

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
 OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
 GREATER HESSE
 ECONOMICS DIVISION

Liaison & Security Office
 LK & SK Offenbach, (Germany),
 APO 633, U.S. Army.
 30 June 46.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, June 1946.
 (Auth: MG Regulations, Title 18-612, Modified.)

TO : Colonel J.R. NEWMAN, Director
 Office of Military Government
 Greater Hesse.

A. Administration.

1. Location. I.G. Farben, 169 Mainstrasse, Offenbach-am-Main, SK Offenbach. One building, 5 stories. One building, Bunker Rathenaustrasse, Offenbach-am-Main.

2. Personnel.

a. United States.

- (1) I. Bencowitz, Captain, SR, O-527425.
 (Auth: P. 12, S.O. 88, Hq 2nd MG Bn (Sep)
 15 Apr 46.)
- (2) Rouben Sami, Corporal, 30000387.

b. German.

- (1) Total, 143.
- (2) List of employees by branch and sections,
 see Inclosure 1.

c. Liaison.

- (1) Lt. Colonel Jean Prinnet, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris.
- (2) Major Dr. Dirk Petrus Marius Graswinckel, Head of the Netherlands National Archives.
- (3) Commandant P. de la Boulaye, French Restitution Officer.
- (4) Commandant Ph. Gangnat, French Restitution Officer.
- (5) Captain Hubert de Brye, GFCC, French Reparation Officer.
- (6) Mr. (Captain) Johannes Georg Schönau, Dutch Restitution Officer.
- (7) Captain H. Jaffe, Dutch Restitution Officer.
- (8) 1st Lt. Raymond LeMaire, Belgian Restitution Officer.

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

- (9) Professor Koppel S. Pinson, Official Representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee to this Depot.
- (10) Mr. David H. Clift, Official Representative of the Library of Congress Mission to this Depot.
- (11) Major L.G. Perry, B A O R, British.
- (12) Lt. Colonel N.P. Novik, Russian Mission of Restitution.
- (13) Lt. N.S. Selutin, Russian Mission of Restitution.
- (14) Lt. Colonel Moise Liber, French Restitution Officer.
- (15) Mr. Reuben Peiss, Chief of Library of Congress Mission, Fechenheim-am-Main.

3. Building.

a. Security. No change.

b. State of Repair.

- 1. Installing of a garage for 3 vehicles.
- 2. A store-room for gasoline was established.
- 3. Work-bench installed.
- 4. Several windows in the civilian Mess-Hall were repaired.
- 5. Shelves were put in the kitchen of the civilian Mess-Hall.

c. Maintenance. No change.

d. Heating Supplies. No change.

e. Mess.

- 1. Mess in good condition.
12 persons working there, 6 persons in the kitchen and 6 persons as waiters.
9 of these are on the OAD pay roll.

4. Receipt of Documents.

a. 28 May 46, four (4) Torah Scrolls received from MFA&A, Wiesbaden.

(Auth: VOCC, Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MFA&A Officer, OMG, GH, Wiesbaden).

b. 28 May 46, approximately seventy-four thousand and one hundred and forty (74140) items, (337 cases) of books received from Berlin, Eisenacherstrasse.

(Auth: Ltr., OMGUS, Colonel John A. Allen to Director OAD, dtd. 16 April 46).

O.A.D. O.M.G. G.H., ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

- c. 28 May 46, six (6) cases and, 3 June 46, seventeen (17) cases of Russian brochures received from the University of Giessen, LK Giessen, Germany.
(Auth: VOCCO, Mr. J.I. Boell, MFA&A, O.M.G., G.H., Wiesbaden).
- d. 31 May 46, sixty-four (64) cases
2 June 46, twenty-three (23) cases
4 June 46, sixty-six (66) cases
6 June 46, seventy-three (73) cases
12 June 46, ninety-two (92) cases
of Holland, French, and Russian books received from Staffelstein, LK Bamberg, Bavaria.
- e. 3 June 46, six (6) cases of Jewish and Free Mason libraries received from Landesbibliothek, Wiesbaden.
(Auth: VOCCO, Mr. J.I. Boell, MFA&A, O.M.G., G.H., Wiesbaden).
- f. 13 June 46, fifty-four (54) cases of Dutch books received from Waischenfeld, LK Hollfeld, Bavaria.
(Auth: VOCCO, Major Goodman, MFA&A, Mil.Gov. Officer for Bavaria).

5. Important Visitors and Events.

a. Visitors.

- (1) Capt. Gordon W. Gilkey, USFET. 12 June 46.
- (2) Lt. L.E. Hart, USFET. 12 June 46.
- (3) 1 Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MFA&A, Mil. Gov., Wiesbaden. 24 May 46.
- (4) 1st Lt. Leslie J. Poste, Archives-Library, Spec.O, Land Württemberg-Baden. 1 June 46.
- (5) Chaplain Isaiah Rackovsky, USFET. 31 May 46.
- (6) Mr. James A. Reeds, O.M.G.U.S., Berlin. 30 May and 1 June 46.
- (7) Lt. James A. Sawicki, O.Q.M.G., Wash., D.C. 24,25,28, and 31 May and 3 June 46.
- (8) Major Peter S. Tanous, Q.M.C., O.Q.M.G., Wash., D.C. 24,25,28 May and 3 June 46.
- (9) Lt. C.R. Blumenstein, O, U.S.Chief of Counsel Nürnberg. 24 May 46.
- (10) Mr. Josef Groesbeck, Library of Congress Mission, Fechenheim-am-Main. 21 June 46.
- (11) Dr. Nussbaum, Jewish Agency of Palestine. 18 June 46.
- (12) Mr. Reuben Weiss, Chief of Library of Congress Mission, Fechenheim-am-Main. 21 June 46.
- (13) Lt. Col. John C. Rose, Mil.Gov., Offenbach. 19 June 46.
- (14) Major E. Wolf, Polish Mission for Restitution to Poland. 20 June 46.

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 20 June 46 Monthly Report

b. Events.

- 24 May 46 - Conference with Lt. C.R. Blumenstein: Possible use of ERR material in the Nürnberg trials.
- Captain J.G. Schönau left for Holland.
 - A Tea silver set consisting of 10 pieces; the metal plate on the case reads as follows: "Maison Odier Preyost, Recipon & Cie Orfevres, Paris" was turned over to Collecting Point, MFA&A, Wiesbaden.
- 27 May 46 - Major D.P.M. Graswinckel returns from Holland.
- Capt. I. Bencowitz went to Giessen to inspect Russian books located there. Only 23 cases of brochures out of a carload of material still remained in the library.
- 28 May 46 - Conference with Lts. Ford and Poste, MFA&A Officers, Mil. Gov. Office Württemberg-Baden. Subject: Movement of books from Heilbronn Saltmine to Offenbach Archival Depot. Lt. Ford was to notify Capt. Bencowitz when the work of packing can start - sometimes in June.
- Rabbi Moise Liber arrived from Paris and immediately got busy identifying French manuscripts and articles from French Synagogues. In the process he managed to identify much Netherland material. The Rabbi promised to return to the Depot sometimes in June.
 - Capt. Bencowitz is assigned to the Food and Agriculture Section, Wiesbaden on 10 day SD. The order was later rescinded by Lt. Col. Sheehan.
- 29 May 46 - Telephone call from Munich and Nürnberg to Major Graswinckel corroborated the authorization to remove books from Staffelstein.
- 30 May 46 - Conference between Capt. Bencowitz and Mr. Reed from MFA&A Office in Berlin. Subject: Library lists of restituted books.
- 31 May 46 - First truck load (64 cases) of books from Staffelstein arrived.
- Capt. Bencowitz was ordered, assume the post of senior Officer of In & Security Office, LK & SK Offenbach.
 - Capt. Rackovsky left for the States and the Depot lost a tireless worker and a wise counsellor. His services to the Depot have been of inestimable value.

CAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

- 1 June 46 - Capt. Bencowitz assumed his duties as senior Officer of Liaison & Security Office, IK & SK Offenburg.
- Conference between Capt. Bencowitz and Lt. Poste, PRO, Mil.Gov. Office, Württemberg-Baden. Subject: Historical background of the OAD.
- 4 June 46 - Major L.G. Perry, British Restitution Officer removed eighteen cases of books, and massonic documents, and emblems looted by the Germans from the British Channel Island.
- 9 June 46 - Conference between Capt. Bencowitz and Lt. Col. N.P. Novik, Russian Restitution Officer. Subject: Restitution of books and library material to Russia, Ukraine and white Russia.
- 10 June 46 - Lt. Col. Novik contacted by phone the Russian representative in Major LaFarge's Office in Berlin and received authority to sign for books belonging to Russian, white Russian, and Ukrainian Libraries. The Officer signed for 760 cases, approximately 167,200 books. It has been agreed that a Russian Officer will arrive as soon as possible to arrange for the transportation of these books.
- Telephone conversation between Capt. Bencowitz and Major Goodman (Capt. Rae's Office, MFA&A Officer for Land Bavaria). Permission was granted to move the books from Waischenfeld, LK Hollfeld, Bavaria.
- 12 June 46 - Conference between Capt. Bencowitz and Capt. Gordon W. Gilkey, USFET. Subject: Films and photographs showing army formations.
- Movement of 318 cases of books from Staffelnstein completed.
- 14 June 46 - The books from Waischenfeld, 54 cases, primarily Netherland libraries, were brought to the OAD.
- 17 June 46 - A seven reel film found in the OAD was shown in the projection-room of the Special Service in Frankfurt. It was found to be a Russian film, Titled Prof. Mamlok, with written transcriptions in Belgian and Dutch. The subject of the film is the underground movement in Germany against the Nazis soon after the latter assumed powers.

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

- 18 June 46 - Conference with Dr. Nussbaum, Jewish Agency of Palestine. Subject: Likely future policy regarding disposition of books belonging to German and other Jews most of whom at present live in Palestine.
- 20 June 46 - Conference, -- Cpl. Sami and Major Wolf, Polish Mission Officer. Subject: Polish books.
- 21 June 46 - Conference, Capt. Bencowitz with Mr. Reuben Peiss, and Mr. Josef Groesbeck, Library of Congress Mission, Fechenheim. Subject: Russian material, Rubinstein Library, and the Netherland Library, Domus Spinozana at The Hague.
- 24 June 46 - Major Graswinckel arrived and started making arrangements for the arrival of Dutch barge for the removal of Netherland material from the Archival Depot.

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

6. Transportation Available. No change.

7. Miscellaneous.

a. A more complete and corrected list of Library Collections which have gone through the sorting process is inclosed (see Inclosure 2). It should be noted that every identifiable Library mark has been included in the list. In many cases only a few books represented a given library. It does not always mean therefore, that the entire library, or even a sizable portion of it went through the Depot, merely because its name appears on the list.

b. Sorting Program.

The last stages of the sorting processes of the books on hand are being completed. It is the policy of the Depot to reduce the books to groups of the smallest possible denominator in so far as future possible disposition is concerned

(1) Semi-identifiable books.

Among the semi-identifiable books two types of markings were isolated.

(a) Ex-Libris.

Books with about five hundred different Ex-Libris were sorted out and recorded. A catalogue of photographs of all Ex-Libris was compiled. Each Ex-Libris was numbered and the number of books, corresponding to each Ex-Libris was recorded. These books are stored in numbered boxes. Books, the owners of which are Netherland or French are packed for immediate restitution. The list of all others is inclosed (see Inclosure 3).

(b) Names, stamped or hand written.

Books marked with some private name have been handled in the same manner. The names are listed, the number of books marked, and recorded. The books are stored in numbered boxes. Thus it is possible to tell how many books belong to any one name and they can be immediately located. Books, the owners of which are Netherland or French are being packed for restitution. A list of these names with the corresponding number of books is inclosed (see Inclosure 4).

OAG OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

(2) Unidentifiable books.

The unidentifiable books have been sorted out according to languages. German language books sorted out in two groups: Jewish cultural subjects, and classical literature and scientific books. (See Sect. B - 4).

(a) Books in the Hebrew language	43.0 per cent
(b) German language books, Jewish cultural and historical subjects	16.0 per cent
(c) German language books, classical literature and scientific subjects	8.0 per cent
(d) French language	6.4 per cent
(e) Various other languages	1.0 per cent
(f) Brochures and Newspapers	25.6 per cent

8. Recommendations.

At present there are only 157,695 books undergoing the final stage of sorting. The known, to us, repositories in Western Bavaria - Schloss Banz, Staffelstein, and Waischenfeld - have been evacuated and the books brought to the Offenbach Archival Depot. It is recommended:

- a. A thorough survey be made of books still in the American Zone and intended for the Offenbach Archival Depot.
- b. A concerted effort be made to bring the books to the Depot and that a high priority should be given to this movement.

Plans for the future of the Offenbach Archival Depot can be made on the basis of the survey and the estimated rate of book shipment to the Depot. At the present state we can close the operation of the plant by the end of August - and have all books boxed, inventoried and stored away. If it is continued as an operational institution its staff will have to be drastically reduced, unless books are made available to the Depot during the month of July.

O.A.D. O.M.G. G.H., ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

B. Summary of Operations.

1. Material restituted and otherwise moved from the Archival Depot:

a. List of items shipped out as of 25 June 46.

(1) Library of Congress Mission.

31 May 46 - 5 cases, 915 books
 - 11 cases, Propaganda material.

(2) Great Britain Restitution. (4 June 46).

10 cases. Archival and library masonic material from Great Britain.
 6 cases. Documents from Great Britain.
 1 case. Newspapers from Great Britain.
 1 case. Emblems from Great Britain.

b. Books shipped from date of activation, 1 March to 25 June 46:

(1) Netherland.

9 March 46, 1st barge		
	(371 cases)	81,620 items
11 April 46, 2nd barge		
	(539 cases)	118,580 items

(2) France.

22 March 46 - 5 April 46		
nine freight cars		
	(1176 cases)	258,720 items
17 May 46,		
one freight car		
	(130 cases)	28,600 items

(3) Belgium.

11 April 46, (9cases)		1,980 items
-----------------------	--	-------------

(4) Great Britain.

4 June 46, (17 cases)		3,740 items
-----------------------	--	-------------

(5) Preussische Staatsbibliothek

23 April 46, twenty-three freight cars		700,000 items
--	--	---------------

(6) Library of Congress Mission.

21 March 46 to 31 May 46,		19,000 items
---------------------------	--	--------------

CAD -CMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

(7) American Joint Distribution Committee.

3 March 46 to 15 May 46, 19,990 items

Grand TOTAL shipped out
March - June 46, 1,228,490
items

2. Books and other archival material
crated and ready for immediate restitution.

a. Austria	14 cases books
Freie Press, Wien	760 volumes
b. Belgium	2 cases
c. Czecho-Slovakia	10 cases books
Prager Tageblatt	23 volumes
d. French	126 cases books
e. Greece	73 cases books
f. Holland	452 cases books
g. Italy	56 cases books
h. Poland	15 cases books
§ i. Russia	806 cases books
k. Yugo-Slavia	13 cases
Documents of the Minister of the interior, and Chetnick papers.	

§ Receipt ~~for~~ seven hundred
and sixty (760) cases was
signed by Russian Restitu-
tion Officer Lt. Col. N.P.
Novik, 10 June 46,
(see 5,b.).

Photographs crated and ready for restitution.

(1) Wide World Photos.	
The New York Times.	4 cases
(2) Keystone View Company.	1 case
(3) Associated Press.	half a case
(4) Interpress News	
Photos, Paris.	1 case

3. Books in the last stage of sorting and
classification 157,695
items

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

4. Books and other archival material awaiting policy for restitution.

a. Unidentifiable books.

(1) Hebrew language,	114,800
(2) French language,	17,500
(3) English language,	4,500
(4) German language,	
(a) Jewish religious and historical subjects	42,000
(b) General, classical Literature, and scientific books	22,600
(5) Various other languages	3,000
(6) Brochures and Newspapers	63,000
	<hr/>
TOTAL	267,400

b. Private owners, outside those of Netherland and France.

(a) Identifiable by Ex-Libris, (see Inclosure 3).	1,405
(b) Identifiable by name, (see Inclosure 4).	2,181
	<hr/>
	3,586

c. Jewish Libraries, within Germany. (practically all in the Hebrew language) 11,660

d. Identifiable Jewish libraries of various Eastern countries (practically all in Hebrew). 207,096

Total books and archival material still in the Depot awaiting policy of restitution.

(a + b + c + d) 489,742

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION 30 June 46 Monthly Report

5. Total of books still in Archival Depot.

(2 + 3 + 4)

(2) 345,523

(3) 157,695

(4) 489,742

992,960

6. Total books handled in the Depot.

(1 + 5)

(1) 1,228,490

(5) 992,960

2,221,450

7. Hundreds of cases of loose correspondence and folders of business records were gathered in a special room where they were sorted and classified. The bulk of this material was recognized as looted from occupied countries and was packed for restitution. Some of this correspondence, belong to individuals within Germany. A list of names whose correspondence is kept in the Depot is inclosed (see Inclosure 5).

Isaac Bencowitz
 ISAAC BENCOWITZ
 Capt. SR
 Director OAD
 Economics Division

5 Incls.

Incl. 1 - List of Personnel as of 25 June 46.

Incl. 2 - List of Library Collections which have gone through the sorting process.

Incl. 3 - List of Ex-Libris and corresponding number of books marked by each classified and stored in the OAD.

Incl. 4 - List of names and corresponding number of books marked by each classified and stored in the OAD.

Incl. 5 - List of German Residents whose correspondence was found with other archival material in the Offenbach Archival Depot.