

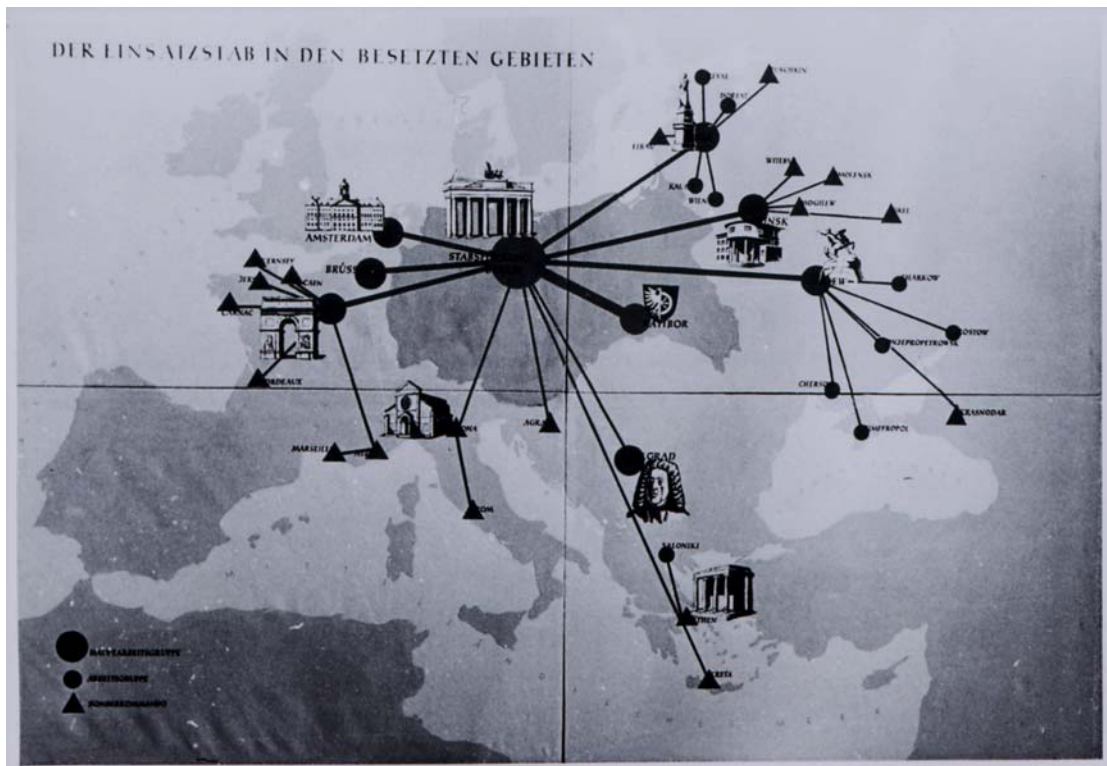


IISH RESEARCH PAPERS

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**

5. THE NETHERLANDS

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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 kolleksiï (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/>.

5. THE NETHERLANDS

Introductory Remarks

The Netherlands was very active in the postwar recovery and restitution of cultural property confiscated or plundered by Nazi agencies. Considerable documentation on ERR operations and the related Furniture Operation (Möbel-Aktion, M-Aktion) in the Netherlands has been preserved and collected by Dutch archives. The principal repository for this material (both copies and originals) is the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, formerly the State Institute for War Documentation (Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, RIOD). In the first postwar decades, the RIOD served as one of the key government-supported agencies for recovery and restitution. Consequently, it developed substantial archival holdings.

Surviving weekly and monthly ERR reports and related documentation for the Working Group Netherlands (Arbeitsgruppe Niederlande, AG Niederlande), later the Main Working Group Netherlands (Hauptarbeitsgruppe Niederlande, HAG Niederlande) in the NIOD are more extensive than those of the working groups for most other occupied countries, despite assertions that a significant share of the Dutch records were destroyed during the evacuation of the ERR. The original AG/HAG Niederlande reports for 1941-1942 are located in the Bundesarchiv in Berlin-Lichterfelde (NS 30/15) and can be viewed on-line (see Section 3.1.1.); photocopies of many of these reports – made from U.S. sources before captured records were returned to West Germany – are held by the NIOD.

Almost all of the weekly and monthly reports for 1943 and 1944 (through early August) are preserved at the NIOD in the original, together with a significant batch of AG/HAG Niederlande correspondence for the years 1941 to 1944 (see Section 5.1.1.2). These were recovered in 1957-1958 in the building of the International Institute of Social History (Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, IISG) at Keisersgracht 264. The ERR, the Reich Security Main Office (Reichssicherheitshauptamt, RSHA), and other agencies fought over the extensive Russian and German émigré socialist archival and library collections that the IISG had amassed during the 1930s, but the ERR won out primarily because it set up its headquarters at the Keisersgracht address. The IISG library was the ERR's largest single library seizure from the Netherlands; over 900 crates containing its books were shipped to the Central Library of the Hohe Schule (Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule der NSDAP, ZBHS), in addition to the IISG archival materials evacuated to the IISG Paris branch, which the ERR also found and plundered.⁶ Unlike in France, the ERR in the Netherlands was not principally involved in the seizure of art; other German agencies, such as the Mühlmann Office (Dienststelle Mühlmann) and related dealers, were responsible for the seizure of major Dutch art collections. Thus the remaining ERR files cover predominantly the confiscation of private collections of books and archives.

In the Netherlands, the Möbel-Aktion (M-Aktion), the systematic seizure of Jewish household furnishings abandoned by Jews who had fled or were deported, is usually attributed directly to the ERR. The seizures, which began in 1942, were technically an operation of the western affairs office (Amt Westen) of the Rosenberg-led Reich Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories (Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete, RMbO), the office that ran the operation in Belgium and France. The alleged justification was to acquire furnishings from occupied western countries for bombed-out homes and offices in the Reich and for German offices on the Eastern Front. At the time, both the ERR and Amt Westen in the Netherlands were headed by SS-Major

⁶ [Schirmer], "Report on the Activities of the Einsatzstab," in *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, vol. 3, p. 206.

(SS-Sturmbannführer) Albert Schmidt-Stähler, who was accordingly in charge of both operations, and at the end took credit for a reported 29,000 M-Aktion seizures.⁷

The M-Aktion was carried out in the Netherlands in conjunction with the Central Office for Jewish Emigration (Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung), the German agency responsible for the deportation of the Jews. Local Dutch police and removal firms were used as collection agents. Surviving documents show that the ERR received custody of most of the confiscated property and took credit for the operation. Accordingly, Dutch specialists have long associated the M-Aktion and the surviving documentation on that operation in the Netherlands with the ERR. In addition to the M-Aktion seizure inventory forms in the NIOD, another major collection is held by the Jewish Welfare Commission (Joods Maatschappelijk Werk), on deposit in the Amsterdam Municipal Archives (Stadsarchief; see below).

The ERR also assumed responsibility for processing and distributing most of the books seized by the M-Aktion in the Netherlands, as well as those collected there by other German agencies, such as the Gestapo. Although not usually involved with art seizures, the ERR did fall heir to one major collection of art predominantly from Dutch Jews. The “Neuwied Collection” (ERR code: NWD or Neuw) was apparently assembled from M-Aktion seizures in the Netherlands (and possibly some from Belgium) and processed, not in the Jeu de Paume in Paris, but in the customs depot at Neuwied (north of Koblenz), before being transferred to the ERR repository of Kogl.

Postwar documentation on recovery and restitution efforts for cultural property in the Netherlands is to be found among other agency records and Dutch archives. But at this point, the only significant original ERR documentation preserved or obtained in copy after the war is to be found in the NIOD. Additional fragmentary ERR documentation from the occupied Netherlands is in the Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde and the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation in Paris (Centre de documentation juive contemporaine, CDJC). No significant groups of ERR documents have been found in other Dutch institutions, although supporting documentation regarding the context of cultural plunder and restitution in many instances will be found in the records of the Dutch Ministry of Justice (Ministerie van Justitie) and other materials now held in the Dutch National Archives (Nationaal Archief) in The Hague.

During the past decade, curator Julie-Marthe Cohen at the Jewish Historical Museum (Joods Historisch Museum, JHM) in Amsterdam, has been researching provenance, especially the wartime and postwar migration of lost objects from JHM collections, including ritual silver and other Judaica. A database on the JHM website – <http://www.jhm.nl/collectie/wo-ii-geroofde-judaica> – contains images of many missing objects, as well as items without provenance data in JHM collections. Plans call for the inclusion of images of all relevant documents, many from or relating to the ERR.

⁷ The 29,000 figure of households stripped in the Netherlands was cited in reports by Albert Schmidt-Stähler to Dr Werner Koeppen on 12 July 1944 and acknowledged by Koeppen in a congratulatory message to Schmidt-Stähler on 26 July 1944), reproduced from an original in the NIOD as an appendix in A.J. Van der Leeuw, “Die Bestimmung des im Zuge der ‘M-Aktion’ aus den Niederlanden weggeführten jüdischen Hausrats” = “Notities voor het Geschiedwerk,” no. 111 (Amsterdam: RIOD, November 1957; expanded version: RIOD, 1965). The 29,000 figure is also cited in a RMbO Dienststelle Westen report, “Gesamtleistungsbericht bis zum 31. Juli 1944” (8 Aug. 1944), CDJC, XIXa-42 [= IMT, PS-40], which is available in United Restitution Organization (URO), “M-Aktion, Frankreich, Belgien, Holland und Luxemburg, 1940-1944,” typescript (mimeographed), ([Frankfurt]: URO, 1958), p. 134.

General Directory of Sources

Archieven Joodse oorlogsgetroffenen: Overzicht van archieven met gegevens over roof, recuperatie, rechtsherstel en schadevergoeding van vermogens van Joden in Nederland in de periode 1940-1987 [Archives of Jewish war victims: Survey of archives holding information on looting, return, restitution of property rights, compensation of Jewish fortunes in the Netherlands in the period 1940-1987]. Comp. J.M.L. van Bockxmeer, P.S.A. Lamboo, and H.A.I. van Schie. The Hague: Algemeen Rijksarchief, 1998. Commissie van Onderzoek Liro-archieven.

A nationwide directory of sources relating to the Jewish community during the Second World War, including deportations, confiscations, postwar claims, and related files from the German authorities and postwar claims agencies. Surveys by record groups in different repositories, including state and private organizations, as well as personal papers and related collections.

Surveys Relating to the ERR and the M-Aktion in the Netherlands

Aalders, Gerard. *Roof: De ontvreemding van joods bezit tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog*. The Hague: SDU, 1999.

German edition: *Geraubt! Die Enteignung jüdischen Besitzes im Zweiten Weltkrieg*. Trans. Stefan Häring. Cologne: Dittrich: 2000

English edition: *Nazi Looting. The Plunder of Dutch Jewry during the Second World War*. Trans. Arnold Pomerans with Erica Pomerans. Oxford, New York: Berg, 2004.

Leeuw, A.J. Van der. "The Best Years." In *The Return of Looted Collections (1946-1996): An Unfinished Chapter*. Ed. F.J. Hoogewoud and E.P. Kwaadgras. Amsterdam: Stichting Beheer IISG, 1997, pp. 19-23.

Summarizes the acquisition of some of the ERR documents preserved in the NIOD.

———. "Beschlagnahme von Gebrauchssilber in den Niederlanden durch den Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg im Zuge der 'M-Aktion'." = "Notities voor het Geschiedwerk," no. 138. Amsterdam: RIOD, 18 January 1967.

In German with Dutch supplement.

———. "Die Bestimmung des im Zuge der 'M-Aktion' aus den Niederlanden weggeführten jüdischen Hausrats." = "Notities voor het Geschiedwerk," no. 111. Amsterdam: RIOD, November 1957.

Updated and expanded version, with copies of original documents attached: RIOD, 1965. In German with Dutch supplement.

———. "Entziehung öffentlicher und privater Bibliotheken in den besetzten Westgebieten und ihre Verbringung nach Deutschland." = "Notities voor het Geschiedwerk," no. 118. Amsterdam: RIOD, 7 June 1961. Incl. 10 appendices with ERR documents.

Condensed version (without appendices) in: *Rechtsprechung zum Wiedergutmachungsrecht* (Munich) 13, no. 5 (1962), pp. 193-197.

Initially published as a RIOD internal working paper (no. 118). Summarizes some preserved ERR documents, including the original weekly and monthly reports for 1943-1944, which were discovered in 1957-1958. The ten appendices reproduce key German orders and directives for the activities of the ERR in western occupied countries. Earlier draft versions together with working notes and appendices are in box 281 of the Van der Leeuw Collection (see Section 5.1.9.).

Manasse, Peter. *Verdwenen archieven en bibliotheken: de verrichtingen van de Einsatzstab Rosenberg gedurende de Tweede Wereldoorlog*. The Hague: NBLC Uitgeverij, 1995.
German edition: *Verschleppte Archive und Bibliotheken: die Tätigkeiten des Einsatzstabes Rosenberg während des Zweiten Weltkrieges*. Translated into German by Georg A. Pippig. St. Ingbert: Rührig Universitätsverlag, 1997.

Documentary Collection (unpublished)

United Restitution Organization (URO). "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 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), providing important information about the function of the Möbel-Aktion. A brief introduction is followed by transcription of many of the key original related German documents, but with no indication of the source of the originals.

Copies are held by the Service for War Victims (Brussels), the NIOD (Amsterdam), and the Archives of the Leo Baeck Institute (New York), MS 529. A microfilm copy is available in the Wiener Library (London).

5.1. NIOD INSTITUTE FOR WAR, HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

Previous name: Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (RIOD) [State Institute for War Documentation], and Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (NIOD) [Netherlands Institute for War Documentation]

Herengracht 380; 1016 CJ Amsterdam

Tel.: +31 (0)20 / 523 38 00

Fax: +31 (0)20 / 523 38 88

E-mail: info@niod.nl

Website: <http://www.niod.nl/>

Established soon after the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945 and generously funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science, the State Institute for War Documentation (RIOD) became the major Dutch center for research on the Second World War. Over the decades, it developed strong archival and library collections relating to the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Dutch East Indies. In 1999, when the RIOD was separated from the ministry and turned over to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, its name was changed to the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD). In 2010 the NIOD merged with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (established by the University of Amsterdam and the NIOD, located in the NIOD building), into NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, further strengthening the institute's resources.

The NIOD is home to the only significant collection of ERR materials in the Netherlands. These large files of originals and copies are dedicated almost exclusively to ERR operations in the Netherlands.

General Reference Guide / Finding Aid

Most of the collections below are described in greater detail (in Dutch) on the NIOD website.

5.1.1. ARCHIEF 093A: EINSATZSTAB ROSENBERG

Folders 1-50: Hausraterfassung [Möbel-Aktion], 1942-1943
(Registration of Household Effects [Möbel-Aktion], 1942-1943)

33 boxes, 50 numbered folders, nos. 1-50, 4.1 meters

This unique archival group consists of voluminous files with approximately 14,480 inventory forms for household goods seized from the homes of deported Dutch Jews during the Möbel-Aktion. These include 7,114 seizure inventories and 4,236 appraisal sheets. The confiscations were technically an operation of Dienststelle Westen, the western affairs office of Rosenberg's Reich Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories (Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete, RMbO), but in the Netherlands, the M-Aktion was run by the ERR, as Dutch specialists long ago recognized. Official staff lists for Dienststelle Westen, such as those found recently in Moscow,

show that M-Aktion leaders were in fact in charge of the ERR in the Netherlands and had been appointed to Dienststelle Westen at the same time.

Unlike the forms used in Belgium, the preprinted Dutch-language inventory forms for the Netherlands (with some portions in German) do not indicate an institutional affiliation with the ERR. The files of surviving M-Aktion inventories are arranged by city or region, and alphabetized by street names, starting with Amsterdam (nos. 1-32 I), then North Holland (Noord-Holland) outside of Amsterdam (32II-36I); The Hague (36I-39III); Rotterdam (42I); Utrecht and environs (42I-44I); Groningen and environs (44II-47); Apeldoorn, Zwartsluis, and Leeuwarden (48); Noord-Brabant (49); and Limburg (50). Most folders have a cover list of street addresses included within.

Surviving files provide rough room-by-room lists of household goods confiscated after the homes had been vacated, most of them two-three pages each. Many documents in the NIOD collection are faded carbon typescripts. Sometimes two inventories were prepared of the same household (see “Introductory Remarks”). M-Aktion officials then compiled an evaluation cover-sheet form, an “acceptance inventory” (*Abnahmeverzeichnis*), for each household, providing the name of the owner, the address, and a handwritten evaluation dated and signed by the person preparing the form. The inventories preserved came to the NIOD with the records of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration.

After liberation, many of the surviving inventories were taken over by the Jewish Social Services (Joods Maatschappelijk Werk, previously known as Stichtung JOKOS) and used as the basis for Jewish postwar claims against Germany. Hence, some of the documents among the NIOD files may bear postwar markings, especially those from JOKOS, and documents from the 1959 Damage Inquiry Committee (Schade-enquête-commissie) are often found interspersed with individual household documents.

Additional M-Aktion inventories now preserved with the JOKOS records are on deposit in the Amsterdam Municipal Archives (Stadarchief; see below).

Finding Aids (published)

Archieven Joodse oorlogsgetroffenen, pp. 51-53.

Finding Aids (unpublished)

“Archief Einsatzstab Rosenberg. Inventaris.” Comp. A.J.A. Heumakers. Copy of typescript (RIOD).

Selective Internet Version (translated)

“Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands,” Jewish Historical Museum (Joods Historisch Museum)

On-line at: <http://www.joodsmonument.nl/index.php>

Much of the data from the surviving inventories found in M-Aktion seizure reports are now available on the Internet as part of the “Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands,” which was compiled on their basis. For families who lost at least one member in the Holocaust, the M-Aktion inventories of items seized from their household have been incorporated in this elaborate database system and can be viewed in English and Dutch translation, but in the original German. The website does not include data from the German

coversheets with appraisals normally attached to each file showing the appraised value of the goods confiscated. In addition to the inventories held in the NIOD, the “Digital Monument” also includes data from other seizure inventories held in the JOKOS files (see below).

Folders 51-65: Hauptarbeitsgruppe Niederlande (HAG Niederlande)
(Main Working Group Netherlands)⁸

1 box, 15 numbered folders, nos. 51-65

These documents of provenance in the offices of the HAG Niederlande were found in 1957-1958 in the building of the International Institute of Social History (Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, IISG) at Keisersgracht 264, where the HAG Niederlande had its headquarters. Initially held in the NIOD as part of the office collection of A.J. Van der Leeuw, they were later placed as an undescribed supplemental box in the NIOD collection Archief 93a.⁹ The 15 folders (as processed in 2008) contain original documents of the HAG Niederlande, including an almost full set of weekly and monthly reports for 1943-1944, as well as HAG Niederlande correspondence dealing largely with books, including those acquired through the M-Aktion.

51: Monthly reports (Monatberichte, HAG Niederlande; 1943-June 1944).

52: Weekly reports (Wochenberichte, HAG Niederlande; 1943).

53: Weekly reports (Wochenberichte, HAG Niederlande; 1944-26 Aug.).

54¹⁰: HAG Niederlande correspondence, A-N (Nov. 1941-Aug. 1944), including the library of Groningen University (Groningen-Bibliotheek der Rijks-Universiteit) regarding private Jewish holdings;

– the German school (Deutsche Oberschule) in The Hague;

– correspondence regarding purchases from book dealers in Amsterdam, The Hague, Leiden, and Utrecht;

– book lists from Ilse Oppenheimer (June 1942);

– the bank of Lippmann, Rosenthal & Cie (1942-1943);

– various NSDAP units;

– the Hohe Schule and its Institute for Research on the Jewish Question (Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage, IEJ) regarding possible shipments to Hungen;

⁸ The NIOD processed this box of original ERR documents in 2008 to create folders 51-65 as a supplement to the record group “Archief 093a: Einsatzstab Rosenberg” and titled the series “Hauptarbeitsgruppe Niederlande (HAG Niederlande).” The bulk of the files date from 1943-1944, when the German office in question was in fact an HAG, but some of the ERR correspondence files were created in 1941 and early 1942, when the office was still AG Niederlande.

⁹ A.J. Van der Leeuw referred to the documents in his report to the 1996 conference in Amsterdam, “The Best Years,” in *The Return of Looted Collections*, p. 23. I am grateful to Hubert Berkhout for locating the box in August 2008. F.J. Hoogewoud had verified that the documents were in the NIOD, where he had seen them in the early 1990s and had received a few copies. At least two Dutch specialists had seen and referred to the collection, but other NIOD specialists were not aware of its location. For example, NIOD associate Gerard Aalders told me he had not seen the series and hence was unable to cite the contents in his chapter on the ERR in his book *Nazi Looting. The Plunder of Dutch Jewry during the Second World War*, trans. Arnold Pomerans with Erica Pomerans (Oxford, New York: Berg, 2004).

¹⁰ The contents of folders 54 and 55, and parts of subsequent ones, have been broken out and rearranged according to a surviving alphabetized register of ERR correspondence (with alphabetical tabs), but the contents had become somewhat jumbled by the time of processing in August 2008. They had previously been roughly arranged (probably by Van der Leeuw) as three folders, entitled “Correspondentie” and divided as “A-M,” “N-R,” and “S-Z.” Not all of the parts of the German register survived.

- transfers of books for the Youth Academy;
- HAG Ostland.
- 55:** HAG Niederlande correspondence O-Z (Nov. 1941-Aug. 1944), including exchanges with the Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD);
- the Stedelijk Museum regarding holdings from Jewish Historical Museum (JHM);
- book dealers, including Swets and Zeitlinger (Amsterdam) and Weyers regarding German books in the Netherlands;
- shipments of books for the Hohe Schule’s Religious Studies Institute (Religionswissenschaftliches Institut), Halle, and the Central Library of the Hohe Schule (Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule der NSDAP, ZBHS);
- Omnia Treuhandgesellschaft, regarding books confiscated from liquidated Jewish booksellers in the Netherlands;
- the Reich Commissar for the Netherlands, regarding books from private institutions, such as the Institut français d’Amsterdam, books from individual Jews, with list of books, for example, from the “Portuguese Jew N. de Beneditty (Amsterdam),” and books from the Cistercian monastery in Peij-Echt, among others.
- 56:** Correspondence with the Main Working Group France (HAG Frankreich) and a few memos for the ERR in Belgium (13 Mar.-25 Nov. 1943).
- 57:** Correspondence with ERR headquarters (Stabsführung) in Berlin, including copies of an ERR mimeographed press report from Estonia (15 May-15 Dec. 1943).
- 58:** Correspondence with Alfred Rosenberg regarding the IISG and the organization of the ERR in Belgium, 18 Jan.-Aug. 1943 (duplicated photocopies).
- 59:** House rules concerning the quartering of ERR personnel (1-25 Aug. 1943).
- 60:** Documents concerning ERR personnel matters (1943-1944).
- 61:** Inventories of typewriters (28 June 1943-21 Aug. 1944).
- 62:** Receipts of goods and money (1942-1944).
- 63:** Continuation of inventory list (“Fortsetzung des Inventarverzeichnisses”);
- inventory of materials packed for transport (most marked to Berlin) with codes and in some cases from what library or person. Note separate codes NMA (Niederlande Möbel-Aktion) for books from the Möbel-Aktion;
- at least 6 crates of art materials (Kunstmateriale aus der M-Aktion, NMAK 1-6);
- separate numbered crates for music (NMAM);
- a separate inventory lists materials sent to the Hohe Schule (“Inventarverzeichnis für die Hohe Schule”), many items with provenance indications (15 p., n.d.).
- 64:** Lists of cultural activities in Amsterdam, includes newspaper clippings (Nov. 1943-Apr. 1944).
- 65:** Cultural report (*Kulturbericht*) by Paul Wiedow (19 June 1944), with lists of opera, ballet, music, and German theater presentations in Amsterdam, as well as a report on cultural developments, such as German theater and German schools, in Amsterdam and other Dutch cities.

Additional M-Aktion Inventories for the Netherlands not in the NIOD

Approximately 28,000 additional ERR M-Aktion inventories from Jewish households in the Netherlands are now under the authority of Jewish Social Services (Joods Maatschappelijk Werk,

JMW), which was formerly known as Stichting JOKOS.¹¹ The inventories collected by the JMW were most probably removed from the Dutch ERR files now in the NIOD in order to process claims after the war and represent copies of claims submitted to Germany. The originals are on deposit (not formally accessioned) in the Amsterdam Municipal Archives (Stadsarchief) and are normally not open to the public for research. They may be consulted only by surviving family members. Copies of the inventories made from these files were also incorporated into the “Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands” (in Dutch and English translation), using partial photocopies provided to the project. Those photocopies are now held by the Jewish Historical Museum (not under museum authority), but are also not open for public research.

5.1.2. ARCHIEF 094: OMNIA TREUHANDGESELLSCHAFT M.B.H

11: Documents of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, HAG Niederlande

Two original letters (16 Sep. 1943 and 29 Jan. 1944) addressed by Albert Schmidt-Stähler to Heinrich Friedmann in Arnhem, regarding the M-Aktion, with two undated announcements (*Mitteilung*) from the ERR.

5.1.3. ARCHIEF 265: ROSENBERG FILES¹²

47 files, 0.5 meter

This collection of files in copy contains photocopies of documents relating to Rosenberg activities in or relating to the Netherlands. Most were produced from the U.S. microfilms of temporary collection EAP 99 (see Section 9.1.1.1.), filmed under the title of Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories (RMbO), although they actually include documents from several Rosenberg agencies. The original documents, from which the U.S microfilms were made, were at the time held in the U.S. Captured Records Section in Alexandria, VA, but were returned to the West Germany in the 1960s and are now held by the Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde in several different record groups (see Section 3.1.). In many cases, the file or folder numbers from the U.S. films are shown at the beginning of groups of documents in the present NIOD folders.

Interspersed are some documents now held by the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation (Centre de documentation juive contemporaine, CDJC) in Paris, which came from processing files of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg (IMT) and were pulled from the Rosenberg collection captured by the United States (see Section 2.5.1.). Thus most of the original Nazi documents represented in these files are now in Berlin or Paris.

¹¹ Contact: Dr Hans Vuijsje, Director; Joods Maatschappelijk Werk; jmw.amsterdam@joodswelzijn.nl; tel.: +31 (0)20 / 577 6557 or 577 6577; fax: +31 (0)20 / 577 65 00. See also website: www.joodswelzijn.nl.

¹² Previously contained in the four boxes in a somewhat random order without any descriptive folders, this collection was reprocessed by NIOD archivist K.M. Tessel in 2009. Processing was completed by the end of 2009, but not all the details for the newly arranged 47 files are included in the inventory on the NIOD website. Hence, only a rough summary description is possible based on my original notes for this section.

Folders 1-27: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)

- 1-3:** Alfred Rosenberg correspondence, including documents from Nazi leaders, such as Martin Bormann and Hermann Göring regarding the authority of the ERR (1940-1945).
- 6:** Documents on the Hohe Schule, including copy of Johannes Pohl report of 29 Apr. 1943 on library holdings to be accessioned by the IEJ in Frankfurt [= IMT, PS-171* (RF-1324, US-383)].
- 7:** Includes documents from the ERR Office for Fine Arts evacuation site at the palace Schloss Kogl (St. Georgen im Attergau).
- 9:** Special Staff Fine Arts (Sonderstab Bildende Kunst).
- 10:** Miscellaneous documents recording seizures by the Special Staff Music (Sonderstab Musik), with related shipping documents for the evacuation of music materials, for example, from southeast Silesian town of Ratibor (postwar Racibórz, Poland) to the northwest Silesian town of Langenau (postwar Czernica, Poland; 27 June 1944).
- 12-13:** Quarterly and annual reports on operations at ERR headquarters in Ratibor and other ERR activities (most from the CDJC, some from U.S. EAP 99).
- 14:** Sonderstab Bildende Kunst, with detailed inventories of paintings and other works of art acquired from the ERR for the Göring Collection and processed in Paris by the Sonderstab Bildende Kunst, AG Louvre;
- list of Göring acquisitions from the Jeu de Paume (45 p., dated 20 Oct. 1942) covering 410 artworks (including 237 paintings, 51 pieces of furniture, as well as other categories) and recording the date of acquisition and ERR code for the collection of provenance;
 - second list indicating the appraised value;
 - supplement of 8-9 Apr. 1943 indicates additional acquisitions and their appraised value;
 - supplemental list of 84 modern paintings, by artists such as Braque, Corot, Degas, and Matisse (presumably those used for exchange).¹³
- 15:** Copy of a long report from ERR Greece of 15 Nov. 1941, with lists of synagogues, Masonic lodges, etc. [= CDJC, CCXXXII-17; BArch, NS 30/75];
- copy of directive (*Verfügung*) of 21 May 1941 from the quartermaster of the rear area commandant of the 12th Army in Greece [= IMT, NOKW-1382].
- 16-27:** Documents relating to activities of the AG Niederlande, later the HAG Niederlande (1941-1943; arranged in order of US microfilm designations);
- weekly and monthly ERR reports and shipping papers (especially 1940-1941), some with crate lists and individual title lists of confiscated books from the Netherlands by AG-Niederland and the Möbel-Aktion.¹⁴ As indicated here, some of the books shipped were destined for the IEJ in Frankfurt, others for Berlin, or later Ratibor and Tanzenberg;
 - folder with shipping papers from Amsterdam to the ERR repository Banz Castle in Bavaria (13 Dec. 1944), with some references to materials from the M-Aktion and the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

¹³ These inventories were issued as Attachment 6 to the Office Strategic Services, Consolidated Intelligence Report no. 2, "The Göring Collection," 15 Sep. 1945.

¹⁴ These documents were first discovered by Van der Leeuw in Alexandria, VA, when the Rosenberg Collection (EAP 99) was still in U.S. custody. See A.J. Van der Leeuw, "The Best Years," p. 23. The originals of these reports (transferred to Germany in the 1960s) are for the most part now in BArch, NS 30/15.

Folders 28-47: Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete (RMbO), 1942-1944
(Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories)

28-30: Copies of documents relating predominantly to economic matters of provenance in the RMbO, from the U.S. microfilms (EAP 99, with file folder numbers indicated);
– Dutch economic activities (including banking) in the occupied Soviet territories (including the Baltic countries), some documents are addressed to the RMbO (with appropriate in-stamps) and include communications from such offices as the Deputy for Special Questions (Beauftragter für Sonderfragen).

31-41: Documents from activities under RMbO of the Netherlands East Company (Nederländische Oost-Compagnie) (1941-1944).

42-46: Documents from the Works Service Holland (Werkdienst Holland) in Ukraine (1942-1943).

47: Central Trade Society East (Zentral-Handelsgesellschaft Ost) (1942-1943).

5.1.4. DOC II 215C: EINSATZSTAB ROSENBERG

1: Official reports (1948) by the Ministry of Finance with testimony regarding goods taken by the ERR;

– interviews with Dutch collaborators with the ERR and others.

2: Postwar report of J.J. Boddé on goods plundered by the ERR found in Amsterdam, presumably property confiscated by the M-Aktion, with a few paintings but no books and archives (6 Feb. 1948).

3: Includes a helpful chart of the ERR operations and agency structure in the Netherlands, “Structuur: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg. Niederlande” (handwritten note at top “apparently prepared by C.L. Vervonet,” Apr. 1947). A separate added note by Attorney Besier regards the ERR evacuation to Enschede in Sep. 1944. An accompanying memo has a postscript (in Dutch): “P.S. The whole archive of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg was stored after Mad Tuesday [5 Sep. 1944]¹⁵ – to the extent that it was not burned – in Labor Correctional Camp (*Arbeitserziehungslager*) Ohrbeck near Osnabrück (near Hellern).”

4: Card with the printed name of Albert Schmidt-Stähler and a later note remarking that he was the head of the ERR in Amsterdam (22 Oct. 1944).

5: Collected receipts for goods received, in this case boats.

6: A copy of the oath of secrecy for ERR staff (personnel form), and a note to the effect that all goods from Jewish residences were the property of the German Reich.

7: An ERR staff member’s note on return to Amsterdam from Banz Castle (22 Oct. 1944).

8: Fragment of a handwritten transport register for goods collected by the M-Aktion.

9: Postwar report on the tasks and organization of the Dienststelle Rosenberg (n.d.).

10-11: Loose pages (out of order) of U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Consolidated Intelligence Report (CIR) No. 1, “Activity of the ERR in France,” with attachments and index (folder 11).

12: Report by A.J. Van der Leeuw on the ERR, the M-Aktion, and Dienststelle Mühlmann.

13: Notes by Van der Leeuw regarding the ERR, with protocols of meetings in Paris (21 Jan. 1960) and one with Rose Valland (20 Jan. 1960).

¹⁵ “Mad Tuesday” refers to a day of rumors to the effect that the British Army was about to enter Holland. The Dutch began celebrating, while the Germans panicked and began destroying documents. The rumors proved untrue.

5.1.5. DOC I-1434: ALFRED ROSENBERG (DIARY 1939-1940)**A: Rosenbergs dagboek, 1939-1940¹⁶**

Photostat of Rosenberg diary, 1939-1940 [= IMT, PS-198], with IMT Staff Evidence Analysis form.

B: Transcription of Rosenberg diary. Typescript (RIOD). 73 p. Ribbon copy and two carbon copies.

5.1.6. ARCHIEF 077: GENERALKOMMISSARIAT FÜR DAS SICHERHEITSWESEN / HÖHERER SS-UND POLIZEIFÜHRER NORDWEST

[General Commissariat for Security / Higher SS and Police Leader Northwest]

Abteilung IV: Gegner und Abwehr (Department IV: Opponents and Counterintelligence)

1085: Letter and report from the ERR to the Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei, Sipo) and SD in The Hague regarding the capture of Marxist literature following the outlawing of the Social Democratic Workers' Party (SDAP) and archival documents concerning the Second International (28 Nov.-12 Dec. 1942). The IISG library was first sealed for the Reich Security Main Office (Reichsicherheitshauptamt, RSHA), the amalgamated Sipo and SD, but RSHA head Reinhard Heydrich made the library available to the ERR. Included here is a discussion of the library's fate, together with related materials brought to Amsterdam from Brussels. Contingent files contain other documents about socialist and communist agencies in the Netherlands.

Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung (Central Office for Jewish Emigration)

1464: Seizure lists, drawn up of addresses of vacated houses with cover letters and evaluations (*Taxwert*) for the M-Aktion from 1942 (8) and 1943 (7);
– memos to Sipo-SD in Amsterdam;
– monthly reports of goods to be evacuated (*Räumungsarbeit*), with inventories and summary reports of receipt of household contents received by the HAG Niederlande, with the names of house owners.

1499: Abteilung Hausraterfassung (Household Effects Department)

Memoranda of receipt from the Central Office for Jewish Emigration (signed by the ERR) for property seized during the M-Aktion (19 Jan., 10 and 12 Feb., and 10 Mar. 1943).

5.1.7. ARCHIEF 091: DEUTSCHE KRANKENKASSE FÜR DIE NIEDERLANDE

[German Medical Insurance Fund for the Netherlands]

3c: Three documents of ERR provenance, regarding medical coverage for personnel, but no reference to cultural plunder (1940-1944).

¹⁶ This part of Rosenberg's diary, edited by Hans-Günther Seraphim, was published under the title *Das politische Tagebuch Alfred Rosenbergs 1934/35 und 1939/40* (Munich: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 1964). The book also includes an appendix made up Nuremberg documents; among the latter, PS-13 and PS-137* bear directly on the ERR.

**5.1.8. ARCHIEF 281: A.J. VAN DER LEEUW COLLECTION,
OORLOGSMISDRIJVEN, ROOF EN RECUPERATIE**
[War Crimes, Plunder, and Recovery]

70 boxes, partially processed

Dutch historian A.J. Van der Leeuw (1919-2003) was one of the leading Dutch government specialists involved in the postwar recovery and restitution of Nazi-plundered Dutch cultural property. Based in the RIOD (now the NIOD), he assembled an extensive collection of documentation, most of it involving war crimes and individual claims and restitution issues. Among his papers are several boxes containing important original documents related to wartime cultural plunder in the Netherlands

Box 50: Möbel-Aktion

Dutch claims correspondence with West German authorities in Bonn under West Germany's 1957 Federal Restitution Law (Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz, BRüG) regarding Möbel-Aktion seizures, 1959-1963. The documents refer to M-Aktion seizures, but do not include any original ERR documents.

Box 51: Möbel-Aktion and ERR¹⁷

One folder contains copies of Rosenberg documentation relating to the M-Aktion, for example:

- letter from Rosenberg to Göring, 18 June 1942 [= IMT, PS-1118];¹⁸
- group of three documents [= IMT, PS-1737 (RF-1328)] made up of message from Reich Chancellery Head Hans Heinrich Lammers to Rosenberg, 31 Dec. 1941; message from Lammers to Chief of the High Command of the Wehrmacht Wilhelm Keitel, 31 Dec. 1941; and extract from Rosenberg's note for the files for the Führer ("Aktennotiz für den Führer") regarding Jewish property in France, 18 Dec. 1941;¹⁹
- interim report on the confiscation of Masonic and Jewish libraries, from the ERR in Amsterdam to 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), undated [= IMT, PS-176* (US-707; part of RF-1325)];
- summary of M-Aktion seizures from 22,623 residences in the Netherlands between 26 Mar. 1942 and 31 July 1943 [= IMT, PS-1772 (part of RF-1325)];
- complete note for the files for the Führer ("Aktennotiz für den Führer") regarding Jewish property in France, 18 Dec. 1941 [= IMT, PS-001*];
- decree of the Führer (*Führererlass*) of 1 Mar. 1942 commissioning Rosenberg to conduct a systematic intellectual struggle against Jews, Freemasons, and their allies and to comb libraries, archives, lodges, other organizations in the occupied territories for materials to be

¹⁷ The IMT document references here were taken from Van der Leeuw's notes, but it has not been possible to check all of them. Some may be incomplete or erroneous.

¹⁸ Available in translation in Office of United States, Chief of Counsel For Prosecution of Axis Criminality, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression* (Red Series), v. III (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1946), pp. 793-797.

¹⁹ Copies of these documents, possibly of different provenance, were also recorded under other PS numbers: Lammers to Rosenberg, 31 Dec. 1941, under PS-1015(y),* and Lammers to Keitel, 31 Dec. 1941, under PS-1015(x). The full version of Rosenberg's memo for the Führer is PS-001.*

used for ideological ends and, later, for research at the Hohe Schule [= IMT, PS-1015(k)* and PS-149*];

– copy of Dutch shipping lists from Depot Buyskade (Lager Buyskade) and Depot Vondelstraat (Lager Vondelstraat; 26 Oct. 1944), with shipping crate lists 1-37 and 10 others for household goods [= CDJC, CXLVI-50];

– 1-page summary of meeting between Rosenberg, Gerhard Utikal, Kurt von Behr, and Schmidt-Stähler, discussing the end of the M-Aktion (16 Jan. 1945), along with note concerning eleven barges arriving in Emden from the Netherlands, library books in the deserted town of Arnhem, and works of art recaptured by the Allies (copy from US microfilm EAP 99/1161).

Box 52: Dutch Library Claims

This box contains numerous unprocessed, unnumbered folders with postwar files from Van der Leeuw's investigations. The contents described below are not currently all in the order listed.

They are also interspersed with other documentation.

a) folder of Van der Leeuw correspondence and documents relating to library claims (1960-1970), including individual claimants and books taken by the M-Aktion, copies of documents, lists of ERR codes for Dutch collections, and lists of CDJC documents, etc.

b) working files for Van de Leeuw's article "Entziehung öffentlicher und privater Bibliotheken in den besetzten Westgebieten..." (1961), which discusses ERR and RSHA library plunder, with early drafts and proofs and five of the ten ERR documents used as appendices, as well as copies of many related documents found in different collections.

c) reports on the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD) and an extract of publication regarding one of the OAD albums sent to Yad Vashem (*Yad Vashem Bulletin*, no. 20, Apr. 1967), together with other correspondence regarding library claims (1960-1975); folders on specific Dutch collections.

d) Van der Leeuw correspondence;

– copies of reports regarding the Thessaloniki collection, with indications of its being sent to Hungen with some crates from Ratibor (12 Sep. 1944) and an earlier shipment of Greek materials to Frankfurt from Belgrade (24 June 1943), includes reference to the ERR Greek report (15 Nov. 1941);

– attestation (22 Oct. 1962), regarding Pohl's shipment of books from Vilnius (also Vilna; prewar Wilno, Poland).

e) folder of copies of correspondence, background, and texts, including Van de Leeuw's interview with Ernst Grumach (1902-1967), a forced laborer in the RSHA library in Berlin;

– reports of interviews or interrogations of several ERR Paris staff (some via former ERR member Marga Pöissel of Kassel), including Paul Ruhbaum, Hans Muchow, Peter Wörmke, and others, some received in the form of correspondence with the German restitution office;

– copies of documents from Secret Field Police (Geheime Feldpolizei, GFP) reports prepared for ERR in France in 1940.²⁰

f) two folders with original reports by Dr D.P.M. Graswinckel on ERR Jewish library seizures found in Hungen and elsewhere in Germany, along with Van de Leeuw's correspondence with Graswinckel (1946-1947), Professor Vorenkamp, and others (1947-1949), regarding recovery and restitution of Dutch collections.

²⁰ Quite possibly, these are copies made from a register of the Secret Field Police (GFP) found in Paris and now held in MAEE, RA carton 101 (A26/314; see Section 2.1.1.1.4.).

g) folder with lists of books recovered from France (Sub-Commission for Books, SCL), presumably from Tanzenberg;

– documents regarding books recovered by Grasswinckel from Prague, ca. 7 crates (7-14 Apr. 1949), with receipts for shipment, etc.

h) large folder devoted to the valuable art collection of art historian Fritz [Frederik Johannes] Lugt (1994-1970), with notes about its plunder by Kajetan Mühlmann, fate, and postwar recovery attempts, as well as the portion Lugt evacuated to Switzerland.

Boxes 64 and 65: Dienststelle Mühlmann

These boxes contain original documentation relating to the office of Kajetan Mühlmann (Dienststelle Mühlmann). Mühlmann had previously been active in the plunder of major works of art in Poland and Austria and was a close associate of Reich Commissar for the Netherlands Arthur Seyss-Inquart. The Dienststelle Mühlmann operative in the Netherlands had extensive funds for the purchase of art, but also seized some collections, paralleling ERR art confiscation in France and Belgium. The ERR itself was only tangentially involved in the plunder, confiscation, or “purchase” of works of art in the occupied Netherlands, as these documents show.