

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GREATER HESSE
ECONOMICS DIVISION

Monthly Report, August 1946

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OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GREATER HESSE
ECONOMICS DIVISION

Liaison & Security
Office, LK & SK Offen-
bach, (Germany),
APO 633, U.S. Army.
31 August 1946.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, August 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, Offen-
bach-am-Main, SK Offenbach, (one
building, 5 stories) Bunker Rathen-
austrasse, Offenbach-am-Main, (one
building).

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.
(Auth: Hq 2nd MG Bn (Sep) MFA&A
Section, Economics Division).

b. German.

- (1) Total, 121.
- (2) List of employees by branch and
sections, see Inclosure 1.

c. Liaison.

- (1) Major Jhr. Dr. Dirk Petrus Marius
Graswinckel, Head of the Netherlands
National Archives.
- (2) Captain H. Jaffe, Dutch Restitution
Officer.
- (3) Captain Johannes Georg Schönau, Dutch
Restitution Officer.
- (4) Lt. Colonel Jean Prinnet, Bibliotheque
Nationale, Paris.
- (5) Colonel Bonet Maury, French Restitution
Officer.
- (6) Captain Hubert de Brye, GFCC, French
Reparation Officer.
- (7) Lt. Colonel Moise Liber, French Resti-
tution Officer.

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- (8) Major L.G. Perry, B A O R, British Restitution Officer.
- (9) Lt. Colonel N.P. Novik, Soviet Mission of Restitution.
- (10) Lt. Colonel A.J. Slavin, Soviet Mission of Restitution.
- (11) Major V.M. Jvanoff, Soviet Restitution Officer.
- (12) Major Nikolaew Hucoraebbu, Soviet Restitution Officer.
- (13) Lt. N.S. Selutin, Soviet Restitution Officer.
- (14) 1st Lt. Raymond LeMaire, Belgian Restitution Officer.
- (15) Captain Constantin P. Diplary, Greek Army Restitution Officer.
- (16) Professor Koppel S. Pinson, Official Representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee to this Depot.
- (17) Mr. David H. Clift, Official Representative of the Library of Congress Mission to this Depot.
- (18) Mr. Reuben Peiss, Chief of Library of Congress Mission, Hq. US Forces, European Theater, APO 757 U.S. Army.

3. Building.

- a. Security. No change.
- b. State of Repair.
 1. No important change.
Current miscellaneous repairs.
- c. Maintenance. No change.
- d. Heating Supplies. No change.
- e. Mess. No change.

4. Receipt of Documents.

- a. 24 July 46.
From MFA&A Section Wiesbaden, Jewish religious articles.
- b. 31 July 46.
From Landesbibliothek Darmstadt, 20 Torah Scrolls of the Israelitische Community Darmstadt. (Auth: VOCO, Mr. J.I.Boell, MFA&A Section OMG for Greater Hesse).
- c. 8 August 46.
Returned by the AJDC from books loaned by the Depot 376 items.
- d. 14 August 46.
From LCM, 154 miscellaneous Russian books, formerly of the Antikomintern Library.
- e. 16 August 46.
A part of the Jewish Collection from Nürnberg, formerly of the Stürmer Verlag.

5. Important Visitors and Events.

a. Visitors.

- (1) Professor Gershom Scholen, American Joint Distribution Committee. August 46.
- (2) Lt. James A. Sawicki, O1309019-OQMG, Wash. D.C. 23 and 25 July 46.
- (3) Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MFA&A Officer, OMG GH, Wiesbaden. 24 July 46.
- (4) Lt. Colonel A.J. Slavin, Soviet Restitution Officer. 25 and 31 July, 3, 7, and 15 Aug 46.
- (5) Major V.M. Ivanoff, Soviet Restitution Officer. 25 and 31 July, 3, 7, and 15 Aug 46.
- (6) Major Nikolaew Hucoraebbu, Soviet Restitution Officer. 31 July, 3, 7, and 15 Aug 46.
- (7) Lt. Colonel John C. Rose, OMG Gh, Offenbach. 2 Aug 46.
- (8) 1st Lt. and Mrs. Lesslie J. Poste, O-2025871 Hq OMG W/B, APO 154, US Army. 8 Aug 46.
- (9) Major Lester K. Born, OMG for Germany (US) Ec. Div. Rest. Branch, APO 742, MFA&A Section. 8 Aug 46.
- (10) Captain (Chaplain) Abraham Spiro, Hq 1st Div. APO 1, Regensburg. 14 Aug 46.
- (11) 1st Lt. (Chaplain) Iwring Ganz, HQ USFET. 14 Aug 46.
- (12) Captain Constantin P. Diplary, Greek Army, Restitution Officer. 15 Aug 46.
- (13) Major Jhr. D.P. M. Graswinckel, Head of the Netherlands National Archives. 17 Aug 46.
- (14) Major L.B. LaFarge, Chief, MFA&A, OMGUS. 17 Aug 46.
- (15) Mr. R.F. Howard, MFA&A, OMGUS. 17 Aug 46.

b. Events.

- 24 July 46 - Conference between Captain I. Bencowitz and Lt. T.A. Heinrich MFA&A Officer, OMG GH, Wiesbaden. Subject: ERR Collection in the OAD.
- 25 July 46 - Lt. Col. A.J. Slavin and Major V.M. Ivanoff, Soviet Mission of Restitution, inspected the Russian collection of books and discussed arrangements for transportation to Russia.
- 26 July 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz left for Berlin for conference with the MFA&A Section, OMGUS. Subject: Change of the Directive of 1 May 46, Establishing OAD as a Zonal Depot.
- 31 July 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz returned from Berlin. It has been suggested during the conference that the original Directive of 1 May 46 be modified to include a l l books subject to restitution and all books looted from Internal Jewish Institutions regardless whether they need

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- sorting or not. The advisability of inspecting known repositories was discussed. A search for uncovered collections to be made by Capt. I. Bencowitz together with a representative of the Lander MFA&A Sections was proposed.
- Corporal Rouben Sami went to Darmstadt to consult with the Librarian of the Landesbibliothek regarding possible collections of looted books in his area.
- 1 Aug 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Prof. K.S. Pinson, AJDC. Subject: Proposed extension of the loan of books for DP camps.
- 7 Aug 46 - Eight freight cars were loaded with Russian books (1055 cases). Majors V.M. Ivanoff and Nikolaew Hucoraebbu, Soviet Restitution Officers, inspected the freight cars. The collections left the yard early 8 Aug 46.
- 8 Aug 46 - Conference between Major L.K. Born, MFA&A, OMGUS. Subject: Modification of the original Directive of 1 May 46, Establishing OAD as a Zonal Institution and other questions relating to the future operation of the Depot.
- 11 Aug 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Prof. K.S. Pinson, AJDC. Subject: A collection of Jewish books (about 10,000 volumes), found in the Stürmer Verlag was turned over to Dr. Bock, Director of the City Library of Nürnberg by 1st Lt. Frank P. Albright, MFA&A Officer, with the qualification that the books have been given to the Library "as a possession and not as a trust, and the Library is therefore free to do with them what it pleases". Dr. Bock turned the books over to Mr. Bernhard Kolb, leader of the remaining Jewish Community in Nürnberg. (Geschäftsführer der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde, Nürnberg). Since the Jewish Community is about to emigrate from Germany, and is considering themselves the rightful custodian of this collection, they turned it over to Prof. K.S. Pinson as the Educational Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee with the original qualification "to do with them as he found best".

O.A.D. O.M.G. G.H., ECONOMICS DIVISION 31 Aug 46 Monthly Report

Prof. K.S. Pinson asked Capt. I. Bencowitz to bring the books to the O.A.D. to be eventually disposed of with the other Jewish Collections. He pointed out that the matter was urgent because a number of well meaning but poorly informed people are trying to distribute these books. He was afraid that the fate of a valuable collection in Munich which has been distributed among DP's and now lost will befall the Nürnberg Collection.

- 12 Aug 46 - Prof. K.S. Pinson left for the States. His able and tireless help to the Depot will be very much missed. He and Captain (Chaplain) I. Rackovsky, redeployed 31 May 46, have been the stand by of the Depot in so far as advice on Jewish matters was concerned. More than advice, frequently they rolled up their sleeves and went to work sorting and classifying Jewish books and manuscripts, working evenings and Sundays.
- 13 Aug 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz went to Wiesbaden. Object: Conference with Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MTA&A Section. Subject: Transportation. Result: Capt. I. Bencowitz's car was exchanged for a 3/4 ton truck.
- 14 Aug 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Capt. (Chaplain) A. Spiro, stationed in the Nürnberg area. Subject: Availability of the Nürnberg books for distribution among DP's. It was explained to the Chaplain that the suggestion was most impracticable, both because of the legality of the matter, because of the desirability to keep the collection intact as a unit for future study, and because of the fact that an extension of the AJDC loan for DP distribution is being considered in Berlin. The legality of the matter was questioned since the books were turned over by the Mil. Gov. of Nürnberg to the City Library which had the right to dispose of the books as it found fit.
- 14 Aug 46 - The employees of the Depot voted and elected a workers council consisting of five men and two women.

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- 16 Aug 46 - Half of the Nürnberg Collection was brought to the OAD. The other half was blocked by orders of Capt. E. Rae, MFA&A Officer, Munich.
- Major Jhr. D.P.M. Graswinckel returned from Holland and left the same day for the British Zone.
- 17 Aug 46 - Major L.B. LaFarge and Mr. R.F. Howard, MFA&A section, ORGUS, inspected the Depot.
- 22 Aug 46 - Conference between Capt. Hjorth-Nielsen, Danish Liaison Section, ACS. Subject: The desire of the Directors of the Royal Danish Library in Kopenhagen to augment their collection of 25,000 volumes of selected Jewish books with the unidentifiable books at present in the OAD with the intention of establishing a world wide center for Hebrew scholars.
- 26 Aug 46 - Corporal Rouben Sami received orders to leave for redeployment center 28 Aug. By far the most difficult and most odious job of operating the Depot has been the procurement of supplies. This function Corporal Sami fulfilled to perfection.

6. Transportation Available.

One jeep, one 3/4 ton and one 2 1/2 ton trucks.

7. Miscellaneous.

- a. All the books in the Depot with the exception of a small group are counted and boxed and are ready to be moved at short notice. However, some of these books will be sorted again and catalogued as time permits. This is not essential but thought desirable. Numerous inquiries reach the Depot claiming huge collections which presumably have been looted by the Nazis and which are thought to be in the OAD. It was found that none of these private claims have been substantiated and that in a few cases detailed lists of hundreds of books were found to be represented in the Depot by one or two volumes. By cataloguing comparatively few volumes of these controversial books we shall be able to advise intelligently and to assuage a good deal of bitterness and allay deep sitted suspicions of partiality. The entire collection of none Jewish religious books in the German language consists of less than 3000 volumes. Yet the aggregate claims against such books run into thousands. On the other hand finer sorting resulted in substantiating claims to 2000 volumes of French language books and about seven thousand dutch books.

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Similarly, several thousand volumes will be culled or culled out for the Russian, Polish, Czechoslovakian, and Austrian restitutable material. It must be emphasized that the group of books finally labeled as UNIDENTIFIABLE is reduced to Hebrew language books, purely Jewish interest books in other languages, and general interest books against which there is no reasonably substantiated claim. All these books will have been sorted not less than five times and finally the more controversial catalogued in great detail.

- b. The latest figures on UNIDENTIFIABLE books give the following relationship (see section B-4-a-(2) page 7). Total 266,969 items, Hebrew language 53.2%, Jewish religious and historical 18.5%, all others 28.3%. The other group, IDENTIFIABLE, classed as controversial consists of 174,378 volumes from Jewish libraries in Germany, Border cities, and Baltic States. The remaining group of 224,739 items is not subject to any controversial claims and can be restituted as soon as practicable.
- c. During the month of September, the Depot staff will be drastically reduced. However, a working staff will be maintained in anticipation of a continued trickling in of books from areas in the American Zone yet untapped. Though more than half of the employees will be dismissed, it is thought wiser to accomplish it gradually. Employees were told, however to look for other jobs.

8. Recommendations.

- a. At the risk of becoming tedious the oft repeated recommendation is reiterated - the need of prompt action in bringing the available books to the Depot. This includes books in known repositories and books which at an earlier period have been unwisely turned over to civilians, German, Jews, and DPs, as illustrated by the collection formerly of the Stürmer Verlag in Nürnberg, and a rumored collection of valuable books distributed among DPs in Munich. The urgency is dictated by many reasons. The chief among which is the over-all policy of Military Government to reduce the strain on the German economy as rapidly as possible which makes the operations of a Military Government enterprise such as the Depot increasingly difficult. Furthermore it is rather embarrassing to be constantly informed by Liaison Officers and interested civilians of existing and rumored repositories of which we know nothing. Examples of these is the recent request of the Russian Liaison Officers to bring books from several Bavarian repositories and the request of the Holland Restitution Officer to investigate rumors of a repository of books in Oberkrachber near Ulm.

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- b. There are in the Depot at present five hundred and seventy-two torah scrolls which are rapidly deteriorating. Most of these are of no value what so ever and can be disposed only by ritualistic burial. The others must be restored by expert treatment and religious re-sanctification. A few, very few, may be of value as historical, museum specimens. Because of the deep religious feeling attached to these scrolls made deeper and more tragic because of the association of this collection with the Jewish tragedy in Europe it should not be treated merely as property. It is recommended that excessive legality be dispensed with in favour of an early restoration of these toroth to competent authorities who can handle them with care and due reverence. It is suggested that they be shipped to the Jewish Theological College in New York with whatever stipulations deemed necessary to protect the interests of the U.S. Government.

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TOTAL books awaiting policy of restitution,
(a + b) 441,347
items

5. TOTAL books still in the Depot.

(2) 224,739 items
(3) 45,067 items
(4) 441,347 items

TOTAL 711,153 items

6. TOTAL books handled in the Depot since activation March 46.

(1,b) 1,616,027 items
(5) 711,153 items

TOTAL 2,327,180 items

Isaac Bencowitz
ISAAC BENCOWITZ
Capt. SR
Director OAD
Economics Division

- 4 Incl.
- Incl. 1 - List of Personnel as of 25 Aug 46.
- Incl. 2 - Complete list of Libraries and Book Collections restituted up to date.
- Incl. 3 - Libraries ready for immediate restoration to countries and existing institutions.
- Incl. 4 - Rough break down of German language unidentifiable books.

4. Books and other archival material awaiting restitution policy.

a. Unidentifiable books.

(1) Hebrew language	79,320 books
brochures, (286 cases)	
equivalent to	62,920 brochures
	<hr/>
	142,240 items

(2) Jewish religious and historical in various languages,

German	24,631 books
brochures (67 cases)	
equivalent to	14,740 brochures
French	6,905 books
English	3,094 books
Latin	248 books
	<hr/>
	49,618 items

TOTAL	191,858
	items

(3) General Subjects

German language (see Incl. 4)	45,280 items
French	16,487 items
English	5,180 items
Polish	3,291 items
various other languages	4,873 items
	<hr/>
	75,111 items

TOTAL, unidentifiable	266,969
	<hr/>
	items

b. Identifiable books.

(1) By Ex-Libris and Names	11,416 items
--------------------------------------	--------------

(2) Jewish Libraries within:

Austria	4,228 items
Czecho-Slovakia	4,163 items
Germany	60,868 items
Poland	4,350 items
Baltic States	86,541 items
Loge B'nai B'rith of various countries	2,812 items
	<hr/>
	174,378 items

TOTAL

TOTAL books awaiting policy of restitution,

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(6) Library of Congress Mission,		
21 March to 25 August 46,	19,000 items	
Boxes and cartons of brochures, 129 cases		
(7) American Joint Distribution Committee,		
3 March to 25 August 46,	19,447 items	
(8) U S S R, (including Ukrainia, and White Russia),		
(1055 cases)		
Grand TOTAL shipped out March-August 46, (estimated figures with exception of (7) in which case the books were counted).	1,616,027 items	

2. Books and other archival material ready for immediate restitution. (Jewish collections in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany, and Poland are not included.)

	items	cases
a. Austria (see Incl. 3)	26 888	(89)
b. Belgium		11
c. Czecho-Slovakia (s. Incl. 3)	4 068	(32)
d. French		32
e. Germany (for American Zone & interzonal Exchange)	4 198	(2)
f. Great Britain	209	74
g. Greece		(15)
h. Holland	6 220	(1)
i. Hungary	62	635
k. Italy		
l. Poland (see Incl. 3)	10 806	14
m. Russia		(6)
n. Switzerland	248	14
o. Yugo-Slavia, documents		2
p. U. S. A.		

TOTAL, estimated on basis of 220 items per case 224,739

items

3. Books to be sorted, 45,076 items

B. Summary of Operations.

1. Material restituted and otherwise moved from the Archival Depot:
 (The estimate is based on the assumption that the average case contains 220 books. The estimate is too high, to a probable extent of 10 per cent, but the assumed average figure is retained in order to maintain the continuity with older reports).

a. List of items shipped out during month of August.

(1) Netherland, truck load

13 Aug 46 - (22 cases)
 estimated 4840 items

(2) USSR

8 Aug 46 - eight
 freight cars
 (1055 cases)
 estimated 232,100 items

(3) American Joint Dis-
 tribution Committee,

8 Aug 46 - 611 items

TOTAL shipped in August 237,551
 items

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

(1) Netherland,
 (1452 cases) 319,440 items

(2) France,
 (1454 cases) 319,880 items

(3) Belgium,
 (11 cases) 2,420 items

(4) Great Britain
 (17 cases) 3,740 items

(5) Preussische Staats-
 bibliothek,
 twenty-three freight-
 cars 700,000 items

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Inclosure 1: List of Personnel.

25 August 46.

- A. Director: Captain Isaac Bencowitz
Secretary: Gudrun A. Hirschfeld
- B. Deputy Director: Corporal Rouben Sami
1. Assistant to the Deputy Director: Emil Schorb
2. Secretary: Käthe Depmer
3. Assistant: Cäcilie Koch
- C. Administrative Branch: Friedrich Kroll, Chief
Friedrich Walther, Assistant to Chief

SECTIONS:

1. Personnel: Rudolf Koch, Foreman
Lieblang, Friedrich
2. Security: Hermann Schäfer, Foreman
Arnold, Karl Kullmann, Friedrich
Blömecke, Kurt Tannreuther, Sofia
Eckart, Franz Vogel, Wilhelm
Eysen, Helmut Grasmück, Wilhelm
3. Supply: Friedrich Göllner, Foreman
Wehrich, Franz
4. Photographic Room: Otto Nischwitz, Foreman
Winter, Maria
5. Transportation: Emil Schorb
Blösser, Wilhelm Reich, Heinrich
Drescher, Kurt Späth, Albert
Kirchner, Paul
6. Maintenance: Karl Reinhard, Foreman
Arnold Frieda Grams, Elisabeth Schneider, Maria
Burhofer, Franz Guthermuth, Ottilie Stroh, Andreas
Franz, Sofie Müller, Charlotte Brumm, Philomina
- D. Operational Branch: Ludwig Weiss, Chief

SECTIONS:

1. Storage and Warehousing: Gerhard Wolff, Foreman
Christian Kitzinger, Sub-Foreman
Balser, Valentin Kipp, Heinrich Perl, Franz
Fischer, Georg Kraft, Ludwig Raithel, Johann
Fischer, Leopold Mack, Georg Schulzki, Bernhard
Gathof, Hermann Neppach, Max Spahn, Georg
2. Boxing and Crating: Johannes Heimroch, Foreman
Brehm, Georg Kitzmann, Theod. Stock, Heinrich
Dietrich, Franz Ragati, Josef Volk, Josef
Groh, Karl Schwab, Adam Unseld, Eduard
Keil, Hans

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 Inclosure 1:

3. Shipping: Jean Leitzbach, Foreman
 August Wilzbacher, Sub-Foreman
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Krämer, Paul | Rosenberger, Leopold |
| Kromm, Ludwig | Sommer, Ludwig |
| Mühlhause, Albert | |
4. Sorting: Walter Schreff, Foreman
 Walter Gleissner, Sub-Foreman
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Bauer, Wilhelm | Keller, Amandus |
| Brand, Wilhelm | Kühnl, Josef |
| Depireux, Gerhard | Martens, Else |
| Eidmann, Heinrich | Metternich, Else |
| Engelhardt, Nikolaus | Peemöller, Wolfgang |
| Eppelstein, Antonie | Pulwey, Hans |
| Foesser, Ilse | Roos, Karl |
| Fuchs, August | Roth, Eugen |
| Göbel, Heinrich | Schüler, Jakob |
| Goldammer, Albert | Schwab, Heinrich |
| Grunau, Richard | Seidler, Otto |
| Grein, Johannes | Sohnrey, August |
| Handstein, Friedrich | Steigerwald, Karl |
| Herber, Rudolf | Stock, Ludwig |
| Hock, Wilhelm | Straub, Hermann |
| Horbatiuk, Philipp | Thomas, Edith |
| Hübner, Adolf | Wendler, Fritz |
| | Wirbelauer, Theodor |
5. Care and Preservation: Peter Leinekugel, Foreman
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Deuschel, Adam | Knoll, Ferdinand |
| Göbel, Philipp | Kraus, Johann |
| Kömpf, Elisabeth | |
6. Civilian Mess:
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Becker, Emma | Lamprecht, Luise |
| Eckert, Liobe | Scharf, Maria |
| Fritz, Katharina | Schönfuss, Friedrich |
| Gassenmayer, Konrad | Schweikart, Hilde |
| Kraus, Emma | |