

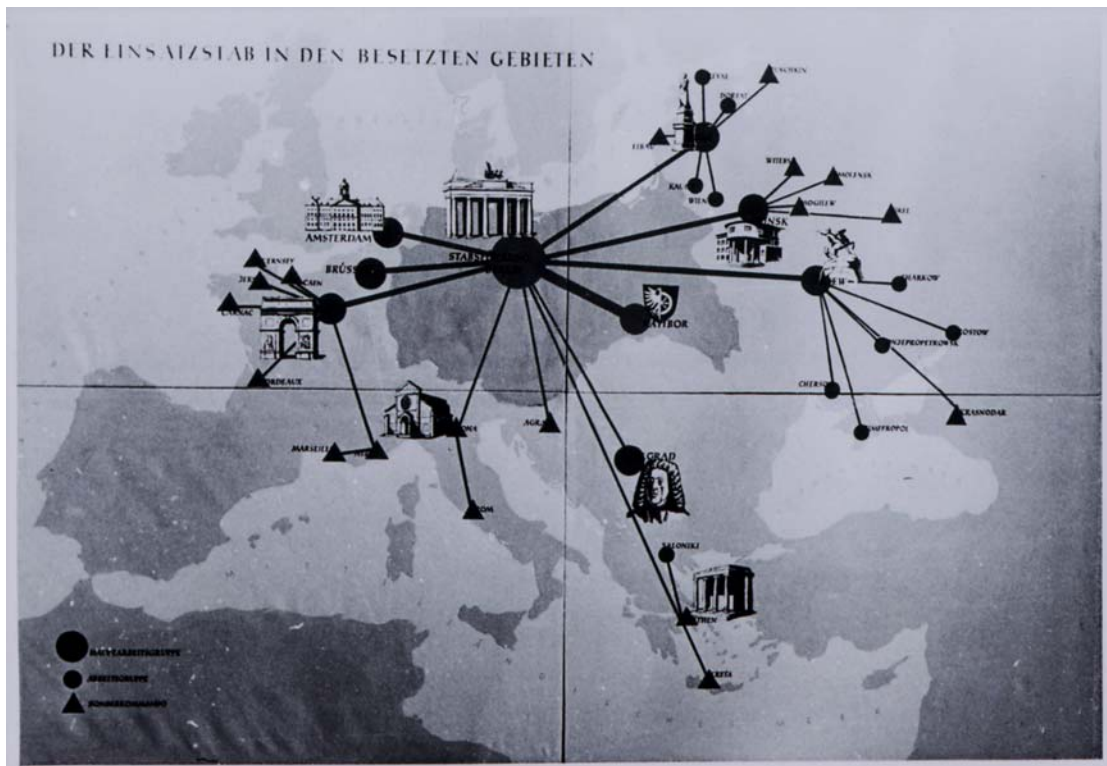


IISH RESEARCH PAPERS

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,
with generous support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
(Claims Conference)

ISSN 0927-4618

IISH Research Paper 47

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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.

**THIS PDF DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE FRONT MATTER (TITLE, TABLE OF CONTENTS,
ABBREVIATIONS, TECHNICAL NOTE AND FOREWORD) AND CHAPTER**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For a compilation as large and complicated as the present one, which has been in the works for almost two decades, there is hardly room to acknowledge all who deserve thanks for their role and contributions. Coverage of so many repositories in so many countries is at once an outgrowth of, and at the same time reflects, my international professional archival contacts and friendships that have developed over many years. It is also an outgrowth of my own specific research on problems of displaced cultural treasures resulting from the Second World War.

The ERR project was conceived during the year I was a Visiting Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC. Although I had previously worked with related records in the National Archives of the United States in College Park, during that year I became better acquainted with those materials, and frustrated that they were not better described and hence not more readily available to prospective researchers. Research for several articles I prepared for the USHMM journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, as well as for other simultaneous publications, have contributed to my experience in related archives.

My associations at Harvard University with the Ukrainian Research Institute and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies have given me the benefits of the extensive Harvard Library collections and working in a congenial intellectual environment. Several research assistants in Cambridge in recent years, including Irina Tarsis and Avram Brown, have helped me track down needed references.

My earlier directories of Ukrainian and Russian archives, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the International Research & Exchanges Board, with additional matching funds from several sources, have led to my exposure to the important groups of ERR records in the Russian Federation and now independent Ukraine. During my time in Moscow over the past two decades, I have predominantly been working on my Russian archival directory ArcheoBiblioBase in collaboration with Russian archivists, as well as and other projects regarding displaced archives and cultural restitution issues related to the Second World War. During the early 1990s, a generous grant from a collaborative program of the American Council of Learned Societies and the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) enabled additional research and travel in Germany and contact with Professor Wolfgang Eichwede at the University of Bremen's Research Center for East European Studies (Forschungsstelle Osteuropa). My related research and publications have also frequently involved the ERR, even before that German wartime plundering agency became the focus of the present volume. In such connections, my current long-time Russian assistant Natasha Maslova has contributed enormously in many ways and deserves special acknowledgement, along with other Russian friends and colleagues.

Compilation of this volume has benefited as a spin-off project from funding, including separate travel grants, for research and several other related projects over the past two decades, although none were directly specifically to the ERR project. During the past five years, however, the Conference on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), in the person of the research director Wesley Fisher has had a key role in encouraging me to undertake this Survey and in keeping it going over the years despite all the sea changes. The Claims Conference has provided funding for some of my related travel and for the final editorial work by the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam.

Former IISH Director Jaap Kloosterman has encouraged my efforts in this regard over the decade and a half that I have been IISH honorary fellow and have been engaged there with other

archival-oriented projects. I am particularly grateful for the arrangement for the IISH to take on this publication, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation. In the latter case, René Pottkamp assisted with some of the technical editorial plans.

Editorial work has been directed by the IISH Executive Editor Aad Blok, who deserves much credit and appreciation for the overtime efforts often involved. Ray Brandon, who had in the past been my occasional research assistant in Germany, has been responsible for copyediting the manuscript. Quite often, his role has also been that of a research assistant in further checking some of the archival holdings and verifying descriptions. He deserves tremendous praise for his careful attention to editorial detail and the thoroughness with which he has accomplished his dual role, transforming my complicated and often unruly text into a more readable and consistent reference work.

Archival colleagues or reference specialists in almost every archival repository listed deserve thanks for consultations regarding their holdings and finding aids in connection with this ERR archival survey project. Additional thanks are due to many friends and colleagues in different countries who have contributed advice and assistance along the way. My long-time friends and colleagues Konstantin Akinsha and Lynn Nicholas, for example, from their differing experience and perspective in the field of wartime plunder and postwar restitution, having assisted with several of my earlier publications, have been among the most active in encouraging me to pursue this one and offering advice for coverage of sources in several countries. Among the many other friends and colleagues below, some have read over and commented on parts of the text, while others provided guidance about specific ERR activities or sources, and still others offered more general advice extending well beyond the country in which they are listed:

Austria: Evelyn Adunka;

Belgium: Jacques Lust, Johanna Pezechkian, Michel Vermote;

France: Sophie Coeuré, Marie Gallup, Hélène Kaplan, Charles Kecskeméti, Jean-Claude Kuperminc, Anne Liskenne-Georgeon, Isabelle le Masne de Chermont, Pierre Mollier, Claude Mosséri-Marlio, Caroline Piketty, and Karen Taieb;

Germany: Ralf Bartoleit, Jana Blumberg, Wolfgang Eichwede, Gabriele Freitag, Angelika Enderlein, Jens Hoppe, Kai von Jena, Grigorii Kozlov, Hans-Dieter Kreikamp;

The Netherlands: Gerald Aalders, Julie-Marthe Cohen, Karin Hofmeester, F.J. Hoogewoud, Eric Ketelaar, Evert Kwaadgras, Odette Vlessing, Willem de Vries;

Russia: Mikhail Afansev, Karina Dmitrieva, Ekaterina Genieva, Vladimir Korotaev, Nikolai Nikandrov, Irina Novichenko, Tatiana Vasileva, and Margarita Zinich;

Ukraine: Hennadii Boriak, Liubov Dubrovina, Maryna Dubyk, Nataliia Kashevarova, Serhii Kot, Nataliia Makovska, Tetiana Sebta, and Kyrlyo Vyslobokov;

United Kingdom: John S.G. Simmons, Christine Thomas, and Anne Webber;

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/>.

8. THE UNITED KINGDOM

Introductory Remarks

As far as is known, the British, who worked closely with the Americans in the retrieval and capture of German records at the end of the war, took home no original Rosenberg or ERR documents. To be sure, many copies of some of the ERR or ERR-related files described in France, Germany, and the United States are to be found among British records. Nonetheless, British archives contain a wide variety of important records regarding postwar archival retrieval and cultural restitution that have yet to be analyzed and described for this Survey to the same extent as those in French and U.S. archives.

One of the most important concentrations of books found at war's end was located in Tanzenberg in the British Zone of Occupation in Austria. It was here that the books plundered for the main library of the university-level training center for the Nazi elite, the Central Library of the Hohe Schule (Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule der NSDAP, ZBHS) had been stored for safekeeping. A large part of the ca. 600,000 books amassed there had been collected by the ERR from throughout Europe, including the Soviet Union. British restitution records include many details about the seizure and composition of the library and the repatriation of most books. No similar large concentrations of ERR cultural loot were identified in the British Zone of Germany.

British restitution records are now being described in greater detail, as selective files are prepared for the international Internet portal being established to bring together digitized records related to Holocaust-era looted cultural property, a project sponsored by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

8.1. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (TNA)

Previous name: The Public Record Office (PRO)

Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU

Tel.: +44 (0)20 / 8876 3444

Records Information: +44 (0)20 / 8392 5200

Website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

E-mail: enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk

No attempt has been made here to describe the many potentially relevant British restitution records held in the National Archives. Unlike the situation in French archives, descriptions in the form of folder lists for selected record groups under consideration for inclusion in the international Internet portal sponsored by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration are available on the website of the Central Registry of Looted Art, 1933-1945: <http://www.lootedart.com/MFEU4P39718>. Document-level descriptions are in preparation for TNA website. Many of these entries will include the files themselves.

8.1.1. T 209: BRITISH COMMITTEE ON THE PRESERVATION AND RESTITUTION OF WORKS OF ART, ARCHIVES AND OTHER MATERIAL IN ENEMY HANDS (MACMILLAN COMMITTEE): MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

39 files, 1943-1947

Paralleling the U.S. Roberts Commission, although much less extensive, the records of the Macmillan Committee yield considerable important documentation about the ERR, even if they do not contain any original ERR files themselves. Among the important files preserved in this group are copies most of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Consolidated Intelligence Reports (CIR).

T209/29: CIR No. 1, "Activity of the ERR in France," 15 Aug. 1945; CIR No. 2, "The Göring Collection," 15 Sep. 1945, mimeographed; CIR No. 4, "Linz: Hitler's Museum and Library," 15 Dec. 1945, with 29 attachments, including Supplement, January 1946, and Index (n.d.), mimeographed. Also included in this file are OSS Detailed Intelligence Reports (DIR), nos. 1-7, 9-12. Internet versions of all the CIRs and DIRs are available from NARA copies at footnote.com (see Section 9.1.2.).

8.1.2. FO 1020: FOREIGN OFFICE AND PREDECESSORS: ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA (BRITISH ELEMENT): HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL FILES (ACA SERIES)

1942-1955

Of special interest within this group of Foreign Office records from the British Zone of Occupation in Austria are scattered files that document the British restitution of ERR-plundered

books stored in the monastery Tanzenberg during the war: **FO 1020/2548-2549, 2571, 2574, 2784, 2793-2795, and 2877-2880.**

British officers from Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives found ca. 600,000 books from across Europe, including the Soviet Union, many of them plundered by the ERR for the Central Library of the Hohe Schule (ZBHS). The British apprehended key members of the ZBHS staff and kept them under house arrest to assist with preparing the books for return to their countries of origin. These files include MFA&A reports, British interrogations of ZBHS staff, ZBHS staff reports of restitution processing (with English translations), lists of foreign libraries represented, receipts and correspondence concerning restitution shipments, and related documents.

The British reported finding considerable ERR documentation, including shipping lists, catalogues, and a file of reports by Gerd Wunder, from the ERR special library staff in Paris. Despite numerous inquiries, including those by Austrian colleagues, almost all of these original ERR documents have not been located nor their fate determined. The only exceptions are several ZBHS book acquisition registers now held by the University Library in Vienna.

British reports prepared on the basis of ERR documentation found in Tanzenberg:

FO 1020/2793: “Preliminary Report on Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule (NSDAP).” (1 Aug. 1945). Mimeographed.
[Supplement]: “Progress Report on Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule, Tanzenberg (to 25 Aug. 1945).”

Additional copies of these reports are held in other FO 1020 files.⁵²

FO 1020/2793: “Paris Libraries of Jewish Ownership Confiscated by the ERR, March/June 1941” (16 Aug. 1945).

An integrated chart of 228 ERR-confiscated French libraries through June 1941, prepared on the basis of reports by Gerd Wunder (additional variant copies in files 2574 and 2878).

8.1.3. OTHER TNA RECORD GROUPS OF POTENTIAL RELEVANCE

FO 371: Foreign Office: Political Department: General Correspondence from 1906-1966, Political: Economic and Reconstruction: Reparation and Restitution

FO 1036: Control Office for Germany and Austria and Foreign Office: Control Commission for Germany (British Element), Office of the Economic Adviser, 1944-1956

FO 1057: Control Office for Germany and Austria and Foreign Office: Control Commission for Germany (British Element), Reparations, Deliveries and Restitutions Division: Registered Files (RDR Series) and Reports, 1945-1950

FO 1060: Control Office for Germany and Austria and Foreign Office: Control Commission for Germany (British Element), Legal Division, and U.K. High Commission, Legal Division: Correspondence, Case Files, and Court Registers, 1944-1958

⁵² Copies of that report are also found in NACP, RG 239 (American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas [Roberts Commission]), e.g., M1944/roll 85.

8.2. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM (IWM)

Lambeth Road; London SE1 6HZ

Tel.: +44 (0)20 / 7416 5320

Fax: +44 (0)20 / 7416 5374

Collections Inquiry Service: <http://iwm.altarama.com/refit000.aspx>

Website: <http://collections.iwm.org.uk>

8.2.1. FO 645 (DX): INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN NUREMBERG (IMT), NOVEMBER 1945-OCTOBER 1946

350 files

The official British records and collection of documents from the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg are now held by the Imperial War Museum (IWM). The records were originally processed by the Public Record Office as part of the Foreign Office records (FO 645), but were later turned over to the IWM.

These records include most British administrative documents; transcripts of the trial (Daily Proceedings in Open Session); prosecution and defense documents, including selected official deposition documents (court exhibits) by France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States (incomplete); various series of documents collected for the trials, classified under the designations C, D, EC, ECH, ECR, L, M, PS, R, and TC. The organization of these documents differs from that of the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow (see Section 6.2.1.), National Archives – Paris Site (see Section 2.4.5.), or the National Archives in College Park (see Section 9.1.7.).

Within the collection are many copies of ERR documents exhibited at the trial or used in preparation. For the Trial of the Major War Criminals, where Rosenberg was a defendant, the IWM collection contains transcripts of Rosenberg's interrogations and related documentation on Rosenberg in English translation. A preliminary examination of relevant parts of the Rosenberg-related records revealed no original documents of ERR provenance among them.

N.B. These records are stored in a satellite facility in Duxford. They can be brought in on advance order (three times a week) and consulted in the IWM reading room.

Finding Aid

A typewritten finding aid for FO 645 is available in the IWM reading room in London.

