

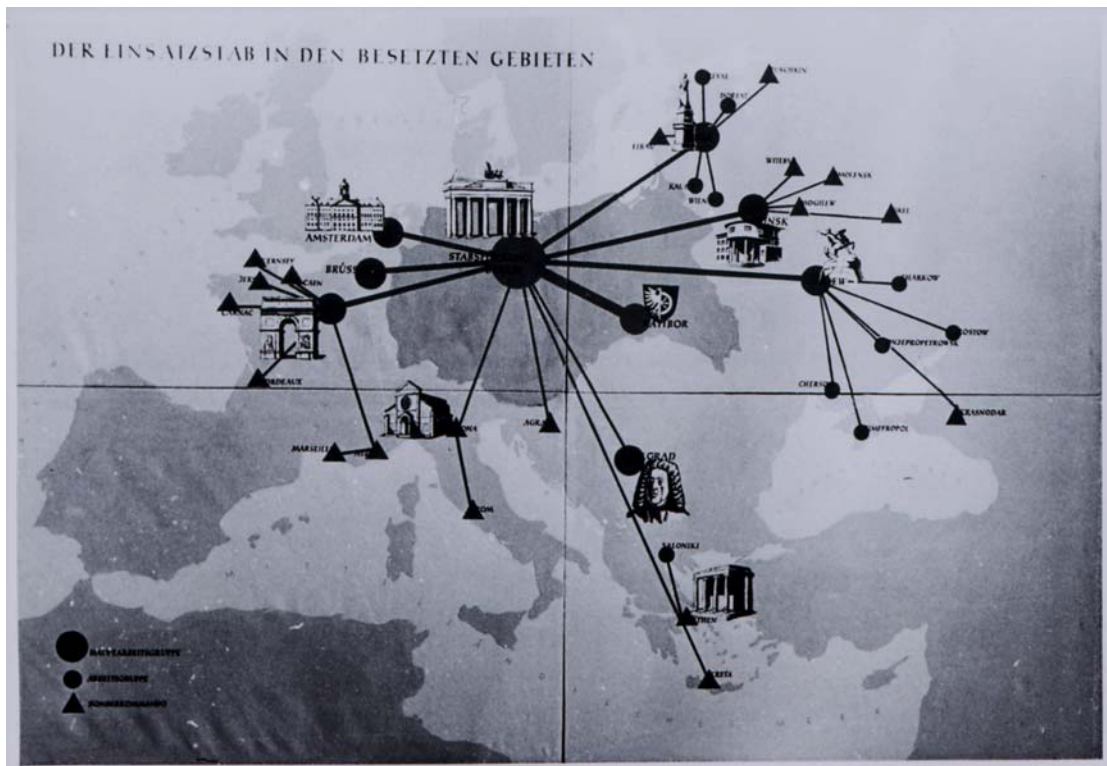


IISH RESEARCH PAPERS

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**

4. LITHUANIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	9
Abbreviations and Acronyms	13
Technical Note	19
Foreword	23
Introduction	25
1. BELGIUM	49
Introductory Remarks	50
1.1. Archives générales du Royaume (AGR) / Algemeen Rijksarchief (AGA), Brussels	53
1.1.1. Ministère des Finances, Office des Séquestres. Archives du séquestre de la Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft / Ministerie van Financiën, Dienst van het Sequester. Archief van het sekwester van de Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft	53
1.1.1.1. Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft (BTG), blok / bloc III: Files related to the Möbel-Aktion (examples)	54
1.1.2. Ministère des Affaires économiques (MAE), Office de Récupération économique / Ministerie Economische Zaken (MEZ), Dienst Economische Recuperatie	55
1.1.3. Ministère des Travaux publics et de la Reconstruction, Administration Dommages de Guerre / Ministerie van Transport en Infrastructuur, Dienst Oorlogsschade	55
1.2. La Direction générale Victimes de la Guerre, Service Archives et Documentation / De Directie-generaal Oorlogsslachtoffers, Dienst Archief en Documentatie, Brussels	57
1.2.1. Documents Relating to the ERR	58
1.2.2. Documents Relating to the Möbel-Aktion	58
1.3. Centre d'études et de documentation Guerre et sociétés contemporaines (CEGES) / Studie- en documentatiecentrum Oorlog en Hedendaagse Maatschappij (SOMA), Brussels	61
1.3.1. ERR-Related Materials	61
1.4. Stadarchief Gent / Archives de la ville de Gand	63
2. FRANCE	65
Introductory Remarks	66
2.1. Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes (MAEE), Direction des Archives, La Courneuve	73
2.1.1. Collection des fonds des services de la récupération artistiques (RA), y compris la Commission de récupération artistique (CRA)	73
2.1.1.1. ERR Inventories and Related Documents	78
2.1.1.1.1. Archives Rosenberg (Photocopies of ERR Inventories from the MCCP)	78
2.1.1.1.2. ERR Shipping Inventories of French Collections (Photocopies from Washington, DC)	82

2.1.1.1.3. Related Documentation from U.S. Sources Regarding the Above ERR Inventories	83
2.1.1.1.4. Other Original ERR Documents or Copies Collected by Rose Valland	84
2.1.1.2. Selected Case Research Files (from French restitution offices)	85
2.1.1.3. Sous-commission des livres (SCL)	90
2.1.1.4. RA Card Files	91
2.1.1.5. Photographs	94
2.1.1.6. French Postwar Claims Files for Plundered Cultural Property	96
2.1.1.6.1. CRA Claims Files (Dossiers des propriétaires spoliés), Cartons RA 1- 69	96
2.1.1.6.2. OBIP Files for Owner Claims for Plundered Cultural Property	98
2.1.1.6.3. Printed French Registers of War Losses	98
2.1.2. Archives de l'occupation française en Allemagne et en Autriche	99
2.2. Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes (MAEE), Centre des archives diplomatiques de Nantes (CADN)	101
2.2.1. Records of the Office des biens et intérêts privés (OBIP)	101
2.3. Archives des Musées Nationaux (AMN), Paris	103
2.3.1. Série R: Les Musées nationaux pendant la Seconde guerre mondiale et l'évacuation des oeuvres	104
2.3.2. Annotated reference copies of <i>Répertoire des biens spoliés en France</i>	104
2.4. Archives Nationales – site de Paris (AN-Paris)	106
2.4.1. Série AB XIX: Documents isolés et papiers d'érudits	106
2.4.2. Série AJ 38: Commissariat général aux questions juives (CGQJ) et du Service de restitution des biens des victimes des lois et mesures de spoliation	107
2.4.3. Série AJ 40: Archives allemandes de la Seconde Guerre mondiale	109
2.4.3.1. AJ 40/1-415 and 439-990: Militärbefehlshaber in Belgien und Nordfrankreich (MB BelgNfr, Commandant militaire en Belgique et le Nord de la France) and Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich (MBF, Commandant militaire en France)	109
2.4.3.2. AJ 40/1027-1105: Devisenschutzkommando Frankreich (DSK)	112
2.4.3.3. AJ 40/1671-1683: Trial of Hermann Bunjes	113
2.4.4. Série 3W/347-359: Archives de Berlin	113
2.4.5. Série BB 35: Tribunaux militaires internationaux (TMI)	114
2.4.6. Série F 17: Ministère de l'instruction publique	114
2.4.7. Série F 37: Ministère de Finances, Commissions financiers	116
2.4.8. Série Z 6: Les archives de la Cour de justice	116
2.5. Mémorial de la Shoah, Centre de documentation juive contemporaine (CDJC), Paris	117
2.5.1. Archives de Nuremberg	118
2.5.1.1. Archives de Nuremberg – Rosenberg	118
2.5.1.2. Archives de Nuremberg: Other ERR and Rosenberg Documents	129
2.5.2. Les Authorities allemandes en France	131
2.5.2.1. L'État-Major Allemand / Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich (MBF)	132
2.5.2.2. Fonds Gestapo France	135

2.5.2.3. Collection Ambassade d'Allemagne	136
2.5.2.4. Dossier du procès Otto Abetz	137
2.5.3. Direction des services de l'armistice (DSA)	139
2.5.4. Commissariat général aux questions juives (CGQJ)	139
2.5.5. Copies of Documents from the Bundesarchiv Koblenz	142
2.6. Dépôt central des archives de la justice militaire, Le Blanc	144
3. GERMANY	145
Introductory Remarks	146
3.1. Bundesarchiv (BArch), Berlin-Lichterfelde	151
3.1.1. Bestand NS 30: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)	154
3.1.2. Bestand NS 8: Kanzlei Rosenberg	155
3.1.3. Bestand NS 15: Beauftragter des Führers der NSDAP für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP (DBFU)	159
3.1.4. Bestand NS 43: Aussenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP	163
3.1.5. Bestand R 6: Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete (RMbO)	163
3.1.6. Bestand R 94: Reichskommissar für die Ukraine (RKU)	166
3.1.7. Bestand R 90: Reichskommissar für das Ostland (RKO)	167
3.1.8. Bestand R 92: Generalkommissar in Riga	169
3.1.9. Bestand R 93: Generalkommissar für Weissruthenien in Minsk	170
3.1.10. Bestand R 91: Gebietskommissare im Geschäftsbereich des Reichskommissars für das Ostland	170
3.1.11. Bestand NS 6: Partei-Kanzlei der NSDAP	171
3.1.12. Bestand R 153: Publikationstelle (PuSte), Berlin-Dahlem	172
3.2. Bundesarchiv (BArch), Koblenz	174
3.2.1. Bestand B 323: Treuhandverwaltung für Kulturgut bei der Oberfinanzdirektion München (TVK)	174
3.2.1.1. ERR Art-Looting Activities in Occupied France	178
3.2.1.1.1. ERR Inventories of Seized Jewish Art Collections	178
3.2.1.1.2. ERR Inventories of Art Objects from the Möbel-Aktion (M-Aktion)	184
3.2.1.1.3. Other Inventories of Seized French Jewish Collections	185
3.2.1.1.4. Other Documentation on ERR Cultural Plunder in France	188
3.2.1.1.5. ERR Art Shipping Lists and Repository Files	191
3.2.1.1.6. ERR Restoration Office: Files of Otto Klein	194
3.2.1.2. ERR Photographs (French and Belgian Jewish Collections)	195
3.2.1.2.1. ERR Fotothek (Art Photo Collection)	195
3.2.1.2.2. Miscellaneous ERR Exhibition Photographs and Lists	196
3.2.1.2.3. Photographs of Möbel-Aktion Operations	197
3.2.1.3. Art Collections of Nazi Leaders: Plunder, Exchanges, and the Art Market	198
3.2.1.3.1. Sonderauftrag Linz	198
3.2.1.3.2. Martin Bormann Activities and Art Collection	201
3.2.1.3.3. Hermann Göring Collection	201
3.2.1.3.4. Dienststelle Mühlmann	203
3.2.1.3.5. Wartime Dealers and the Art Market (selections)	203

3.2.1.4. Postwar MFA&A and MCCP Processing and Restitution Files	204
3.2.1.4.1. MFA&A Removal Reports (with some ERR Repository Files)	204
3.2.1.4.2. MCCP Property Cards Art	207
3.2.1.4.3. MCCP Art Photograph Collection on Microfiche (not part of B 323)	210
3.2.1.4.4. Wiesbaden Property Cards Art and Custody Receipts	210
3.2.1.4.5. MCCP Restitution Documentation for ERR Art Loot	211
3.2.1.4.6. MFA&A, MCCP, and TVK Reports and Reference Files	215
3.2.3. Bestand B 401: Bundesamt für äussere Restitutionen	217
3.2.2.1. U.S. Microfilms with ERR Documentation from France	217
3.2.2.2. Microfilms of ERR Photo Albums for Hitler	218
3.3. Bundesarchiv-Bildarchiv, Koblenz	219
3.3.1. Bild 131 (ERR)	219
3.3.2. Bild 1-3: Subject Collections (with Scattered Photographs from the ERR)	220
3.3.3. E2.0915814/3: ERR (films 1-100) and E2.0915814/4: ERR (films 101-135): ERR Staff Photographs	220
3.4. Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv (BArch-MA), Freiburg	221
3.4.1. Bestand RS 4: Sonderkommando Künsberg	221
3.4.2. Military Commanders in Occupied France (RW 35) and Belgium (RW 36)	222
3.4.2.1. RW 35: Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich (MBF)	224
3.4.2.2. RW 36: Militärbefehlshaber in Belgien und Nordfrankreich (MB BelgNfr)	227
3.5. Auswärtiges Amt, Politisches Archiv (PA AA), Berlin	228
3.5.1. Sonderkommando Künsberg	230
3.5.2. Handakten Luther	232
3.5.3. Deutsche Botschaft Paris	232
3.6. Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen (BADV), Berlin	234
3.7. Institut für Zeitgeschichte (IfZ), Munich	239
3.8. Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte (ZI), Munich	240
4. LITHUANIA	243
Introductory Remarks	244
4.1. Centrinis Valstybinis archyvas (CVA), Vilnius	245
4.1.1. Fond R-633: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg / Reichsleiterio Rozenbergo operatyuinis stabas okupuotoms sritims	
4.1.2. Fond R-1390: Vilniaus žydų muziejaus dokumentų kolekcija	245
4.1.3. Fond R-1421: Vilniaus žydų getas	248
4.1.4. Žydų mokslo institutas (YIVO)	249

5. THE NETHERLANDS	251
Introductory Remarks	252
5.1. NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam	256
5.1.1. Archief 093a: Einsatzstab Rosenberg	256
5.1.2. Archief 094: Omnia Treuhandgesellschaft m.b.H.	260
5.1.3. Archief 265: Rosenberg Files	260
5.1.4. Doc II-215C: Einsatzstab Rosenberg	262
5.1.5. Doc I-1434: Alfred Rosenberg (Diary 1939-1940)	263
5.1.6. Archief 077: Generalkommissariat für das Sicherheitswesen / Höherer SS- und Polizeiführer Nordwest	263
5.1.7. Archief 091: Deutsche Krankenkasse für die Niederlande	263
5.1.8. Archief 281: A.J. Van der Leeuw Collection, Oorlogsmisdrijven, roof en recuperatie	264
6. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	267
Introductory Remarks	268
6.1. Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi voennyi arkhiv (RGVA), Moscow	270
6.1.1. Fond 1401k: Operativnyi shtab Rosenberga	270
6.1.2. Fond 1358k: Ministerstvo po delam okkupirovannykh vostochnykh oblastei, g. Berlin [Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete]	272
6.2. Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii (GA RF), Moscow	275
6.2.1. Fond 7445: Mezhdunarodnyi voennyi tribunal dlia glavnykh nemetskikh prestupnikov (Niurnbergskii protsess)	275
7. UKRAINE	277
Introductory Remarks	278
7.1. Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi arkhiv vyshchyykh orhaniv vldy ta upravlinnia Ukraïny (TsDAVO), Kyiv (Kiev)	279
7.1.1. Fond 3676: Shtab impers'koho kerivnyka (reikhsliaitera) Rozenberha dlia okupovanykh skhidnykh oblastei [<i>sic</i>], mm. Berlin, Kyiv	283
7.1.2. Fond 3674: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg Shtab imperskogo rukovoditelia (reikhsliaitera) Rozenberga dlia okkupirovannykh Zapadnykh oblastei i Niderlandov. Rabochaia grupa Bel'hiï	290
7.1.3. Fond 3206: Reichskomissariat Ukraïny (RKU), Rivne	291
8. THE UNITED KINGDOM	295
Introductory Remarks	296
8.1. The National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA), Kew	297
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	297
8.1.2. FO 1020: Foreign Office and Predecessors: Allied Commission for Austria (British Element): Headquarters and Regional Files (ACA Series)	297
8.1.3. Other TNA Record Groups of Potential Relevance	298

8.2. The Imperial War Museum (IWM), London	299
8.2.1. FO 645 (DX): International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg (IMT), November 1945-October 1946	299
9. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	301
Introductory Remarks	302
9.1. National Archives of the United States, College Park (NACP)	304
9.1.1. RG 242: Foreign Records Seized (Captured Records)	311
9.1.1.1. Microfilms of German Records prepared at Alexandria, VA	311
9.1.2. RG 239: Records of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (The Roberts Commission)	313
9.1.3. RG 226: Records of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)	319
9.1.3.1. Formerly Security-Classified Intelligence Reports (XL Series)	320
9.1.3.2. Security-Classified Reports Concerning Recovery of Looted Art Treasures in Germany	322
9.1.3.3. Records of the OSS History Office	322
9.1.3.4. Director's Office and Field Station Records	322
9.1.3.5. Washington and Field Station Records	324
9.1.4. RG 331: Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, World War II, Records of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)	324
9.1.5. RG 260: Records of U.S. Occupation Headquarters, World War II, Records of the Office of Military Government for Germany, U.S. (OMGUS)	330
9.1.5.1. Records of the Office of the Adjutant General	332
9.1.5.2. Records of the Property Division: Records of the Property Control and External Assets Branch, Museums, Fine Arts, and Archives Section (MFA&A)	332
9.1.5.3. Records of the Property Division: Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points ("Ardelia Hall Collection")	336
9.1.5.3.1. Records of OMGUS Headquarters Relating to the Central Collecting Points	336
9.1.5.3.2. Records of the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point (WCCP)	341
9.1.5.3.3. Records of the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD)	348
9.1.5.3.4. Records of the Munich Central Collection Point (MCCP)	351
9.1.5.4. Records of the Property Division: Miscellaneous Records	377
9.1.5.5. Records of the Education and Cultural Relations (ECR) Division, Records of the Cultural Affairs Branch	380
9.1.6. RG 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General [U.S. War Department], War Crimes Branch	381
9.1.7. RG 238: Collection of World War II War Crimes Records: Records of the Office of the U.S. Chief Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality (OUSCCPAC)	382
9.1.7.1. PS (Paris-Storey) Files	387
9.1.7.2. Staff Evidence Analysis (SEA) Forms	388
9.1.7.3. Prosecution Exhibits, United States	388
9.1.7.4. Prosecution Exhibits, France	396

9.1.7.5. Interrogations, Summaries of Interrogations, and Related Records	397
9.1.7.6. Audiovisual Documentation from the IMT	398
9.1.8. Still Pictures Branch	398
9.1.8.1. Images from RG 239: Roberts Commission (Series PA and RC)	399
9.1.8.2. Images from RG 260 (OMGUS)	400
9.1.8.2.1. RG 260, Series ERR (260-ERR): Photographs of Artworks Appropriated by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg in France	400
9.1.8.2.2. RG 260, Series ERRA (260-ERRA): Photographs of Artworks Appropriated by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg in France, used by the Chief of Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality (collection of copy prints)	401
9.1.8.2.3. RG 260, Series JP (260-JP): Photographs of an Exhibit of Artworks Appropriated by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, held at the Jeu de Paume Museum, Paris, France, November 1943	402
9.1.8.2.4. RG 260, Series MP (260-MP): Photographs Made by the Munich Central Collecting Point, OMGUS, of Artworks Appropriated by Germany during World War II	402
9.1.8.2.5. RG 260, Series M CCP (260-M CCP): Photographs of the Restitution of Art and Other Activities at the Munich Central Collecting Point	405
9.1.8.2.6. RG-260, Series L (260-L): Photographs of Artworks Looted for the Museum of German Culture, Linz, Austria	405
9.1.8.2.7. RG 260, Series WAE (260-WAE): Photographs of Activities and Exhibits at the Wiesbaden CCP Restitution	406
9.1.8.2.8. RG 260, Series W (260-W): Negatives from the Wiesbaden CCP	407
9.1.8.2.9. RG 260, Series PHOAD (260-PHOAD): Photographs of the Operations of the Offenbach Archival Depot	409
9.1.8.2.10. RG 260, Series LM (260-LM) and RG 260, Series XL (260-XL)	411
9.1.8.3. RG 242, Series RPG (242-RPG): Photographic Prints Assembled by German Occupation Forces, Depicting Social, Economic, and Cultural Life in the Soviet Union	412
9.1.8.4. RG 59, Series RT (59-RT): L Negatives of Images of Russian [Ukrainian] Icons	413
9.2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Archive, Washington, DC	414
9.2.1. Collections of Original Documents	414
9.2.1.1. RG-06.022: Lena Fishman Fagen Collection	414
9.2.1.2. Robert M.W. Kempner Collection	414
9.2.2. Microform Copies of ERR Documentation	415
9.2.3. On-line Jeu de Paume Database	415

9.3. YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York City	416
9.3.1. RG 215: Berlin Collection	417
9.3.2. RG 216: Hauptamt Wissenschaft (Berlin)	424
9.3.3. RG 222: Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (IEJ), Frankfurt	425
9.3.4. RG 207: Salonika Jewish Community	430
Appendix 1: French and Belgian Jewish Art Collections Processed by the ERR in the Jeu de Paume, 1940-1944: A Preliminary Correlation Table for Sources	A1-1
Appendix 2: Major ERR Repositories for Plundered Cultural Property	A2-1
Appendix 3: U.S.-U.K. Investigative Reports and Interrogations	A3-1
Appendix 4: ERR Internal Publications	A4-1
Bibliography	B-1

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

TECHNICAL NOTE

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

Level 1 COUNTRY

Level 2 REPOSITORY

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

Level 4 SERIES

Level 5 SUB-SERIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. LITHUANIA

Introductory Remarks

Only a few scattered documents created by the ERR while operating in Lithuania have been preserved in Lithuania itself. A small fond of ERR documents held in the Central State Archive (CVA) in Vilnius (also Vilna; prewar Wilno, Poland) contains 30 files collected after the war. Recently, some scattered ERR documents have been identified in other CVA fonds, namely those of the Jewish Scientific Institute (Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut, YIVO), the Vilnius Ghetto, and a collection of documents from the Jewish Museum in Vilnius that were rescued from a postwar Soviet anti-Semitic campaign, during which many Jewish records were destroyed.¹ Together with the previously available ERR files, these documents provide more details about the tragic fate of Jewish cultural treasures during the war. They also shed more light on the ERR Jewish Working Group, a special forced-labor unit staffed by Jewish intellectuals from the Vilnius Ghetto, and the descriptions it prepared of YIVO holdings and other Jewish collections in Lithuania that were concentrated in YIVO or university buildings before being shipped to the Reich or destroyed.² The newly available documents supplement the recovered parts of the diary of Herman Kruk, who served as ghetto librarian and as a leader of the Jewish Working Group.³ Reportedly, some additional documents are in the Manuscript Department of the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, but it has not yet been possible to examine them.

The main records of the ERR units active in Lithuania were apparently evacuated or intentionally destroyed during the retreat in the late spring and summer of 1944. Some may have reached the ERR evacuation center in Ratibor (postwar Racibórz, Poland). Copies of many of the ERR monthly and quarterly reports from Vilnius are preserved within the ERR records held in Kyiv (Kiev) at the Central State Archive of Highest Agencies of Power and Administration of Ukraine (Tsentral'nyi derzhavnyi vyshchikh orhaniv vlady ta upravlinnia, TsDAVO; see Section 7.1.). These were undoubtedly among the materials the ERR was evacuating during the retreat from Ratibor at the end of 1944. The materials were seized by Soviet authorities and sent to Kyiv with a Ukrainian “trophy” shipment from Germany.

A few Lithuanian-related ERR documents, in copy, are preserved in other ERR collections, including those in Paris and Berlin.

¹ The additional files in fonds R-1390 and R-1421 were kindly called to my attention by CVA archivists and described for me by Jens Hoppe of the Jewish Claims Conference Frankfurt office.

² Regarding the ERR in Vilnius and Jewish efforts to preserve records, see especially the latest edition of the study by David E. Fishman, *Embers Plucked from the Fire: The Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Vilna*, 2nd expanded edition (New York: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 2009, with parallel Yiddish text). Fishman includes English translations of sizeable excerpts of documents from CVA, fond R 633, including Jewish Working Group reports attributed to Kruk, but precise archival citations are not provided. The 1996 edition of Fishman's study was reprinted in *The Holocaust and the Book: Destruction and Preservation*, ed. Jonathan Rose (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001), pp. 66-78. See also the work of Esfir Bramson-Alperniene (National Library of Lithuania) on efforts to save YIVO materials left behind, in particular: “Das Schicksal der Dokumente des YIVO in Wilna,” in *The Return of Looted Collections (1946-1996): An Unfinished Chapter*, ed. F.J. Hoogewoud and E.P. Kwaadgras (Amsterdam: The Symposium, 1997), pp. 45-51. Sem C. Sutter contributes to the story of libraries lost to the ERR, but uses less ERR documentation, see Sutter, “The Lost Jewish Libraries of Vilna and the Frankfurt Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage,” in *Lost Libraries: The Destruction of Great Book Collections since Antiquity*, ed. James Raven (Basingstoke, Hampshire and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), pp. 219-235.

³ An English translation of surviving portions of Herman Kruk's diary is available as *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania: Chronicles from the Vilna Ghetto and the Camps, 1939-1944*, ed. Benjamin Harshav; translated by Barbara Harshav (New Haven: Yale University Press and YIVO, 2003).

4.1. CENTRINIS VALSTYBINIS ARCHYVAS (CVA)

[Central State Archive]

O. Milašiaus g. 21; 10102 Vilnius

Tel.: +370 (8)5 / 247 7811

Fax: +370 (8)5 / 276 5318

Website: <http://www.archyvai.lt/archyvai/changeSite.do?siteId=2&pathId=67>

E-mail: lcva@archyvai.lt

4.1.1. FOND R-633: EINSATZSTAB REICHSLEITER ROSENBERG / REICHSLEITERIO ROZENBERGO OPERATYUINIS STABAS OKUPUOTOMS SRITIMS

[Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg for the Occupied Territories]

1 inventory (*apyrašo/opis'*), 30 files

This fragmentary record group of ERR records brings together various documents on ERR activity in Lithuania and supplements the more extensive files from the ERR working group for Vilnius now held in Kyiv (Kiev) (see Section 7.1.). Most important regarding displaced cultural property are lists of books from Lithuanian libraries with some reports containing statistics on individual library and archival collections (no. 1) and several folders giving detailed descriptions of YIVO holdings and other private collections of Judaica and Hebraica, less than half of which the ERR plundered, while sending the rest to paper mills (nos. 4 and 5). Close to 150 ERR registration cards for libraries and other cultural institutions, mostly in Vilnius and Kaunas (nos. 3 and 24), supplement other cards from the Baltic countries found in Moscow (see Section 6.1.1.). These were prepared early in the German occupation before some of items described were removed. The documents available also include reports and bibliographies prepared or translated by ERR staff members regarding the Jews of Lithuania (as well as the Lithuanian Tatars and Karaites) and other mostly Jewish-related topics. One file contains fragmentary translations prepared using documents from the Smolensk Communist Party Archive that the ERR had transferred to Vilnius in early 1943 for analysis by a special unit. There are also a few ERR registers for provisions and petty cash receipts.

Microfilm Version

Just over half of these files were filmed for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and are now partly listed under Accession Number 1999.A.0111. Unfortunately, most of the microfilm is illegible. A handwritten English-language list of titles (apparently based on the inventory located at the CVA) is available for the microfilm, but the Russian-language inventory is not included.

Finding Aid (unpublished)

A Soviet-era, Russian-language file-level inventory is available in the CVA reading room, as is a more recent Lithuanian-language translation.

Apyrašo/Opis' 1

- 1:** Lists of books from several Lithuanian libraries, including the Cimkauskas Library in Kaunas, and the Kaunas Museum of Culture with its art catalogues;
 – report on German-language Soviet literature in Lithuania;
 – lists of books for transport from a church library and from various agencies in Kaunas (Sep. 1941).
- 2:** Receipts for provisions at ERR field post code 43 071 (11 Nov. 1941-1 July 1942).
- 3:** ERR cultural registration cards (139 cards, bound together), mostly from Vilnius (also Vilna; prewar Wilno, Poland) and Kaunas (31 Jan.-2 Apr. 1942), many having only headings, with others providing more details, such as the number of Jewish and Bolshevik books removed or planned for removal. The cards cover archives, libraries, synagogues, and private collections, as well as a few cards from Estonia, one of which concerns the Archeological Institute at Tartu (Ger. Dorpat) University.⁴
- 4:** Draft reports by the ERR Jewish Working Group on holdings in Jewish institutions in Vilnius (some portions repeated in file no. 5): list of manuscript holdings in YIVO (ul. Wiwulskiego 18), with note on 31 Torahs and ritual items, as well as holdings of the press archive, the YIVO Theater Museum, the library, and the YIVO archives; copy of a YIVO bulletin (1930, no. 1);
 – coverage of the Straschun Library, the Anski Museum, and different synagogues and other private holdings (some of which were then collected in the YIVO buildings).
- 5:** A typed original report by the Jewish Working Group in Vilnius (“Bericht vom dem Arbeitsergebnis der juedischen Arbeitsgruppe beim Einsatzstab RR Wilna,” 18 Feb-8 June 1942), with details on the numbers of volumes taken from various Jewish sources including 160,000 volumes and 100 parchment Torah scrolls, as well as other manuscripts, pictures, photographs, and cultural goods;
 – summary of predominantly Jewish materials collected in four rooms of a university building, including 50,000 items from the Straschun Library (journals, newspapers, manuscripts, and documents, and a card file), 2,000 books and 20 Torahs from the Hasidic Synagogue, and 10,000 books from the Great Synagogue (ul. Zydowska 6 [Judengasse 6]);
 – a room-by-room report of YIVO holdings, including materials collected from various synagogues and component collections, along with lists from the YIVO archive and library concerning music and photo collection, folklore, and materials from the Theater Museum (some pages repeat listings in file no. 4);
 – summary inventory of YIVO holdings and component collections, including archives of other institutions and individuals, and a list of private libraries on deposit with the number of volumes;
 – clipping of a newspaper article about ERR work with the Jewish community in Vilnius from the German newspaper *Wilnaer Zeitung* (20 Aug. 1942);
 – activity report for Herman Kruk’s group (“Taetigkeitsbericht der Gruppe Kruk,” 18 Nov. 1942-10 July 1943), with lists of Jewish collections examined and those removed, together with references to other completed tasks.
- 6:** Receipts for provisions and ration cards for ERR staff (18 Feb.-14 Apr. 1942).

⁴ The ERR cultural registration cards in no. 3 and no. 24 are similar to ca. 300 registration cards from the Baltic countries held in the Russian State Military Archive (Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi voennyi arkhiv, RGVA; see Section 6.1.).

- 7:** Account register of revenue and expenses (Jan. 1942-July 1943), includes names of ERR staff members.
- 8:** Survey register of cultural sites in Vilnius, with statistics on holdings, nos. 25-43 (20 July 1943).
- 9:** Report (in copy) by Willi Schäfer, the head of the ERR Working Group Lithuania (Arbeitsgruppe Litauen, AG Litauen), on Jewish cemeteries and tombstones in Vilnius (“Friedhöfe und Grabsteine der Juden in Wilna,” 1 Nov. 1943).
- 10:** Personal letters to Schäfer, correspondence with book and coin dealers;
– numismatic lists (9 June 1943-26 Apr. 1944).
- 11:** Translated newspaper articles on eleven students from Vilnius University and trial of Communist Party Youth League (Jan. 1936).
- 12:** Notes from a book on religious practices of Jews, including ritual murder (1936); notes on Masonic lodges in Paris and Syria, among others.
- 13:** German translations of articles from Riga-based Jewish papers during the Soviet era (1940-1941), with original pages of Yiddish newspapers.
- 14:** German translation of songs “International of Youth” and “Our March” (20 Oct. 1940-20 Apr. 1941).
- 15:** Report and bibliography on the Jews of Lithuania (“Die Juden Litauens”), with demographic statistics (for the ERR analysis section).
- 16:** Studies on the Jewish population in Lithuania (for the ERR analysis section), with population statistics, economic structure, etc. (typed carbon).
- 17:** Typed lists of Jewish organizations in Vilnius (1938).
- 18:** Translations of works on the Karaites with bibliography (278 entries).
- 19:** Report on monuments damaged by the Bolsheviks (“Die von den Bolschewisten beschaedigten Kulturdenkmaeler”), with notes on the removal of cultural institutes;
– separate reports on some churches, archives, libraries, etc.
- 20:** Manuscript of a German translation of a study of St Anne Church, Vilnius.
- 21:** German clippings of articles relating to numismatics, with summaries in German.
- 22:** Article on the Karaites from 1937 handbook, with German translation.
- 23:** German summaries or translations of articles on Jewish topics from the Yiddish newspaper *Kampf* (July-Dec. 1940).
- 24:** Six ERR registration cards on private and public libraries in Kaunas (1941-1942): Baloseris (35,000 volumes), Dr V. Kudirka (4,000 volumes), the City Library (30,000 volumes) and various branches, churches (ca. 380 volumes of metrical books), and the Jewish community (ca. 480 volumes).
- 25:** Register of receipts (*Empfangsscheinbuch*, no. 2) for provisions for ERR staff (1 Sep.-30 Nov. 1943).
- 26:** Report by AG Litauen head Schäfer on the Jews as an economic and political factor (“Die Juden als wirtschaftlicher und politischer Faktor unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Ostjudentums,” 28 Jan. 1944);
– bibliography on numismatics.
- 27:** Protocol of ERR meeting on the study of Bolshevism at Vilnius University, with Rector Mykolas Biržiška, library director Dr Vincas Maciunas, and Schäfer (13 July 1943);
– first page of a document on Freemasons.
- 28:** Reports by Gerhard Spinkler on the Lithuanian Tatars, with list of sources (16 Apr. 1944).
- 29:** Translations of articles Spinkler on Easter traditions in the Vilnius area (20 Apr. 1944).

30: Fragmentary notes or translations from the Smolensk Communist Party Archive [then in Vilnius] (documents from 1930);⁵

– note for files by Spinkler on conversation with Dr Otto Nerling and Dr Spier in Riga regarding evacuation of the Smolensk Communist Party Archive to Liepaja (Libau) along with staff;

– evacuation of the Tenishchev Museum and the Karaite Museum, ten crates of Bolshevik literature from Vilnius libraries (28 Apr. 1944), and materials from the Vilnius Lutheran and Protestant cemetery.

4.1.2. FOND R-1390: VILNIAUS ŽYDŲ MUZIEJAUS DOKUMENTŲ KOLEKCIJA [Vilnius Jewish Museum Documentary Collection]

Apyrašo/Opis' 1

91: Translations of Lithuanian newspaper articles into German, prepared by the Jewish translation group at YIVO [Jwo in some German documents] in 1942.

4.1.3. FOND R-1421: VILNIAUS ŽYDŲ GETAS [Vilnius Jewish Ghetto]

Apyrašo/Opis' 1

233: First part of an ERR report on Jewish ghettos in the Baltic (“Juedische Ghettos im Baltikum”) by the Jewish Working Group of the AG Litauen at YIVO [Jwo in some German documents]; compiler and date not indicated, but possibly Hermann Kruk in 1942.

492: Partial list of Russian books sorted and listed by the Jewish Working Group in the Russian section of YIVO.

494: File cards with bibliographical notes in Russian;

– list of Jewish inscriptions of gravestones from the New Cemetery (Neuer Friedhof) in Vilnius (reportedly compiled by Sawelsohn or Kruk from gravestones in 1943).

495: Reports by the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (1942-1943).

496-500: Reports by the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (1942).

501: Two reports by Kruk, leader of the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (Aug. 1942).

502: Note pad recording activities of the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (July-Sep. 1942).

503: Pad with daily reports (“Einsatzstab R.R. Arbeitsgruppe Litauen Tages-Berichte”) covering activities of the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (Oct. 1942-Mar. 1943).

504: File cards with bibliographical notes in Russian and listings of Jewish inscriptions on gravestones from the Old Cemetery (Alter Friedhof) in Vilnius (reportedly compiled by Sawelsohn or Kruk from gravestones in 1943).

⁵ Regarding the wartime and postwar fate of the Smolensk CP archive, see Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, “*The Odyssey of the ‘Smolensk Archive’: Plundered Communist Records for the Service of Anti-Communism*” (Pittsburgh, PA, 1995; Carl Beck Occasional Papers in Russian and East European Studies, no. 1201; University of Pittsburgh, Center for Russian and East European Studies); also available as three-part article for 1999: *Zeitschrift für Sozialgeschichte des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts*, 1997, Heft 4, pp. 71-97; 1998, Heft 2, pp. 190-201; 1999, Heft 1, pp. 134-151). See also the collection marking the return of the 500 files of the archive from the United States to Russia in 2002: *Vozvrashchenie “Smolenskogo arkhiva”/ The Return of the “Smolensk Archive,”* bilingual edition, ed. Marianna Tax Choldin, Karina Aleksandrovna Dritrieva, Ekateriana Iur'evna Genieva, and Patricia Kennedy Grimsted (Moscow: ROSSPEN, 2005).

505: ERR report on Vilnius and its smaller Jewish prayer houses (“Wilna und Wilnaer Klausen”), reportedly prepared by Kruk (1942).

506-509: Reports by the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (1943).

510: Letters by AG Litauen head Willi Schäfer regarding translations by Zelig Kalmanowicz and Lamm (1943), one with the incoming stamp of the Main Working Group Ostland (Hauptarbeitsgruppe Ostland, HAG Ostland), one without.

4.1.4 FOND 287: ŽYDŲ MOKSLO INSTITUTAS (YIVO)

[Jewish Scientific Institute]

Apyrašo/Opis' 13

617: Reports by the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (1942-1943).

Apyrašo/Opis' 14

617: YIVO documents predating June 1941;
 – report from October 1942 (“Zimmer Nr. 8”);
 – and a YIVO work plan from 1942.

Apyrašo/Opis' 15

177: YIVO documents predating June 1941;
 – items from the Vilnius Ghetto;
 – partial list of Russian books sorted and listed by the Jewish Working Group in the Russian section of YIVO [Two in some German documents];
 – a document that is probably a partial translation done by the Jewish translation group.
178: Documents from the Vilnius Ghetto (mainly warrants for Jews in the ghetto jail);
 – reports by the Jewish Working Group at YIVO (1942-1943);
 – and a partial list of Russian books sorted and listed in the Russian section of YIVO.
179: Documents from the Vilnius Ghetto, the General Commissariat Kaunas (Generalkommissariat Kauen, GK Kauen), and the German Prosecutor’s Office (Deutscher Staatsanwalt) in Vilnius;
 – translations done by the Jewish translation group of the AG Litauen;
 – a partial list of Russian books sorted and listed by the Jews working in the Russian section of YIVO for the AG Litauen.
180: Translations of Lithuanian newspaper articles done by the Jewish translation group of the AG Litauen (probably 1943).
181: German reports regarding workers from the Vilnius area sent to camps or to the Reich;
 – two lists of crates from YIVO containing a Jewish newspaper.

