish Congress, although a few are on loan to various museums. In addition, the Aron Museum in Montreal, Canada's first museum of Jewish ceremonial art objects, holds an extensive Judaica collection that includes objects that surfaced on the antiques market in the aftermath of World War II, as well as Judaica objects received from Jewish Cultural Reconstruction.

Canada maintains a national on-line database of cultural and religious objects in Canada's cultural institutions: Canada Heritage Information Network (CHIN), "Artefacts Canada National Database". As the result of discussions called for by the Claims Conference/WJRO and the Canadian Jewish Congress, this database, which contains listings of Judaica (e.g., a silver Torah breastplate held by the Royal Alberta Museum), will be expanded to allow institutions to add provenance information to artefact files.

So far as is known, little to no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held in Canada's cultural institutions.

Country Name: CROATIA

Jewish archival sources, including items presumably looted by the Nazis and their allies, are held by the Central State Archives in Zagreb and 12 regional archives in Croatia as well as by the National and University Library in Zagreb, the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb, and many museums throughout Croatia. The Museum of Arts and Crafts likely holds looted cultural and ritual objects.

The Jewish community of Zagreb holds about 7,000 Hebrew books (Talmudim, prayer books, etc.) that most likely belonged to Jews who moved to Yugoslavia after the Nazis' accession to power. These books were transferred from the National and University Library to the Jewish Community in 1990. A selection of these books has been kept at the National Library to ensure their preservation.

So far as is known, little to no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held in Croatia's cultural institutions.

Country Name: CYPRUS

No information is available on Judaica that may have entered Cyprus during or after World War II. So far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on Judaica objects held in Cyprus' cultural institutions.

Country Name: CZECH REPUBLIC

Large numbers of Jewish ritual objects, books and other individual and communal Jewish property resulting from Nazi looting policies in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia as well as elsewhere are located in the Czech Republic.

The Jewish Museum in Prague has been conducting provenance research on most of its holdings, including its library collection (based on owner's marks, dedications, *ex libris*, and other provenance clues). As part of the Museum's continuous research efforts, war-time inventories and postwar catalogues are being digitized. According to the Museum's "Preliminary Report for the Holocaust Era Assets Conference" (<http://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/avice25.htm>) the Museum currently does not have any registered institutional claims but is working on one individual claim for artworks involving 46 prints and drawings by Hella Guth.

Additional provenance research is being carried out by the Czech Republic's governmental institutions, with information on objects with provenance gaps being noted in "The Database of Works of Art from Property of Victims of the Holocaust." The database holds approximately 3,400 looted works, including Jewish ritual objects. A brief survey of the database shows that probably more than 380 religious objects are held in Czech government museums. These objects includes rare Hebrew books and manuscripts, Torah scrolls and ceremonial objects. The database lists 42 manuscripts that were originally from the Jewish seminary in Wroclaw that were deposited in the National Library of the Czech Republic. These manuscripts have since been restituted to Wroclaw. Similarly, 40 manuscripts and incunabula stemming from the Saraval Collection that were identified in the National Library were subsequently restituted to Poland. Prague's National Library, the "Clementinum," holds books that either belonged to the "Terezin collection" or that were looted by the RSHA.

Provenance research is being carried out on Judaica holdings in cultural institutions in the Czech Republic. Some restitutions have already taken place.

(See also Israel, Russian Federation, and United Kingdom.)

Country Name: DENMARK

So far as is known, no provenance research is being carried out on Judaica holdings in Denmark's cultural institutions other than the Danish Jewish Museum.

Country Name: ESTONIA

So far as is known, no provenance research is being carried out on Judaica holdings in Estonia's cultural institutions.

Country Name: FINLAND

So far as is known, no provenance research is being carried out on Judaica holdings in Finland's cultural institutions.

Country Name: FRANCE

France received 8,193 books and 125 museum and 219 synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. Specifically, the Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme, the successor museum to the Musée d'art juif de Paris, established in 1948 by a private association in order to pay homage to a culture that had been destroyed by the Holocaust, received Judaica objects from the JCR and the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine received books.

Although provenance research on art objects is carried out in France – e.g., the MNR collection – so far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in France's cultural institutions.

(See also Belarus, Poland, Russian Federation)

Country Name: GERMANY

Germany received 11,814 books and addition 31 museum and 89 synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II.

Germany is home to numerous provenance research projects, some of which also include research into Judaica holdings. For example, the Municipal Library of Nuremberg is researching its collection entitled “Sammlung Israelitische Kultusgemeinde” (Jewish Community Collection), formerly the “Stürmer-Bibliothek.” Some of these objects are noted on Germany’s looted art database www.lostart.de, for example a Tanach dating from 1800. Another example of a research project that includes Judaica concerns the remnants of the library “Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage” (Research Section Jewish Question) of Walter Frank’s “Reichsinstitut für die Geschichte des neuen Deutschlands” (Reich Institute for the History of the New Germany) which can today be found at the University of Munich’s Historicum Library. Additional relevant research projects include those at the Bavarian State Library, the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz, and the University of Leipzig.

Some provenance research into Judaica holdings is also carried out by Germany’s museums and other cultural institutions: most researched objects can be found on www.lostart.de.

It is not known how many restitutions of Judaica objects have been taking place. It is also not known whether all relevant cultural institutions that hold Jewish ritual and religious objects are conducting provenance research.

(See also Israel, Poland, Russian Federation, United States)

Country Name: GREECE

The Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens holds a few looted Judaica objects, with the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece being responsible for these items.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Greece’s cultural institutions.

(See also Belarus, Poland, Russian Federation)

Country Name: HOLY SEE

The staff of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts of the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem, reviewed the provenance of Hebrew manuscripts held by the Holy See in the 2008 publication *Hebrew Manuscripts in the Vatican Library, Catalogue*, and

found that none had been looted by the Nazis and their allies. Provenance research remains to be done on 108 additional Hebrew manuscripts more recently acquired by the Vatican.

So far as is known, no provenance research has been done on other types of Judaica held by the Holy See.

Country Name: HUNGARY

In 1998 Laszlo Mravik published *The "Sacco di Budapest" and the Depredation of Hungary 1938-1949: Works of Art Missing as a Result of the Second World War* (Budapest: Hungarian National Gallery Publications, 1998/2), a catalogue that lists works of art taken from Hungary by the Red Army. While most data refer to fine art, two looted Judaica collections are mentioned: a) the Judaica collection of Dr. Ignac Friedmann, and b) the Judaica collection of Dr. Fülöp Grünwald.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Hungary's cultural institutions.

(See also Russian Federation)

Country Name: ICELAND

Iceland recently conducted provenance research in 45 state funded institutions and concluded that there are no indications that any cultural institution is holding artworks or other objects that may have been spoliated by the Nazis. It is unclear whether there are any Judaica holdings in Iceland's cultural institutions.

Country Name: IRELAND

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Ireland's cultural institutions.

Country Name: ISRAEL

Israel received 191,423 books, as well as 2,285 museum pieces, 976 synagogue pieces, 804 Torah scrolls and 87 Torah fragments (in addition to 127 scrolls that had to be buried) from the JCR after World War II. Israel was the recipient of the largest number of Judaica objects distributed by the JCR after the war, but the distribution itself was mostly carried out outside of the JCR's control. The Ministry of Religious Affairs, which assumed responsibility, was subsequently put in charge of the distribution of religious objects to various synagogues, yeshivas, and other organizations.

Numerous Israeli institutions, including the Israel Museum and the Hebrew University, both located in Jerusalem, hold religious "heirless" objects that were sent to Israel by the JCR. Among other Judaica objects, the Hebrew University holds, for example, the Berlin Gemeinde Library as well as the Breslau collection (part of the original library of the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as samples of the Baltic collection that was discovered after the war. Because of its position, the Hebrew University and the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) soon started to claim property held in German libraries and noted that the Jewish people were entitled to demand specific compensation in the form of literary *Judaica* and *Hebraica* held by public libraries in Germany. These included manuscripts and old Hebrew and Jewish printed books held in public libraries. In book-hunting trips by officials of the Hebrew University, notably to the Czech Republic and to Austria, numerous books were successfully claimed by its representatives. So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted by the Hebrew University on its collections.

Overall, Israel was the recipient of approximately 700,000 to 800,000 books that had been looted by the Nazis and their allies from Jewish individuals and communities, with some 300,000 books finding their way to Israel's cultural, scholarly, scientific and religious institutions, in particular the newly founded universities in Tel Aviv, Bar Ilan, Haifa and Ben Gurion. Provenance research is almost non-existent.

Other cultural institutions, in particular museums such as the Tel Aviv Museum, also hold looted Judaica, such as items that originally belonged to Frankfurt's Jewish Museum as well as objects from synagogues in Frankfurt. So far as is known, no provenance research is being carried out in the Tel Aviv Museum and in most other cultural institutions in the country.

The only exception appears to be the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, which has posted online provenance information on its collections, including a section on Judaica. As of August 2007, about 720 objects were listed, most of which stem from the Wiesbaden collecting point and were handed over to the museum by JCR. The database provides a description and, in many cases, a picture of the object, as well as the Wiesbaden collecting point number and information on whether the object was received through the JCR. Most objects were originally brought to Israel by Mordechai Narkiss, the director of the Bezalel National Museum, the predecessor of the Israel Museum. Throughout his missions to lay

claim on “unclaimed” Jewish property, he brought back about 1,200 objects of Judaica, paintings, and works on paper that had not been returned to their owners and were presumed heirless. Most of the Judaica objects are Torah decorations, such as curtains, finials, mantles, shields and pointers that came largely from ransacked synagogues. Some other items originated from private residences or institutions such as homes for the aged, community centers and schools, which were also looted. These include Seder plates, etrog containers and Chanukiot, as well as smaller, easily concealed items such as Sabbath cups and spice boxes.

Country Name: ITALY

The only known ongoing research project aimed at researching Judaica – albeit outside of the country – is the search for the Jewish Community Library of Rome, which was looted in 1943. The research is carried out by the Commission for the Recovery of the Bibliographic Heritage of the Jewish Community in Rome.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Italy’s cultural institutions.

Country Name: KOSOVO

Little or no information is available as to whether Kosovo holds any significant Judaica. So far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on Judaica holdings in Kosovo.

Country Name: LATVIA

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica holdings in Latvia’s cultural institutions.

Country Name: LIECHTENSTEIN

The Independent Commission of Historians, established in 2001, was tasked with researching if Judaica objects found their way into Liechtenstein. According to the Commission members, no evidence was available as to whether looted Judaica holdings entered Liechtenstein and/or are currently in Liechtenstein. Archival holdings, restitution files and other documents did not provide sufficient information.

Country Name: LITHUANIA

In 2002, the Lithuanian government returned more than 309 Torah scrolls and megillot that had been hidden during World War II to world Jewry at a ceremony in Vilnius. However, the government has not yet returned Torah scrolls remaining in Lithuania's National Museum and in the National Library of Lithuania. The National Library of Lithuania's Judaica Catalogue provides over 1,500 bibliographic records of prints in Hebrew and Yiddish published in Lithuania (from the beginning of Jewish book printing in 1789 to 1940). The largest single bloc of Jewish books now part of the Library belonged to the "Hevrah Mefitse Haskalah", the biggest Jewish library that operated under the Jewish community in Vilnius. The National Library also holds library records that originally belonged to the Yeshiva Telz as well as to YIVO.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on these or other Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Lithuania.

Country Name: LUXEMBOURG

According to information provided by Luxembourg's Historical Commission, one Judaica object (a silver pitcher) was handed over to the National Museum in 1941. There is currently discussion of persuading the Museum to transfer this object to the Jewish Community. Aside from this one object, no Judaica is known to have been spoliated. Torah scrolls were hidden with private persons to avoid their confiscation and generally handed back to the Jewish Community after the war. Private Judaica objects were hidden among Luxembourg's community and subsequently generally returned to their original owners.

So far as is known, beyond the work of the Historical Commission, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Luxembourg.

(See also Russian Federation.)

Country Name: MACEDONIA

Little is known regarding what Judaica is held in Macedonia. Some Judaica from Macedonia was transferred during the communist period to the Jewish Museum in Belgrade, Serbia.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being carried out on Judaica holdings in Macedonia's cultural institutions.

(See also Serbia.)

Country Name: MALTA

Little or no information is available as to whether Malta holds any significant Judaica. So far as is known, no provenance research has been conducted on Judaica holdings in Malta.

Country Name: MOLDOVA

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Moldova.

Country Name: MONACO

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Monaco.

Country Name: MONTENEGRO

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Montenegro.

Country Name: NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands received 1,813 books from the JCR after World War II.

Provenance research has been taking place on the Judaica objects in the so-called NK-collection. The online database (“Origins Unknown Database”), lists among other objects four Judaica pieces in the NK collection. Partly as a result of the restitution of an eighteenth-century tin Maccabee lamp, an exhibition was launched entitled “Geroofd, maar van wie?” (Looted, But From Whom?) in Amsterdam’s Hollandsche Schouwburg (Dutch Theatre). In addition, the Jewish Historical Museum of Amsterdam has launched research and has been able to complete an inventory of Jewish ritual objects in the Netherlands, in addition to researching its own history. As part of its own research, the Museum discovered that it holds objects that were erroneously restituted to the Museum after the war, such as a pair of zinc finials and a finial by Peter van Hoven. The Museum is working on a database of missing and misplaced objects.

While the extent to which other cultural institutions conduct provenance research on Judaica objects is not known, a study of Dutch State Museums showed that that some museums held Jewish property for safekeeping during the war as temporary gifts or purchases to prevent art belonging to Jews being confiscated by the Nazis. It further showed that the Ministry of Culture, Education and Science purchased several collections from Jewish owners in 1943 and 1944 with the aim of keeping these artworks in the Netherlands. In almost all cases the artworks were returned. Where owners did not survive and the items were not claimed, the artworks were investigated, and some restitution took place. In the case of ritual objects from Jewish synagogues that were hidden during World War II, these were often given to Dutch museums following the end of the war. As there were few to no survivors who would have made the reopening of synagogues possible, many of these objects remained in the museums. However, there are no “transfer” registries that would officially confirm this.

(See also Russian Federation.)

Country Name: NORWAY

Historical research on movable property was completed by the Norwegian Commission on Restitution, and compensation was given to the Jewish Community of Norway. However, so far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Norway.

Country Name: POLAND

Looted Judaica is in many cultural institutions throughout Poland. For example, the Jagiellonian University Library (Biblioteka Jagiellonska; <http://www.bj.uj.edu.pl>) holds the remnants of Krakow's Jewish libraries. Other looted Judaica is in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the Warsaw National Museum, the Krakow Historical Museum and elsewhere. A problem in assessing which Polish museums may hold looted Judaica is that, while most museums have inventories of their collections (which are almost never accessible to outsiders), Judaica is very often not even catalogued.

The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw holds over 11,000 Judaica pieces, most of which were transferred to it by the Government of Poland. Some of these objects came in the late 1940s from former German territories, such as Lower Silesia, Breslau/Wroclaw and Western Prussia. The Institute holds objects from Berlin's Jewish Community, from the Jewish Community in Vienna, several hundred objects from Greece, as well as some files from Paris regarding what was taken from Jews in Paris. The Institute also holds objects from Maidanek and Auschwitz.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews has created a Judaic Collection Database that lists Torah scrolls and other Judaica objects currently held in museums and other institutions in Poland. However, the database is not publicly available. In general, even though provenance research may have been conducted in some Polish cultural institutions, the results are not generally accessible.

(See also Russian Federation, United States)

Country Name: PORTUGAL

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Portugal.

Country Name: ROMANIA

Torahs and other Judaica objects are known to be in government collections in Romania, but there is little information.

A number of ritual objects are located at the Jewish Museum in Bucharest that were originally collected by Rabbi Rosen during his tenure as Chief Rabbi of Romania. The organization “Menora – The Authority for the Restoration of Diaspora Synagogues to Israel” is currently working on 192 Torah scrolls brought to Israel for needed repairs from the following Romanian communities: Klusch, Targo, Borish, Yassi, Dorochoi and Shatz. All of these 192 Torah scrolls were initially stored in the basement of the Jewish Community Center of Bucharest.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Romania.

Country Name: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Much Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies was among the vast numbers of items brought to Russia by the Soviet Trophy Brigades. The largest holdings of Judaica in Russia are in the Special (Osobyi) Archive (TsGOA, TsKhIDK 1982-1989), now part of the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA), Moscow. These include historical archives of Jewish international organizations, of Jewish political organizations and parties as well as papers of Jewish intellectuals. The holdings originally included part of the archive of the Alliance Israelite Universelle (series of records from the Paris headquarters, the Vienna Allianz and the Alliance from Brussels), of the B’nai Brith Order (archives of lodges from Germany, Austria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and Czechoslovakia), and of the Zionist organizations and parties (from France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and Greece). Most material that was or is currently held in the Moscow archive was initially gathered by the National Socialist movement in their effort to create a Research Institute on the Jewish Question in Frankfurt and, to a lesser degree, for possible display in the projected “Führermuseum” in Linz. In addition to the holdings of the RGVA, Judaica brought by the Trophy Brigades is known to include Torahs that were transferred to the Historical Museum in Moscow, Hungarian Judaica that was transferred to libraries and museums in Nizhnii Novgorod, among other institutions and locations.

In terms of provenance research, extensive efforts have been made to describe the cultural losses of Russia as a result of World War II (for a variety of reasons little is known concerning Russia’s losses of Judaica, though the database www.lostart.ru of the Federal

Agency for Culture and Cinematography does list a few such items), but there have been fewer efforts to describe foreign Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies that is currently located in Russia. The latter have mostly been done in cooperation with foreign institutions: for example, the *Catalogue of Manuscripts and Archival Materials of Jüdisch-Theologisches Seminary in Breslau Held in Russian Depositories* (Project Heritage Revealed. Moscow: Rudomino, 2003).

Restitution of archives from the RGVA to the governments of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg – as well as planned restitution of archives to the government of Austria - has included Jewish archives that have subsequently been returned by the respective governments to individual hers and communities, while the Austrian Rothschild Archives were returned directly to the Rothschild family.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects other than archives held in the cultural institutions of the Russian Federation, and no Judaica objects other than archives have been restituted. It is unknown whether Judaica objects were among those items returned by the Soviet Union to the communist governments of Eastern Europe in the 1950s and 1960s.

Country Name: SERBIA

It is likely but not known whether Torah scrolls and other Judaica are held in the cultural institutions of Serbia other than the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade. Some Jewish cultural property looted by the Nazis and their allies that was restituted to Jewish communities in Croatia, Macedonia, and elsewhere in Yugoslavia after the war was subsequently given to the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade and is currently located there.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Serbia.
(See also Russian Federation.)

Country Name: SLOVAKIA

The Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava holds Judaica, as do smaller museums and small Jewish communities throughout Slovakia, some of which was looted by the Nazis and their allies.

The Ministry of Culture surveyed the art museums and galleries of Slovakia, which claim

not to hold artworks taken from Jews during the Holocaust. So far as is known, this research did not include Judaica, and no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Slovakia.

(See also Russian Federation.)

Country Name: SLOVENIA

Some research into the historical fate of Jewish movable property, including Judaica, has been started, but so far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Slovenia.

Country Name: SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa received 7,269 books and 150 museum and 66 synagogue pieces from the JCR after World War II. Books sent to the Jewish Board of Deputies in Johannesburg in November 1949 were distributed to Cape Town, to the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and to the Landau collection, the original Hebrew and Jewish Studies collection. Most books were kept in Johannesburg but have disappeared since and are presumably privately held. It is assumed that some of the books were sent to synagogues and school libraries. However, Yiddish books could have also gone to the library of the South African Yiddish Cultural Federation, which no longer exists. The Jewish Studies Library at the University of Cape Town holds a collection of approximately 280 books (of the approximately 400 originally sent to Cape Town) looted by the Nazis during World War II and distributed by the JCR after the war.

As for ceremonial objects, these are now partially displayed at the Jewish museums in Johannesburg (Beyachad Jewish Museum) and Cape Town and the Durban Jewish Club and are being used in synagogues. A few objects have gone into private collections. Some provenance research has been carried out on the ceremonial objects received from the JCR.

So far as is known, aside from that done by the Jewish museums, no provenance research is conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in South Africa.

Country Name: SPAIN

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Spain.

Country Name: SWEDEN

Sweden received 696 books from the JCR after World War II. There is no concrete information on other Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies currently held in Sweden. However, the Nordiska Museet (Nordic Museum) in Stockholm is known to have a large Judaica collection, much of which was purchased by Mr. Klein, the Museum's curator before World War II. Mr. Klein conducted business in Hamburg, Germany around 1920, and purchased Judaica from an antique dealer called Mr. Weil. Mr. Weil's Judaica may have come from German Jews. In addition, the Jewish Museum in Stockholm holds a Judaica collection.

So far as is known, with the exception of the Jewish Museum in Stockholm, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Sweden.

Country Name: SWITZERLAND

Switzerland received 7,843 books from the JCR after World War II, including includes part of the Breslau collection that had been stored in the Wiesbaden collecting point and which was deposited into the Genf, Zürich and Basel libraries.

Switzerland's Historical Commission was not specifically tasked with researching Judaica that might have entered the country during the war. However, information regarding Judaica also did not surface in the course of the Commission's work.

Various museums of Switzerland hold isolated Judaica pieces in their collections. Some provenance research has been conducted, but none of it has been made public.

Country Name: TURKEY

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Turkey.

Country Name: UKRAINE

There is no central database that lists Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies that is held in Ukrainian cultural institutions, but various local projects exist that try to document the very large number of Jewish artifacts held by various Ukrainian museums, libraries and archives.

Although provenance research is not generally conducted, some information is nonetheless available. For example, the Museum of Historical Treasures of Ukraine has made an online listing of more than 400 Jewish silver ritual objects in its collections that were originally used by Jewish communities in Kyiv, Zhytomir, Vinnitsa, Belopolie, Elisavetgrad, Lohvitsa, Meldzhibozh, Tul'chin, Odessa, Kherson, Yampol', Volochisk, or were owned by former Jewish museums in Odessa, Chernovtsky or Lvov. Central to the collection are the Torah crowns, 39 in total, with a special one made by Zhitomir masters in 1875. The museum also holds Torah scrolls, 50 rimonim, some 100 Torah shields, 50 yadim (Torah pointers), 5 Chanukah lamps, 7 oil lamps, and more than sixty bsamin or godes. (Without further provenance research, it is not possible to distinguish what was taken by the Nazis and their allies from what was nationalized by the communists.)

Ukrainian government archives, museums, and libraries hold a large number of Torahs and other ritual scrolls confiscated from synagogues. A list of Torahs compiled by the State Archives of Ukraine indicates that a total of 679 Torahs are held in Ukrainian archives, 105 Torahs are held by museums under the Ministry of Culture, and one Torah is held by a library under the Ministry of Culture. Some of these Torahs – mostly Torah fragments - held by the State Archives of Ukraine have recently been turned over to the Jewish communities of Ukraine.

Archives and libraries hold large collections of Jewish records, manuscripts, and books. In particular, the National Vernadsky Library of Ukraine holds about 150,000 Jewish books as well as many manuscripts.

So far as is known, with few exceptions no provenance research is conducted on the Judaica objects held in cultural institutions in Ukraine. However, German and other archival records concerning the looting in Ukraine and elsewhere have been made available.

Country Name: UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom received 19,082 books, 245 museum pieces, 66 synagogue pieces and 12 Torah scrolls from the JCR after World War II. The Jewish Museum in London is one of the institutions holding these items.

The National Museums Directors Conference's searchable list of objects with incomplete provenance for the period 1933 to 1945 also lists museums with Judaica holdings: for example, the Victoria and Albert Museum lists two Judaica objects with gaps in their provenance. The British Library holds eleven or twelve thousand books seized from German libraries and institutions between June 1944 and 1947 that may include looted Judaica. Libraries at major universities, such as the Cambridge University Library, the Trinity College and Girton College libraries and the Bodleian Law Library at Oxford University hold vast Judaica collections.

Up to 1,564 Torah scrolls were sold in 1963-64 by the Czechoslovak state and what was then the State Jewish Museum in Prague to the Westminster Synagogue. From Westminster Synagogue in London, where the scrolls were renovated under the auspices of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, over 1,400 of the scrolls have been entrusted on loan to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations around the world, of which more than 1,000 are in the U.S.A. However, all Torah scrolls remain the property of the Trust. While the majority of the scrolls are currently entrusted to synagogues and other Jewish institutions, some were placed with universities and libraries, including the Royal Library Windsor and the White House. In September 2008, a newly designed Czech Scroll Museum was opened at London's Kent House displaying some of the remaining scrolls lying on the original wooden racks where they were placed when they arrived, along with some of the Torah binders that were tied around the scrolls.

It is not known if libraries and museums, other than those participating in the National Museums Directors Conference spoliation project, conduct provenance research on their Judaica collections.

Country Name: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States received 160,886 books, 1,326 museum pieces, 1,824 synagogue pieces and 110 Torah scrolls (of which an unknown number had to be buried) from the JCR after World War II. Objects distributed by the JCR entered more than 400 recipient institutions, including university and other libraries, archives, museums, and synagogues.

Major recipients of objects distributed by the JCR include, among others, the Jewish

Museum New York and the Hebrew Union College Museum Cincinnati; the libraries of Harvard, Brandeis, Yale, and Columbia Universities; Yeshiva University; and The Library of Congress. In 2000, the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States and the Library of Congress reached an agreement which stipulated that the “JCR collection should be handled in a manner suited to its special provenance” and that the Library of Congress should further identify and provide special access to the JCR collection. As a result of this agreement, the Library of Congress created the Holocaust-Era Judaic Heritage Library.

After Germany’s invasion of Poland, including the free city of Danzig, the Jewish Community of Danzig sent most of their ritual objects to the United States for safekeeping. Some of these objects can now be found at New York’s Jewish Museum.

Some museums in the United States are conducting provenance research on their Judaica collections. A listing of Judaica objects with provenance gaps may be found on the Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal of the American Association of Museums.

Except for the Library of Congress, so far as is known, little or no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica held by libraries in the United States.
(See also United Kingdom.)

Country Name: URUGUAY

Uruguay received 1,670 books from the JCR after World War II.

So far as is known, no provenance research is being conducted on Judaica objects held by cultural institutions in Uruguay.

Additional countries that may have holdings of Judaica looted by the Nazis and their allies but for which there is little to no available information include, but are not limited to, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as former republics of the USSR to which items brought by the Soviet Trophy Brigades were reportedly distributed such as Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.