

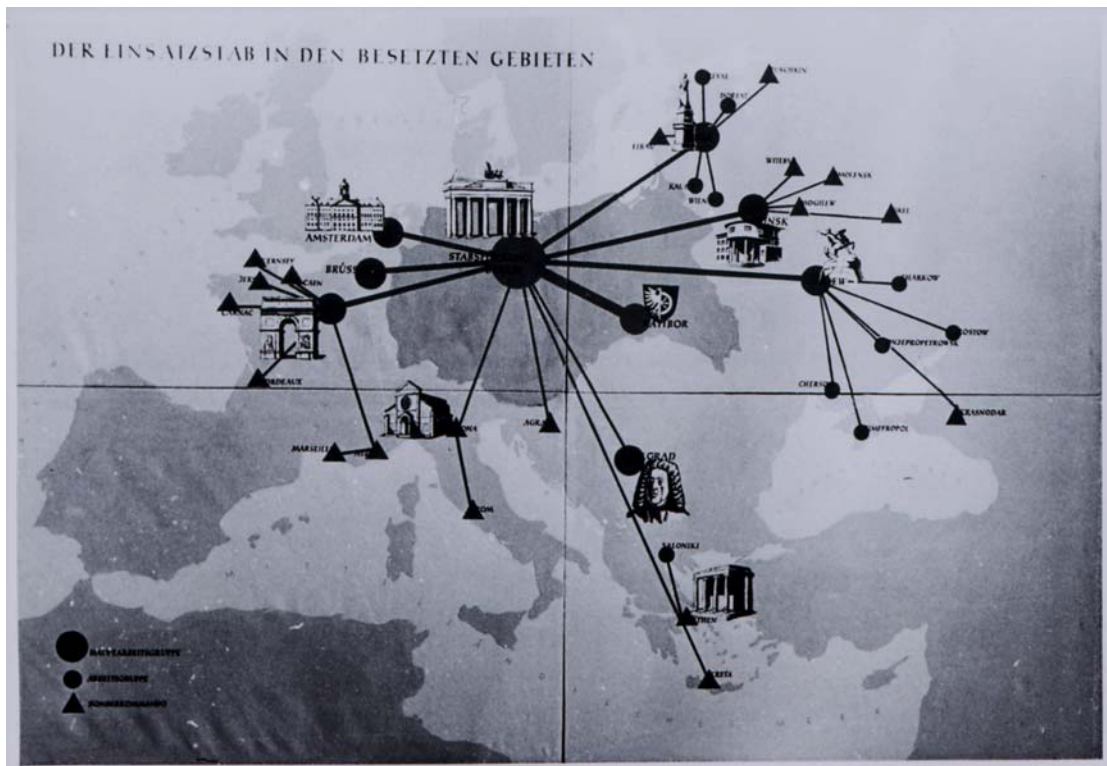


IISH RESEARCH PAPERS

RECONSTRUCTING THE RECORD OF NAZI CULTURAL PLUNDER

A SURVEY OF THE DISPERSED ARCHIVES
OF THE EINSATZSTAB REICHSLEITER ROSENBERG (ERR)

Patricia Kennedy Grimsted



In association with the International Institute of Social History (IISH/IISG), Amsterdam,
and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam,
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The author would be grateful for any comments and corrections to this Survey. Please send comments and corrections to pkg@iisg.nl.

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ABBREVIATIONS, TECHNICAL NOTE AND FOREWORD) AND CHAPTER**

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United States of America: Konstantin Akinsha, Greg Bradsher, Brewster Chamberlin, Rebecca Collier, David Fishman, Michael Gelb, Charles Goldstein, James Hastings, Sarah Kianovsky, Michael Kurtz, Marc Masurovsky, Henry Mayer, Carl Modig, Fruma Mohrer, Tim Mulligan, Lynn Nicholas, Seymour

Pomrenze, Sem Sutter, Marek Webb, Ruth Weinberger, Robert Wolfe, and Nancy Yeide.

With information coming from so many sources over a long period of time, and with archival transfers and reprocessing, to say nothing of rapidly changing electronic availability of archival information, errors of commission and omission are bound to arise in the text that follows. The compiler and editors would greatly appreciate comments from representatives of the institutions covered, and more generally from readers who may consult the text. We already plan a future update and are anxious for communications that bring mistakes, oversights, and new information to our attention.

PKG

December 2010

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following list contains abbreviations and acronyms used in the Survey. Location has been given only for institutions that still exist. Details concerning historical institutions and units are provided in the Survey text.

AA	Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Office), Berlin
AG	Arbeitsgruppe (Working Group)
AGR	Archives Générale de Royaume (National Archives), Brussels
AHC	Ardelia Hall Collection
ALIU	Art Looting Investigatory Unit
AMG	Allied Military Government
AMN	Archives de Musées Nationaux (Archives of the National Museums), Paris
AN-Paris	Archives nationales de France, Site de Paris (National Archives of France, Paris Site)
APA	Aussenpolitisches Amt (Foreign Policy Office)
ARA	Algemeen Rijksarchief (National Archives), Brussels
BA	Bundesarchiv, former acronym; now BArch
BADV	Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen (Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues), Berlin
BArch	Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives)
BArch-MA	Bundesarchiv, Militärarchiv (Federal Archives-Military Archives), Freiburg
BIA	Bureau d'investigation artistique (Office of Art Investigation)
BTG	Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft (Brussels Trust Company)
CADN	Centre des archives diplomatiques de Nantes (Center for Diplomatic Archives in Nantes)
CARAN	Centre d'accueil et de recherche des Archives nationales (National Archives Center for Reception and Research), Paris
CCP	Central Collecting Point
CDJC	Centre de documentation juive contemporaine (Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation), Paris

CEGES	Centre d'Études et de Documentation de Guerre et Sociétés contemporaines (Center for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society), Brussels
CGQJ	Commissariat général aux questions juives (General Commissariat for Jewish Questions)
CHAN	Centre historique des Archives nationales (Historical Center of the National Archives), Paris; now AN-Paris
CIR	Consolidated Intelligence Report
CRA	Commission de récupération artistique (Commission for the Recovery of Art), Paris
CVA	Centrinis Valstybinis archyvas (Central State Archive), Vilnius
DBFU	Beauftragter des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP (Commissioner of the Führer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP)
DGER	Direction général de l'enseignement et de la recherche (General Directorate for Study and Research), Paris
DHM	Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum), Berlin
DIR	Detailed Intelligence Report
DOS	Dienst voor de Oorlogsslachtoffer (Service for War Victims), Brussels
DSK	Devisenschutzkommando (Currency Protection Commando)
ERR	Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (Operational Staff Reichsleiter Rosenberg)
GA RF	Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii (State Archive of the Russian Federation), Moscow
Gestapo	Geheime Staatspolizei (Secret State Police)
GFP	Geheime Feldpolizei (Secret Field Police)
HAG	Hauptarbeitsgruppe (Main Working Group)
IEJ	Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Institute for Research on the Jewish Question), Frankfurt am Main, later Hungen
IfZ	Institut für Zeitgeschichte (Institute of Contemporary History), Munich
IISG / IISH	Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (International Institute of Social History), Amsterdam
IMT	International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg

JHM	Joods Historisch Museum (Jewish Historical Museum), Amsterdam
LV ABM	Landesverwaltung der Archive, Bibliotheken und Museen (Provincial Authority for Archives, Libraries, and Museums)
MAEE	Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs), Paris
M-Aktion	Möbel-Aktion (Furniture Operation)
MBF	Der Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich (Military Commander in France)
MCCP	Munich Central Collecting Point
MEA	Ministère des Affaires économiques (Ministry of Economic Affairs), Brussels
MEZ	Ministerie van Economische Zaken (Ministry of Economic Affairs), Brussels
MFA&A	Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives
MNR	Musées Nationaux Récupération (National Museums of Recovered Artwork)
MVD	Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
NACP	National Archives of the United States, College Park, MD
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NKVD	Narodnyi komissariat vnutrennikh del (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs)
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National-Socialist German Workers Party)
OAD	Offenbach Archival Depot
OBIP	Office des biens et intérêts privés (Office of Private Property and Interests)
OUSCCPAC	Office of United States Chief Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality
OKH	Oberkommando des Heeres (High Command of the Army)
OKW	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (High Command of the Armed Forces)
OMGUS	Office of Military Government, United States
OSS	Office of Strategic Services

PA AA	Politisches Archiv, Auswärtiges Amt (Political Archive of the Foreign Office), Berlin
PRO	Public Record Office; now TNA
PS	Paris-Storey
RA	Collection des fonds des services de la récupération artistiques (Collection of fonds from art recovery agencies), MAEE fond designation
RG	Record Group, NACP designation
RGVA	Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi voennyi arkhiv (Russian State Military Archive), Moscow
RIOD	Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (Royal Institute of War Documentation); now NIOD
RKO	Reichskommissariat / Reichskommissar für das Ostland (Reich Commissar / Commissariat for Ostland)
RKU	Reichskommissariat / Reichskommissar Ukraine (Reich Commissar / Commissariat for Ukraine)
RMbO	Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete (Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories)
RSHA	Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office)
RV	Rose Valland, former MAEE fond designation
SEA	Staff Evidence Analysis
SCL	Sous-commission des livres (Sub-Commission for Books)
SD	Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service)
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force
Sipo / SiPo	Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police)
SOMA	Studie en Documentatiecentrum Oorlog en Hedendaagse Maatschappij (Center for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society), Brussels
SROA	Service de remise en place des oeuvres d'art (Service for the Return of Works of Art)
SVG	Service des Victimes de la Guerre (Service for War Victims), Brussels
TMI	Tribunal militaire internationale (International Military Tribunal)
TNA	The National Archives, London-Kew; formerly PRO

TsDAVO	Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi arkhiv vyshchych orhaniv derzhavnoi vlyady ta upravlinnia Ukraïny (Central State Archive of the Highest Agencies of State Power and Administration of Ukraine), Kyiv (Kiev)
TsDAZhR URSS	Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi arkhiv Zhovtnevoï Revoliutsii Ukraïns'koï Radians'koï Sotsialistychnoï Respubliki (Central State Archive of the October Revolution, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), now TsDAVO
TsGAOR SSSR	Tsentral'nyi gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Oktiabr'skoi Revoliutsii Soiuzu Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (Central State Archive of the October Revolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), now part of GA RF
TsGOA SSSR	Tsentral'nyi gosudarstvennyi osobyi arkhiv Soiuzu Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (Central State Special Archive of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), now part of RGVA
TsKhIDK	Tsentr khraneniia istoriko-dokumental'nykh kolleksi (Center for the Preservation of Historico-Documentary Collections), now part of RGVA
TVK	Treuhandverwaltung für Kulturgut (Trust Administration for Cultural Assets)
URO	United Restitution Organization
USHMM	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
YIVO	YIVO Jewish Research Institute, before 1939 in Wilno, Poland; after 1939 in New York
ZBHS	Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule (Central Library of the Hohe Schule NSDAP)

TECHNICAL NOTE

Numerical Hierarchy: Given the scope and complexity of this compendium, the publisher has introduced a numerical hierarchical system often found in European archival literature. This system is intended to facilitate cross-referencing within the text and to provide a modicum of consistency for the description of archival materials within varying repositories in different countries. The repositories described differ widely in their own organization and usage, and at times, the numerical system imposed may appear at odds with the internal usage of a given repository. In general, the levels breakdown as follows:

Level 1 COUNTRY

Level 2 REPOSITORY

Level 3 RECORD GROUP (BESTAND, FOND, ETC.)

Level 4 SERIES

Level 5 SUB-SERIES

Levels 3-5 tend to denote the formal names of record groups, series, and sub-series within an archive, but this is not always the case. In some instances, unnumbered headings have been inserted to designate or highlight particular group of ERR-related documents not indicated as such by the archive itself.

Document-level descriptions are usually preceded by an en-dash.

Documentary Coverage: The descriptions of archival holdings here focus on two broad groups of documentation.

First and foremost are those documents created by the ERR, its working groups and special staffs, as well as the projected university-level Hohe Schule for the Nazi elite and its Central Library (ZBHS) and institutes, in particular the Institute for Research on the Jewish Question Research (IEJ). Also included are the records of the related Furniture Operation (Möbel-Aktion), which was initially run by the western affairs office (Amt Westen) of Rosenberg's Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories (RMbO). The documents discussed address not only the confiscation and processing of cultural assets, but also their shipment, distribution, and storage in repositories throughout the prewar Reich, Austria, and the Sudetenland.

The second general group consists of the documentation created by the western Allies and various governments in the process of locating, recovering, identifying, and returning the archives, books, art, and other cultural or religious objects seized by the ERR or during the the Möbel-Aktion.

Beyond these two groups are such related records as the materials prepared for the Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, where Rosenberg was among the defendants.

Level of Detail: Descriptions herein differ from repository to repository in depth and extent. In larger repositories where detailed finding aids are available to researchers, the tendency is to rely on those finding aids and to provide only summary descriptions. Two key exceptions are: 1) the Bundesarchiv Koblenz, because the descriptions of record group B 323 located here were prepared for this Survey long before the recently completed German finding aid went on-line, and 2) the Archives of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) in

La Courneuve (near Paris), because the coverage of select files found in this Survey represents the first detailed descriptions of these records available to the general public. More detail is also given to record groups where the only available finding aids are brief folder lists, as is often the case at the National Archives of the United States in College Park, MD (NACP).

For smaller repositories and for repositories with limited ERR-related materials, such as YIVO in New York and the Central State Archive (CVA) in Vilnius, more detail is provided at the file and document levels.

Transliteration of Cyrillic: For transcription of Cyrillic references, the Library of Congress system of transliteration is used throughout, modified by the omission of ligatures. Exceptions may appear when an alternate is used in a documentary title or text.

Geographic Names: In general, place names are rendered in accepted English forms (Moscow, Cracow, etc.) or in a form derived from the present-day official language of a country. The major exception to this rule are the ERR evacuation sites and repositories in the Sudetenland. These are given in German first with Czech in parentheses, for example, Troppau (Cz. Opava). These sites appear so often in the German and the U.S. documentation that asserting the Czech and switching to German repository names would disrupt the text and create confusion.

Where names are almost phonetically identical in their English, German, and local forms, the local form alone is used, for example, Novgorod, Dnipropetrovsk, Tukums, Pärnu, etc. Where the German and local names fundamentally differ from one another, the local names come first with the German in parentheses: Tallinn (Ger. Reval), Pskov (Ger. Pleskau), Mohileu (Ger. Mogilew), etc. Here, too, when a well-known English form is nearly the same phonetically as either of the forms given, no additional variation is added.

Where cities changed hands in 1939 or in 1945, they are noted as follows: Niasvitzh (prewar Nieśwież, Poland), Ratibor (postwar Racibórz, Poland), etc. In the case of Vilnius, Vilna is added to accommodate the predominant English form from between the world wars, as well as the YIVO preference: Vilnius (also Vilna; prewar Wilno, Poland).

U.S. postwar documents refer to Altaussee as Alt Aussee. Within this Survey, Altaussee has been used.

Acronyms: Acronyms reflect the original language of the institution or other agency they represent. In the case of Belgium, both Flemish and French acronyms are presented. A list of the acronyms used in this text (along with names in their original language and English translation) is given. The full form of a repository or agency name is also provided upon first use in each country chapter and repository-level section.

Archival Terminology in the Post-Soviet Realm: In the Soviet Union, as well as archives today in Russia and Ukraine, the Russian and Ukrainian archival term *fond* can be more extensive than a “record group,” because it can include personal papers or what Western archivists would refer to as a “collection.” Hence the term has been anglicized and should not be translated as “collection.” That would create confusion about the type of archival materials involved.

For citations from Russian and Ukrainian archives, references are given as follows: archival acronym, fond number, inventory or series (*opis'* in Russian or *opys* in Ukrainian) and file unit (*edinitsa khraneniia* or *delo* in Russian or *sprava* in Ukrainian). In both Russian and Ukrainian, an *opis'* or *opys* is a series within a fond and a finding aid or inventory of file units. In citations of folios (pages) within a file, the letter “v” after a folio number indicates the overleaf (*verto*).

Names of Individuals and Art Collections: Particular attention has been given to identifying the correct names of owners whose cultural assets were confiscated by the ERR. Often, the only available documentation for these are ERR records, and in several cases, the ERR rendered names incorrectly or in a Germanized form. Of particular concern are the Jewish owners of art collections seized in France and processed by the ERR in the Jeu de Paume building in Paris.

The on-line database “Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR): Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume,” a project of the Conference on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany located at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (see Section 9.2.3.), is based on the original ERR records and thus adheres largely to ERR spellings, some of which went on to circulate in postwar documents, including U.S. intelligence reports and, most recently, *The AAM Guide to Provenance Research*. Appendix 1 of this volume is based on the names of collection owners such as they are found in French claims dossiers or other sources. ERR versions of names are also provided.

The French or ERR versions may not be the only versions of the names encountered. Some of the owners were of foreign nationality and their names often took another form upon assuming French citizenship. Some later filed postwar claims from countries other than France. In addition, different members of the same family sometimes used different forms of their name (or even a pseudonym) in different countries in the course of their flight from Nazi persecution. Accordingly, names can appear in slightly variant forms in the descriptions of the records below. It has not been possible to correct inconsistencies or provide alternate spellings for all of the victims, but where possible, corrections have been added.

Repository Websites: The links inserted in Survey functioned as of the date of publication. This does not preclude the possibility that some will change over time or be discontinued.

On-line Research Resources: The number of digitized resources available to researchers, including specialists working in provenance research, has expanded significantly in the last five years, ranging from the offerings of commercial vendors such as Footnote to those of state archives such as the ARGUS system of the Bundesarchiv. Most of these resources are explained at length in the text (see in particular Chapter 3, pp. xxxx-xxxx, Section 3.1.1., Section 3.1.2, and Section 3.6, as well as Section 9.1., pp. xxxx-xxxx, and Section 9.2.3.). Two items, however, should be mentioned here, as they bear on specific features of this Survey.

First, the company Footnote has so far posted on the Internet four NARA microfilm publications relevant to this Survey. During the editing of this volume, it was discovered that the links to images were did not change each time they were accessed. Therefore, for three of the four microfilm publications, the editors inserted the links beneath the proper file descriptions. Thus readers may quickly view the documents described in:

- *NARA Microfilm Publication M1942: Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points (“Ardelia Hall Collection”): Offenbach Archival Depot, 1946-1951;*
- *NARA Microfilm Publication M1782: OSS Art Looting Investigation Unit Reports, 1945-1946); and*
- *NARA Microfilm Publications M1270: Interrogations Records Prepared for War Crimes Proceedings at Nuernberg, 1945-1947.*

Time did not permit doing the same for the files described in *NARA Microfilm Publication M1947: Records Concerning The Central Collecting Points (“Ardelia Hall Collection”): Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1945-1952*, which is much larger than the others. At the time of insertion, access to these collections was free. Since the summer of 2010, this is no longer the case. Readers who wish to view the holdings at footnote.com will have to subscribe.

Second, less important to provenance research, but important to the overall history of Alfred Rosenberg's activities, including the ERR, are the documents processed for the Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal (IMT) in Nuremberg. The proceedings and most of the documents entered in evidence before the IMT were later published in *Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg*, known to specialists as the "Blue Series." Within the Blue Series, the Nuremberg editors placed an asterisk after documents appearing in the document volumes of the series. The editors of this Survey have also adopted this practice as a service to researchers. This is all the more convenient, since the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress has posted the English edition of the Blue Series on-line (see Section 9.1.7.).

Telephone Numbers: Depending on provider, mobile or land-line, private or public, making local or long distance calls within some of the countries discussed in this Survey is not as straightforward as in other countries. Researchers should consult the Internet for the most up-to-date information on dialing telephone numbers in the country they plan to visit.

Printing: The Survey and its appendices are for the most part formatted on U.S. Letter-size throughout, as this prints well on DINA4-size paper as well. The sole exception is Appendix 1, which is on DINA4 and can be printed to U.S. Legal.

Updates: At least one update is planned twelve months after this Survey goes on-line. Thereafter, additional updates should follow on an annual basis. The compiler and the publisher would be exceedingly grateful for comments and corrections. Please send comments and corrections to pkg@iisg.nl.

FOREWORD

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) is most pleased to sponsor the electronic publication of *Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder: A Survey of the Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)* and to have assisted in some of its preparation. Compiled by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, the preeminent expert on archives displaced as a result of the Second World War, this work promises to be of great use to historians, archivists, provenance researchers, museum curators, art dealers, and the heirs of families and communities that were plundered. Appropriately, it is being published by the International Institute for Social History, whose massive Amsterdam and Paris library and archival collections were plundered by the ERR beginning in 1940, and whose building on the Keizersgracht was used for the ERR headquarters in the Netherlands.

Dedicated since 1951 to providing a measure of justice for Jewish victims of Nazism, the Claims Conference has always been concerned with the restitution of plundered artworks, religious artifacts, archives, libraries, and other cultural property. But restitution efforts in this area have in the past yielded far fewer results than have efforts to reconstitute non-cultural assets such as immovable property and bank accounts, insurance policies, and other financial holdings. The reasons for this lack of progress include the ease of transporting artworks and books across international borders, the lack of public records documenting original ownership, the difficulty of tracing art transactions through the decades, and in some countries, the lack of government commitment to restitution, appropriate legislation, or a central authority to arbitrate claims.

At the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets in 1998, attention turned to the importance of archival records in understanding the plunder of art and other cultural property by the Nazis and their allies. Subsequently, at a seminar presentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in February 2000, Patricia Grimsted made an appeal for a virtual compendium of the widely dispersed records of one of the most important Nazi cultural looting agencies, the ERR. This idea was discussed with interest by delegates from many countries later in October of that year at the Vilnius International Forum on Holocaust-Era Looted Cultural Assets. During the next few years, Dr Grimsted continued to uncover the locations of scattered ERR files and wrote an article on patterns of ERR library and archival plunder during the Second World War, as well as articles on the postwar fate of the ERR's loot and its documentation.

At the same time, the Claims Conference and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) began a comprehensive program to assist the further restitution of Jewish-owned art and cultural property lost and plundered during the Holocaust. Although a number of countries have compiled lists of cultural losses, there has been no large-scale attempt to determine the full scope of cultural property seized by the specific agencies of the Nazis and their allies that has not been restituted. Instead, the focus has been on checking the provenance of museum collections and on claims made by individual survivors and heirs of owners. But more often than not, families and communities do not have full knowledge of what was taken from them. Art dealers, major collectors, and institutions may have kept lists of artworks or catalogs of libraries and archives prior to the war, but often such lists and catalogs – like their owners – did not survive the Holocaust, and in any event, the vast majority of the millions of persons who were robbed had no such lists or catalogs. We therefore decided to try to reconstruct the historical-archival record so as 1) to develop listings of what was plundered by the Nazis and their allies; 2) to assemble

listings of cultural property known to have been restituted; and thereby 3) to produce net listings of outstanding items of cultural property that have yet to be returned.¹

In consultation with Dr Grimsted, the Claims Conference therefore undertook to support three major activities in regard to the records of the ERR. The first is the online publication of the current survey and preliminary guide. The second is the ongoing imaging of the ERR files located in Kyiv (Kiev), Moscow, Vilnius, Berlin, Koblenz, Amsterdam, Paris, New York, and Washington with a view to making the ERR records generally available. And the third is the joint creation with the USHMM of a Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume that brings together in searchable form documentation, including photographs, of the over 20,000 major art objects that the ERR confiscated from Jews in Paris, in other parts of France and parts of Belgium and brought for processing to the Jeu de Paume in the Tuileries Gardens.²

These three activities should prove to be very helpful to the field of provenance research that has developed so greatly in the art world – but also in regard to libraries and Judaica - over the past decade or so. Indeed, in some respects these three activities taken as a whole may constitute a paradigm shift for the field. Instead of looking at collections in museums today, at lists of objects being sought by claimants, or at lists of objects found after the Second World War, the aim is to reconstruct the original record of what was seized and from whom by bringing together what remains of the detailed records that the Nazis – in this case specifically the ERR – kept of their looting.

This approach should prove helpful not only in the restitution of Jewish cultural property but also in the identification of the losses by non-Jewish institutions and families. In particular in its activities on the Eastern Front, the ERR necessarily had different priorities and different patterns of plunder than in Western Europe, since the only small private or Jewish-held collections were found in western areas annexed to the Soviet Union in 1939. As a result, unlike France, the ERR plundered cultural items primarily from Soviet state institutions. Countries such as Russia and Ukraine that are seeking the return of their cultural property often lack knowledge of what was taken from where by which Nazi agency and what was returned after the war.

In June 2009, 47 countries along with relevant non-governmental organizations participated in the Holocaust Era Assets Conference held in Prague and agreed to the Terezín Declaration, which calls for international cooperation in provenance research and the restitution of cultural property. This Survey directly relates to the goals of the Terezín Declaration and such international cooperation, and Dr Grimsted appropriately presented the project at the Prague Conference.

The importance of this Survey goes well beyond its relevance to provenance research and the restitution of cultural property, however. In its allocation grants to institutions in research and education, the Claims Conference has for many years been the principal supporter of Holocaust-related archival work. The importance of this Survey is equally in its relevance to the restitution of history.

Wesley A. Fisher, Director of Research
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

¹ Information regarding the Claims Conference / WJRO Looted Art and Cultural Property Initiative may be found at <http://www.claimscon.org> under “Artworks” and “Judaica”; for .

² See <http://www.errproject.org/jeudepaume/>.

1. BELGIUM

Introductory Remarks

In Belgium, the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) devoted much of its efforts to the plunder of libraries and archives owned by those designated “enemies of the Reich.” What few Jewish art collections came under its aegis were transferred to Paris to the ERR processing center for looted art at the Jeu de Paume building in the Tuilleries Gardens. Only a few scattered original documents created by the ERR were found in Belgium after the war, although the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (Centre d’études et de documentation guerre et sociétés contemporaines, CEGES / Studie-en documentatie centrum Oorlogen hedendaagse Maatschappij, SOMA, see Section 1.3.) has since acquired microfilm copies of the extensive files of the ERR Main Working Group Belgium (Hauptarbeitsgruppe Belgien, HAG Belgien), which are held in the Central State Archive of Highest Agencies of Power and Administration of Ukraine (Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi vyshchykh orhaniv vldy ta upravlinnia, TsDAVO) in Kyiv (Kiev).

Considerably more documentation from Rosenberg’s Furniture Operation (Möbel-Aktion, or M-Aktion) survives in Belgium, but the relevant files are dispersed among several repositories. Rosenberg had initiated the Möbel-Aktion at the end of 1941 and early 1942 in order to remove the furnishings of abandoned Jewish residences. Operating at first under the purview of the ERR, the M-Aktion was officially shifted to the jurisdiction of Dienststelle Westen (also known as Amt Westen), the western affairs office of Rosenberg’s Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories (Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete, RMbO).

While operational orders for the M-Aktion came from Dienststelle Westen, most of the actual seizures in Belgium were carried out and the loot controlled by the Brussels Trust Company (Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft, BTG), an agency created for the seizure, management, and disposal of enemy (including Jewish) property and financial assets in Belgium. Administratively, the BTG functioned under the Economics Department (Wirtschaftsabteilung) of the Military Administration (Militärverwaltung).¹ The ERR nevertheless reserved for itself first choice of the cultural property seized by the M-Aktion, since Rosenberg had launched the program. In each country where Dienststelle Westen was represented, ERR personnel dominated both the leadership and overall planning, and ERR facilities were frequently used for the disposition of the choice works of art, archives, and books.

Most remaining original documentation relating to the M-Aktion in occupied Belgium is now found divided and incorporated in files within the records of the major postwar Belgian government agencies that looked after the wartime victims and their heirs, handled claims, and identified war crimes, including collaboration with the German occupation authorities. After the war, the Service for War Victims (Service Victimes de la Guerre, SVG / Dienst voor de oorlogsslachtoffers, DOS) – now the General Directorate for War Victims – dealt with physical damage and traced individuals. Its services were first transferred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and later to the Federal Public Service for Social Security, where it continues its work to this day as a separate office. Its archive holds few original files, but has many copies and postwar reports related to the M-Aktion, among other files for assisting claims by victims and their heirs (see Section 1.2.).

Also of particular importance for documentation of the M-Aktion are the remaining records of the BTG, now held in the Belgian National Archives (Archives générales du Royaume, AGR / Algemeen Rijksarchief, AGA) as part of the extensive remaining records of the Office of

¹ A chart of the occupation administrative structure in Belgium is provided in the report of the Commission des biens juives, *Les biens des Victimes des persécutions anti-juives en Belgique*, pp. 40-42.

Sequestration (Office des Séquestres) under the Ministry of Finance. Some additional, often similar types of documentation are preserved in the SVG/DOS archives.

In addition to these two repositories – the SVG/DOS and the AGR/AGA – a few additional original M-Aktion files are retained in the Ghent City Archives. Many copies are also held by the CEGEES/SOMA in Brussels.

The postwar Wartime Damage Service (Service Dommages de guerre) under the Ministry of Reconstruction oversaw property and material damage. However, among its extensive records, no files have been found to contain significant runs of original documentation stemming from or relating to the ERR or the M-Aktion.

General Research Guides and Background Reference

Published Reference Works

Belgium. Chancellerie du Premier Ministre, Commission d'étude des Biens Juifs. *Les biens des Victimes des persécutions anti-juives en Belgique: Spoliation, Rétablissement des droits, Résultats de la Commission d'étude: Rapport final de la Commission d'étude sur le sort des biens des membres de la Communauté juive de Belgique spoliés ou délaissés pendant la guerre 1940-1945.*

Belgium. Kanselarij van de Eerste Minister, Studiecommissie joodse goederen. *Eindverslag van de Studiecommissie betreffende het lot van de bezittingen van de leden van de joodse gemeenschap van België, geplunderd of achtergelaten tijdens de oorlog 1940-1945.*

Belgium. The Prime Minister's Office, Study Commission Jewish Assets. *The Assets of the Victims of the Anti-Jewish Persecutions in Belgium: Looting, Re-establishment of Rights, Findings of the Study Commission: Final Report of the Study Commission into the Fate of the Belgian Jewish Community's Assets, Which Were Plundered or Surrendered or Abandoned during the War, 1940-1945.* 2 vols. [Brussels], July 2001. (Internal edition).

On-line edition: <http://www.combuysse.fgov.be/hoofdframemenu.html> (contains added English title page and introduction)

The extensive, comprehensive report of the Buysse Commission, assembled in 1998 under the chairmanship of Lucien Buysse. Within the major section on wartime plunder (Section 2), separate sub-sections are devoted to the Möbel-Aktion: 2.77 – “La Möbelaktion” [by Johanna Pezechkian] – in both French and Dutch editions, pp. 119-132; and “Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: ERR et la spoliation des biens culturels” [by Jacques Lust] – French edition, pp. 133-141; Dutch edition pp. 133-142. Appendix 5 (in vol. 2) lists spoliated Jewish library and archival collections transported to Germany, pp. 21-23. The bibliography lists extensive archival documentation, as well as published sources.

Lust, Jacques. “De Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg en de bibliotheekroof in België (1940-1943).” Brussels, 2000. Internal Paper for the Study Commission on Jewish Property.

Lust, Jacques, and Michel Vermote. “PAPIEREN BITTE! The Confiscation and Restitution of Belgian Archives and Libraries (1940-2004).” In *Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues*, ed. Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, with F.J. Hoogewoud and Eric Ketelaar, pp. 190-225. Buihth Wells: Institute of Art and Law, 2007.

Pezechkian, Johanna. “La Möbelaktion en Belgique.” *Cahiers d'histoire du temps présent / Bijdragen tot de Eigentijdse Geschiedenis* 10 (2002), pp. 153-180.

Previously issued as an internal paper by the Buysse Commission, this is a well informed,

thorough survey of M-Aktion operations in Belgium. The author's footnote 2 and appended list "1. Archives" provide details of the documentation available, although there have been some changes in location since publication. See also Pezechkian's chapter on the M-Aktion in the aforementioned Buysse Commission report.

Stabel, Kris. "De Möbelaktion. Het Duitse beheer van de in België geconfisqueerde Joodse goederen tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog." Leuven (Louvain): Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 1999-2000.

On-line edition: http://www.ethesis.net/mobelaktion/mobelktion_inhoud.htm

A dissertation at the University of Leuven with emphasis on the M-Aktion in Antwerp and the collaboration of local commercial firms. The published version reveals a much less extensive source base than the Pezechkian article (above).

Documentary Collection (unpublished)

United Restitution Organization. "M-Aktion, Frankreich, Belgien, Holland und Luxemburg, 1940-1944." Typescript (mimeographed). [Frankfurt]: URO, 22 July 1958. With added note by Kurt May, 30 October 1958. [188 p.].

A postwar report prepared by the major international (U.S.) claims service for Holocaust survivors and their families in connection with West Germany's 1957 Federal Restitution Law (Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz, BRüG). The report provides important information about the function of the Möbel-Aktion. A brief introduction is followed by a transcription of many of the key original related German documents, but with no indication of the source of the originals. Many of the documents included have been incorporated separately into SVG/DOS files (see Section 1.2.).

Copies are held by the SVG/DOS (Brussels), the Netherlands Institute of War Documentation (Amsterdam), and the Archives of the Leo Baeck Institute (New York), MS 529. A microfilm copy is available in the Wiener Library (London).

1.1. ARCHIVES GÉNÉRALES DU ROYAUME (AGR) / ALGEMEEN RIJKSARCHIEF (AGA)

[National Archives]

rue de Ruysbroeck, 2; 1000 Brussels

Tel.: +32 (0)2 / 513 76 80

Fax: +32 (0)2 / 513 76 81

E-mail: Archives.generales@arch.be

Website: http://arch.arch.be/content/view/383/180/lang.en_GB/

Several record groups in the Belgian National Archives (AGR/AGA) have documents relating to wartime plunder and postwar claims, but there are no groups of surviving ERR records. Significant documentation from the Möbel-Aktion, however, is now found in several files that are part of the Sequestration Archives of the Brussels Trust Company (Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft, BTG), now held as a series within the records of the Ministry of Finance.

1.1.1. MINISTÈRE DES FINANCES, OFFICE DES SÉQUESTRES. ARCHIVES DU SÉQUESTRE DE LA BRÜSSELER TREUHANDGESELLSCHAFT / MINISTERIE VAN FINANCIËN, DIENST VAN HET SEQUESTER. ARCHIEF VAN HET SEKWESTER VAN DE BRÜSSELER TREUHANDGESELLSCHAFT
[Ministry of Finance, Office of Sequestration, Sequestration Archives of the Brussels Trust Company]

Of particular relevance for documentation of the M-Aktion are the records of the BTG, the financial trust created by the Nazis for the seizure, management, and disposal of enemy and Jewish property and other financial assets in Belgium. As outlined above, while many operational orders came through the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories (Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete, RMbO) and its western affairs office, Dienststelle Westen, a sizeable number of M-Aktion operations were run by the BTG. First choice of cultural property plundered went to the ERR.

The surviving BTG records preserve significant but scattered documentation on M-Aktion seizures and the disposition of property looted from Jewish homes. The records were accessioned by the National Archives in 2002 as part of the records of the Ministry of Finance, Office of Sequestration. The inventory process is still underway.

As currently arranged in the National Archives, the BTG records are divided into three major series (Bloc/Blok I-III). Of most relevance for the M-Aktion are files in Bloc III under the heading “Gruppe XII. Feind- und Judenvermögen” (Group XII. Enemy and Jewish Property).

Access: Because these records deal with property of private individuals and institutions, Belgian privacy laws restrict their consultation for a period of 100 years. Hence special permission of the Ministry of Finance is required for research access.

Finding Aids (unpublished)

“Overdrachtslijst: Dienst van het Sequester. Archief van het sekwester van de Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft (blok III) / Office des Séquestres. Archives du sequester de la Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft = (bloc III).” Typescript. [Brussels], 2004.

An electronic list with brief descriptions identifying contents of the files preserved in this section between the numbers 30-283 (original numbers went to no. 395) and an initial list of all of the files numbers missing. Similar preliminary inventory lists cover blocs I and II.

“Répertoire des Dossiers du Gr.XII.” [n.d.] BTG (blok/bloc 3), box 321.

A postwar alphabetical list/index identifying the contents of individual files, by subject, organization, individual person, or firm. After this essential finding aid was prepared, approximately one-third of the files disappeared. The list indicates the subjects of the files now missing, such as the folder designated for the ERR (no. 387), the list of the furniture warehouses (garde meuble, liste-334), and the file on Hugo Andriesse, whose large art collection was turned over to the ERR in the Jeu de Paume.

1.1.1.1. BRÜSSELER TREUHANDGESELLSCHAFT (BTG), BLOK/BLOC III: FILES RELATED TO THE MÖBEL-AKTION (EXAMPLES)

Classeur 92: RMfdbO Zahlung über Konto Nr 63

The folder – with original spine bearing the German label “RMfdbO” [RMbO] – includes several specific reports and memoranda from the RMbO to the BTG relating to the removal and shipment of Jewish goods (*Judengut*) from individual family residences. Files are preserved from the Belgian removal firms used for seizures, such as La Continentale Menkes, Brussels, Mobilier de M. Peeters, and others. One file from the latter firm contains a list with 33 invoices (28 June 1944), while another has a list of 20 invoices forwarded with AT removal numbers, surnames of families, removal charges, and shipment notes, some with reference to the Office des Propriétaires SA, Société Internationale de Déménagements. In some cases, there are appeals to the Office of Jewish Property (Office de la propriété juive / Jödens Vermögen), with correspondence between the RMbO and BTG; protests and demands for payment, appeals to the BTG from lawyers representing families regarding the removals, indication of removal fees, and shipping charges received from BTG, judgments against the tenants, explanations justifying seizures, and other such documents.

Classeur 131

Folder with the contents of an original German binder holds individual case files (Nr 4017-4026), with names, addresses, and in many cases inventories of items found, together with relevant correspondence and reports relating to the findings, for example, the first: no. S-4017 Léon Dens, Brussels, avenue Louise, nr 280. This folder also reveals an example of ERR intervention in a case involving works of art found in a residence.

Classeur 263: Ministère de l’Est, meubles (Ministry of the East [RMbO], furniture)

Folder with ca.150-200 form sheets entitled “Abtransport aus besichtigten Wohnungen” (Removal from viewed residences) for household goods confiscated from Jewish residences in the course of the M-Aktion. Most are from Antwerp and Brussels. The printed seizure forms, identifying the issuing agency as “RMbO, Einsatzleitung Belgien,” have lines filled

in with full name of the inhabitant, street address, date of removal, summary of crate contents in several categories, transport used for removal, destination depot or forwarding shipment. All are signed.

1.1.2. MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉCONOMIQUES (MAE), OFFICE DE RÉCUPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE / MINISTERIE ECONOMISCHE ZAKEN (MEZ), DIENST ECONOMISCHE RECUPERATIE

[Ministry of Economic Affairs, Archives of the Office of Economic Recovery]

Individual dossiers with data about loss and claims were established by the postwar Office of Economic Recovery under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. These may contain individual documents of interest regarding seizure by the ERR or the Möbel-Aktion, but there are no significant runs of documentation.

Finding Aid (published)

Antoine, François. *Ministère des Affaires économiques, Archives de l'Office de Récupération économique: Dossiers individuels 1940-1967*. Brussels: Archives générales du Royaume, 2007. "Archives générales du Royaume. Inventaires / Algemeen Rijksarchief. Inventarissen," [série], vol. 400.

An inventory covering individual dossiers involving postwar claims, many of which have information and sometimes copies of documents regarding German seizures.

1.1.3. MINISTÈRE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS ET DE LA RECONSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATION DOMMAGES DE GUERRE / MINISTERIE VAN TRANSPORT EN INFRASTRUCTUUR, DIENST OORLOGSSCHADE

[Ministry of Public Works and Reconstruction, Wartime Damages Administration]

Dossiers individuels Dommages de Guerre / Individuele oorlogsschadedossiers, 1945-1970
(Individual Files on Wartime Damages, 1945-1970)

An immense collection of records remaining from the war and immediate postwar period, known under the heading of the "Administration Dommages de guerre" (22 linear km in shelf space), contains extensive files documenting wartime "material damage." Many of the files were used after the war to process Belgian claims under West Germany's 1957 Federal Restitution Law (Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz, BRüG) and to analyze collaboration with the Nazis during the war. They were later consulted by the Buysse Commission (1998) in the investigation of damage and loss of Jewish assets, including cultural property. After many years of conservation in a special depot (rue Pasteur, Anderlecht, Brussels), under the Ministry of the Interior, the AGR/AGA took over custody of these archives in 2002 and transferred approximately half of them (10 km) to its depots. As far as can be determined, these records do not contain significant runs of documentation relating to the ERR or the Möbel-Aktion.

Survey Descriptions (published)

Antoine, François. In *Bulletin of the Association Belge d'Histoire Contemporaine / Mededelingenblad van de Belgische Vereniging voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis* 29 (2007, no. 4), pp. 25-26.

A brief report on the transfer and processing of the records of Belgium's postwar Administration Dommages de Guerre now held by the AGR/AGA.

1.2. LA DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE VICTIMES DE LA GUERRE, SERVICE ARCHIVES ET DOCUMENTATION / DE DIRECTIE-GENERAAL OORLOGSSLACHTOFFERS, DIENST ARCHIEF EN DOCUMENTATIE

[General Directorate for War Victims, Archives and Documentation Service]

Previous names: Service for War Victims (Service des Victimes de la Guerre, SVG / Dienst voor de Oorlogsslachtoffers, DOS)

Agency: Service public Fédérale Sécurité social / Federale Overheidsdienst Sociale Zekerheid [Federal Public Service for Social Security]

Square de l'Aviation / Luchtvaartsquare, 31; 1070 Brussels

Tel.: +32 (0)2 / 528 91 87

Fax: +32 (0)2 / 528 91 75

Website: <http://warvictims.fgov.be/fr/research/intro.htm>; <http://warvictims.fgov.be/nl/index.htm>

The Archives and Documentation Service of the Belgian government agency for assisting war victims holds an important collection of documentation from the Second World War. Long known as the Service for War Victims (SVG/DOS), since 2001, this agency was officially reorganized as an office within the General Directorate for War Victims under the Federal Public Service for Social Security. Between 1995 and 2001, the SVG/DOS was under the Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Health, and the Environment. The SVG/DOS has long shared the same building with the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (Centre d'études et de documentation guerre et sociétés contemporaines [CEGES] / Studie-en documentatie centrum Oorlogen hedendaagse Maatschappij [SOMA]; see Section 1.3).

Relatively few original wartime files came into SVG/DOS custody, although there is a vast array of documents gathered from many sources to assist postwar claimants. In the late 1950s and 1960s, several specialists associated with this agency, among them Hubert Dumonceau de Bergendal, proved particularly adept at tracing and verifying developments during the German occupation. In doing so, they acquired the originals or copies of several important files and groups of documents relating to the Möbel-Aktion. The documents preserved here include lists and card files of residences from which the furnishings were confiscated, financial records of moving companies that assisted in the removal and the transport of the containers (*liftvans*), and records of warehouses and shipping firms responsible for forwarding the property removed from Jewish homes.

The documentation in the SVG/DOS archives is not well organized for research purposes. The examples described below, while indicative of the documents available, are not exhaustive.

Access: Provisions for access to documentation and applications are explained on the website above. Advance arrangements for consultation of specific archival materials are usually required, and space for research is limited.

Published Description

Nefors, Patrick. *Inventaris van het Archief van de Dienst voor de Oorlogsslachtoffers / Inventaire des archives du Service des Victimes de la Guerre*. Brussels: Ministerie van Sociale Zaken, Volksgezondheid en Leefmilieu, Dienst voor de oorlogsslachtoffers / Ministère des Affaires sociales, de la Santé publique et de l'Environnement, Service des Victimes de la Guerre, and SOMA Studie- en Documentatiecentrum oorlog en hedendaagse maatschappii, 1997.

A file-level finding aid, covering SVG/DOS holdings, among them many important remaining files from the Möbel-Aktion in Belgium. However, the organization of this inventory does not reflect current SVG/DOS archival arrangement, and the sequential numbers presented are not applicable. Nevertheless, it does list many of the available files with reference numbers that can assist retrieval.

Unpublished Description

A handwritten card catalogue serves as an index to many of the important documents, listed individually or by group, particularly in a section entitled “Möbelaktion.”

1.2.1. DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ERR

R 123, Tr 153.077: Letter from Gerhard Utikal to Rosenberg (18 Jan. 1941) and report by Dr Payl (12-14 Oct. 1941), enclosed with a later November 1941 letter.

Copies of two important 1941 documents revealing the ERR bureaucratic situation and its operations in Belgium. The photostats of the original German documents on the letterhead of the Commissioner of the Führer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP (Der Beauftragte des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP, DBFU) are filed with French translations added. The originals, stamped as received by the Rosenberg Chancellery, were apparently part of the U.S Rosenberg Collection, held in Alexandria, VA, when the copies were made. The copies were received in 1958 from A.J. van der Leeuw in Amsterdam (State Institute for War Documentation, RIOD). The originals are presumably now in Berlin, although the accompanying letter does not indicate the source.

1.2.2. DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE MÖBEL-AKTION**Index card file (*fichier*)**

See especially the major sections:

Möbelaktion**Möbelaktion: Ordinances** (original)

Individual cards provide summaries of individual M-Aktion documents or groups of documents in French, arranged on 5 x 8 cards.

United Restitution Organization, Report

A complete copy of this report – “M-Aktion Frankreich, Belgien, Holland und Luxemburg, 1940-1944.” [Frankfurt]: URO, 1958 – has yet to be found in the SVG/DOS, but most of the individual documents are available, classified separately, the majority extracted and translated into French,

in the series R 123/Tr 148.282. Many of these documents had been processed for use by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Hence many also bear exhibit or PS numbers.

R 123/Tr 148.282

A collection of translations of German documents relating to the Möbel-Aktion. The two groups of documents with carbon copies of French translations are currently held as the last third of the same archival binder.

Möbelaktion I (1942-1944)

Möbelaktion II (1944)

Many of these documents apparently came from the aforementioned URO report.

R 123/Tr 144.828: Spoliation agglomération bruxelloise. 6 archival binders (classeurs): A-C; D-H; I-L; M-O; P-S; and T-Z.

An original set of German card files listing citizens whose household furnishings were seized in Brussels and the vicinity. Files are alphabetized by street name (A-Z), indicated at the top of each sheet; the street name is followed by house number and surname of individual (or family), with the number of the matching residence report (*Wohnungsbefund*, W.B.) in the right column of each card. SVG/DOS documentation affirms entries for 3,407 seizures. Most surnames are crossed out in red pencil. German alphabetical paper dividers remain, and some postwar cross-reference sheets have been added indicating changed street names and correcting the original German rendition. The files contain many original German household inventories showing the day of survey (*Tag der Besichtigung*) with a larger section on contents of residences (*Inhalt der Wohnung*), all on one sheet. In some cases, there are RMbO forms – “Abtransport aus besichtigten Wohnungen” (Removal from viewed residences) – similar to the Brussels file in the National Archives (BTG, classeur 263; see Section 1.1.). The files were transferred from Antwerp to the agency Aide for Jewish Victims of the War (Aide aux Israélites Victimes de la Guerre) in May 1955.

Listes d’Israélites spoliés, 1940-1945. Doc AIVG (Photocopies). 3 unnumbered archival boxes.

A second set of the above lists (R 123/Tr 144.828) with working copies of the originals, now arranged in three archival cartons, with a few postwar copies of original documents interspersed among the files.

R 497/Tr 159.816: Office des Propriétaires. Meuble spoliés.

Dossiers in three binders (1: B-F; 2: G-L; 3: M-W) assembled after the war and arranged alphabetically by family name with attestations of loss, receipts from moving or storage companies, etc.

R 497/Tr 159.969: Rapport des enquêtes faites les 9-14 et 15 juin 1960 par Monsieur Dumonceau de Bergendal à Anvers et Bruxelles (Brussels, 1960)

A postwar Belgian official report of investigation of the Möbel-Aktion in Antwerp and Brussels, with description of existing sources found after the war.

R 497/Tr 181.926: Liste de mobilier enlevé aux Juifs par les Allemands (Liège, 1942-1943)

Folder containing original German carbon copies of 150 RMbO Möbel-Aktion seizure documents (plus five photocopies) from the region of Liège. All are on printed German forms with the heading “Abtransport aus besichtigten Wohnungen” (Removal from viewed residences), similar to those for Antwerp and Brussels in the National Archives (BTG, classeur 263; see Section

1.1.1.); a carbon copy of the postwar Belgian report on the German documents found: “Rapport des enquêtes faites par Monsieur Dumonceau de Bergendal à Liège et Charleroi les 5 et 12 décembre 1963” (Brussels, 17 and 20 Dec. 1963), regarding “Ordres de transport de meubles confisqués aux Israélites.”

See also the related French translation of a German report – “Action contre les Juifs dans le ressort de Liège” (6 Dec. 1943) – in file R 123/Tr 148.282.

“Möbelaktion” Unnumbered binder.

The first two-thirds of this binder contain photocopies of documents and handwritten notes; testimonies of individuals – most addressed to the Procureur du roi in 1944 regarding the sequestration of household goods from Jewish residences; some process-verbal from police, crate lists, and “Pro Justitia” court reports from prosecutors. Some of the appeals contain 1940 inventories of contents together with evaluation by appraisers. Also includes a partial postwar notebook with reports on findings.

Fichier de la Möbelaktion

Postwar card file of 27 file boxes prepared from copies of original German documents from several different sources listing furnishings seized by the Möbel-Aktion and date of seizure.

The Antwerp files, constituting the largest portion, are arranged by city ward and then by street, and then house number; numbered references are preceded by “WB” (*Wohnungsbefund*).

The boxes from Brussels are alphabetized by family name.

A separate file box indexes seizures from Charleroi (including Dampremy, Lodelinsart, and Marcinelle, part of the German territorial unit), Arlon, and Liège/Louvain (including Ans, Bressany, Chenee, Liège, and Seraing, all part of the German territorial unit of greater Liège/Louvain).

**1.3. CENTRE D'ÉTUDES ET DE DOCUMENTATION GUERRE ET SOCIÉTÉS
CONTEMPORAINES (CEGES) /
STUDIE-EN DOCUMENTATIE CENTRUM OORLOGEN HEDENDAAGSE MAATSCHAPPIJ
(SOMA)**

[Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society]

Square de l'Aviation 29 / Luchtvaartsquare 29; 1070 Brussels

Tel.: +32 (0)2 / 556 92 11

Fax: +32 (0)2 / 556 92 00

Website: <http://www.cegesoma.be>

The Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (CEGES/SOMA) is the leading Belgian institute for research on the Second World War. It holds considerable related microfilm documentation and a few original files. CEGES/SOMA shares the same building as the SVG/DOS (see Section 1.2.) and maintains a reading room open to the public. The collections are well indexed on the center's website and database finding aid.

1.3.1. ERR-RELATED MATERIALS

ERR Files from the Central State Archive of Highest Agencies of Power and Administration of Ukraine (Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi vyshchykh orhaniv vlady ta upravlinnia, TsDAVO), Kyiv (Kiev)

Microfilms. Mic 199. 7 v.

Of special relevance are these microfilmed files of ERR records from Kyiv prepared in the 1990s.

Related Survey

Dirk Martin. "Something new: Archives from the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg from Kiev have been brought to the Centre War and Society (SOMA/CEGES) in Brussels." *Spoils of War. International Newsletter*, no. 7 (Aug. 2000), pp. 71-75.

On-line edition: http://www.lostart.de/Webs/EN/Start/Index.html?_nnn=true ("Publications")

Describes the Belgian files acquired on microfilm from the TsDAVO. It should be noted, however, that the copies are not complete, and that there are more files from the ERR Main Working Group Belgium (Hauptarbeitsgruppe Belgien, HAG Belgien) still in Kyiv that were not ordered, as now confirmed in the new finding aids (see Section 7.1.).

ERR Files from Archives Nationales, Paris

Microfilm mic 250/1. Militärverwaltung (Military Administration; AJ 40 15/6), 1942-1944.

For a description of the originals, see Section 2.3.3.1.

Dienststelle Rosenberg, Correspondence. AA 1289-M-19.

This file contains a few pages of original documents and photocopies addressed to the ERR Main Working Group Belgium (HAG Belgen) or related to the ERR, but there are no seizure reports. The documents are too fragmentary for adequate identification.

1.4. STADSARCHIEF GENT / ARCHIVES DE LA VILLE DE GAND

[Ghent City Archives]

De Zwarte Doos; Dulle-Grietlaan 12; 9050 Gentbrugge (Ghent)

Tel.: +32 (0)9 / 266 57 60

Fax: +32 (0)9 / 266 57 39

E-mail: stadsarchief@gent.be

Website: <http://www.gent.be/eCache/THE/2/119.cmVjPTEyMDk5OQ.html>;

The Ghent City Archive retains a folder with ca. 75 numbered Möbel-Aktion confiscation forms from Ghent, Ostend (Oostende), Middelkerke, Knokke, Duinbergen, Bredene, and Blankenberge, dating from January through July 1943. The forms are similar to the confiscation forms listed above for Antwerp and Brussels found in the AGR/AGA in Brussels (BTG, classeur 263; see Section 1.1.1.).

Modern Archief, Joden, Wohnungsbefund Doos / boîte no. 2 formulieren

“Abtransport aus besichtigten Wohnungen” (Removal from viewed residences), nos. 1201-1225 (20 Jan. 1943-14 Feb. 1943), nos. 1226-1250 (18 Feb. 1943-16 July 1943), nos. 3626-3650 (18 July 1943-15 May 1943).

