

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT  
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
GREATER HESSE  
ECONOMICS DIVISION

Monthly Report, September 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.  
 30 September 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. Naphtol-Chemie Offenbach.  
 169 Mainstrasse, Offenbach a.Main,  
 SK Offenbach, (one building,  
 5 stories) Bunker, Rathenaustrasse,  
 Offenbach a.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).

b. German.

(1) Total, 88.

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

c. Liaison.

No change, see August Report, page 1.

3. Building.

a. Security. No change.

b. State of Repair.

1. No important change.  
 Current miscellaneous repairs.

c. Maintenance. No change.

d. Heating Supplies.

Arrangements have been completed with the  
 Naphtol-Chemie Offenbach, to supply heat  
 to one floor of the Depot during the winter  
 months.

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e. Mess. No change.

4. Receipt of Documents.

a. 27 Aug 46.

From Landesbibliothek Fulda, 207 items formerly Jewish owners. (Auth: VOCO, MFA&A Section OMG for Greater Hesse).

b. 12 Sep 46.

From the Library of Congress Mission in Fechenheim, fifty-six (56) cases of books.

c. From Schloss Pommersfelden, L. Bavaria five hundred and twenty-five cases, of the formerly Prussian Historical Institute Library of Rome. (Auth: Ltr. Office of Military Government for Bavaria, MFA&A Section. Subject: Movement of Cultural objects, dtd. 3 Sep 46.)

5. Important Visitors and Events.

a. Visitors.

- (1) Major H.R. Bechtel, Mil.Gov. Bremen.  
24 Aug 46.
- (2) Mr. J. de Vyner, CIC Offenbach.  
28 Aug 46.
- (3) Major Jhr. D.P.M. Graswinckel, Head of the Netherlands National Archives.  
29, 30, and 31 Aug 46.
- (4) Mr. William Freese, New York Times.  
6 Sep 46.
- (5) Mr. Augustus Beck, New York Times.  
6 Sep 46.
- (6) Major V.M. Ivanoff, Soviet Restitution Officer. 9 Sep 46.
- (7) Captain Mary G. Regan, OMGUS, Berlin.  
10 Sep 46.
- (8) Rabbi A. Rosenberg, AJDC, Munich.  
11, and 19 Sep 46.
- (9) Chaplain (1st Lt.) Joseph Miller, Chaplain's Section Hq Command, USFET.  
12 Sep 46.
- (10) Mr. L. Jacobs, Chaplain's Section.  
12 Sep 46.
- (11) Major Peter S. Tanous, QMC-024067-OQMG, Wash. D.C. 16 and 20 Sep 46.
- (12) Major W. Lycett, OQMG, War Dept.  
16 Sep 46.
- (13) Major G.S. Nash, OQMG, War Dept.  
16 and 20 Sep 46.
- (14) Lt. Leslie J. Poste, US Information Center, Frankfurt ICD. 17 Sep 46.
- (15) Mr. Jordan Cole, Chaplain's Section Hq Command. 19 and 20 Sep 46.
- (16) Miss Kay Miller, Chaplain's Section Hq Command. 19 Sep 46.
- (17) Mr. David Shecter, Bad-Nauheim, Hq CBS. 19 and 20 Sep 46.

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- (18) Major E. Wolf, Head of Polish Mission for Restitution to Poland. 20 Sep 46.
- (19) Miss Gorduna Breje, Yugo-Slave Restitution Mission. 20 Sep 46.
- (20) Mr. Reuben Peiss, Chief of Library of Congress. 20 Sep 46.
- (21) Mr. Josef Groesbeck, Library of Congress. 20 Sep 46.

## b. Events.

- 29 Aug 46 - Conference between Captain I. Bencowitz and Major Jhr. D.P.M. Graswinckel regarding books in Oberkirchberg near Ulm.
  - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and the manager of the Naphtol-Chemie Offenbach. Regarding supply of heat for the Depot.
- 5 Sep 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MFA&A Officer, Mil. Gov. Wiesbaden. Subject: Transportation and personnel for the Depot.
- 6 Sep 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Chaplain (1st Lt.) Joseph Miller from the Chaplain's Section Hq Command, USFET. Subj.: Loan of Torah to Jewish Communities for the Holiday season.
  - Mr. W. Freese and Mr. W. Beck from the New York Times inspected the Plant and the Collection of Wide World Photos in the Depot.
- 9 Sep 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Major V.M. Ivanoff, Soviet Restitution Officer. Subject: Moving the Russian books from Bavaria to the OAD.
- 11 Sep 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Lt. T.A. Heinrich, regarding the request of Torah from the OAD for Jewish Communities.
- 13 Sep 46 - Arrangements made to move the Prussian Historical Institute Library of Rome from Schloss Pommersfelden, LK Bavaria to the OAD. Five freight cars required.
- 14 Sep 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz left for Holland on a six day TDY.

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- 19 Sep 46 - Fifty-one Torah and sixteen shofers (Rams Horns) were loaned to Rabbi A. Rosenberg of the AJDC. These are to be used during the Jewish holidays by Communities in the American Zone and returned to the O&D at the end of the holiday season.
- 23 Sep 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz left for Schloss Pommersfelden to inspect loading and supervise transfer of the Prussian Historical Institute Library of Rome to Offenbach.
- 24 Sep 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz returned from Schloss Pommersfelden. The loaded five freight cars there, will be moved to Bamberg, where 1st Lt. Andre C Champagne of Co D, Det. 397 M.P.S.V. Bn. will provide guards for the shipment to Offenbach.
- Major J. Podhajsky, from the Czecho-Slovak Mission for Restitution inspected the books ready for restitution to his country. The books will be removed from the O&D as soon as he can obtain transportation.

6. Transportation Available. No change.

7. Miscellaneous.

- a. The Directive, OMGUS, subject: Removal to Central Archival Depot of Archives, Books other Library Material and Jewish Religious Objects, dtd. 10 September 46 (see Incl. 9) will facilitate the operation of the Depot and will bring its work to an early conclusion. It is of interest to note that the Polish Restitution Officer, as before him the Russian and earlier the Holland Officers are anxious to have their books brought to the OAD.
- b. Of the German language, general interest books, 7,482 volumes, have been catalogued during September. This work will continue.
- c. The reorganisation of the staff on a permanent basis will be affected during the month of October. Meanwhile the staff is being reduced by voluntary resignations of those who succeed to find other employment. Key personnel are retained.

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### 8. Recommendations.

- a. It is essential to find a successor for the Director of the OAD. The present Director is due for redeployment by the end of November or sooner. In considering the qualification of a successor it may be helpful to bear in mind the following considerations. Since the scope of the Depot is limited to the recognition of obvious library markings and not indirect deductions by archival experts and since furthermore the system of recognition by photographic stamps has been proven to be successful and satisfactory to all concerned it is not necessary that the Director be an experienced Librarian, Archivist or Linguist. On the other hand, he must be a good administrator capable of handling German personnel and tactful in his dealings with restitution Officers so as to resist enormous pressures of conflicting interests without creating antagonisms and raising suspicions of partiality. But these two important factors have also been reduced to the minimum. In the future the chief problems which will confront the Director of the OAD are, in the order of importance, as follows:
- (1) Security. German personnel is definitely unreliable. The Director must by personal vigilance and alertness make up for the failings of the German personnel upon whom he must depend for security.
  - (2) To gather the remaining books in the American Zone in compliance with the Directive of 10 September 46, he must be energetic, resourceful and capable of initiative, otherwise the books will never be gathered.
- b. In the Depot there are 5,077 books belonging to existing German Institutions and 11, 238 items of German Masonic lodges. Perhaps it is feasible to turn these over to appropriate German authorities for suitable action.

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B. Summary of Operations.

1. Material Restituted and otherwise Moved from the Archival Depot:

a. List of Items Shipped during Month of September.

(1) Netherland,

1 Sep 46 - 3 cases Religious Objects

(2) Library of Congress Mission,

3 Sep 46 -

13 cases 1329 items  
1 case Archives  
13 cases Library Index Cards

27 Sep 46 -

7 cases Archives

(3) Poland,

20 Sep 46 -

1 case containing 25 Official Seals

b. Books Shipped from Date of Activation:

No material change during September, for complete details, see August Report, page 9.

2. Books and other Archival Material Ready for Immediate Restitution. (Jewish collections in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany, Esthonia, Latvia, and Poland are not included. For List of such Jewish collections, see Incl. 2, and Incl. 3.)

	items <sup>x)</sup>	cases
a. Austria	27,233	91
b. Belgium	329	2
brochures	-	11
c. Czecho-Slovakia	4,667	32
d. French	3,656	26
brochures and archives	-	14
e. Germany (for American Zone & interzonal Exchange)	5,077	-
f. Great Britain	253	2
g. Greece	-	77
h. Holland	7,101	38
i. Hungary	157	2
k. Italy		
Collegio Rabbinico Italia	6,240	45
and brochures	-	8

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	items <sup>x)</sup>	cases
k. Italy		
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz	-	578
Peussian Historical Insti- tute Library of Rome	-	525
Miscellaneous	115	4
l. Poland, recognized libraries	11,101	139
Statistics, and books of general interest in the Po- lish language without spe- cific Library identifica- tion	2,797	11
m. USSR	3,114	24
brochures and archives	-	22
n. Switzerland	305	2
o. Yugo-Slavia, archives	-	15
p. U. S. A.	169	3
q. Spain & Portugal	75	-
r. Esthonia	170	-
s. Latwia	3,965	-

□ Receipt for thirty-three (33) cases was signed by Dutch Restitution Officer, Major Jhr. D.P.M. Graswinckel, 30 Aug 46.

x) Books actually counted, not estimated, . . . . .	76,524 items
estimated on bases of 220 items per case . . . . .	275,000 items
TOTAL, . . . . .	<u>351,524 items</u>

3. Books and other Archival Material Awaiting Restitution Policy.

a. Unidentifiable Books.

(1) Hebrew language . . . . .	86,451 items
282 cases brochures, equivalent to . . . . .	62,040 items
	<u>148,491 items</u>

(2) Jewish religious & historical in various languages,

English . . . . .	3,094 items
French . . . . .	6,905 items
German	25,207 items
brochures, 54 cases, equivalent to, . . . . .	11,880 items
Latin . . . . .	309 items
Polish . . . . .	466 items
<del>Russian</del> . . . . .	2,860 items
	<u>50,721 items</u>

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TOTAL Unidentifiable Jewish, . . . 199,212 items

(3) General Subjects,

English . . . . .	5,180 items
French . . . . .	16,682 items
German language . . . . .	45,516 items
various other languages . . . . .	4,431 items
	<u>71,809 items</u>

TOTAL Unidentifiable . . . . . 271,021 items

b. Identifiable Books.

(1) Identifiable by Ex-Libris . . . . . 4,679 items  
 Identifiable by Names . . . . . 22,771 items  
 27,450 items

(2) Jewish Libraries within: (for list see Incl. 2, and Incl. 3.)

Austria . . . . .	6,426 items
Czecho-Slovakia . . . . .	4,168 items
Esthonia . . . . .	91 items
Germany . . . . .	60,868 items
Latwia . . . . .	4,439 items
Poland . . . . .	4,350 items
Border Cities . . . . .	23,856 items
YIVO and associated Libraries ( 341 cases) . . . . .	<u>74,674 items</u>

TOTAL . . . . . 209,746 items

TOTAL Books Awaiting Policy of Restitution, ( a + b ) . . 480,767 items

4. TOTAL Books still in the Depot.

(2) 351,524 items

(3) 480,767 items

TOTAL 832,291 items

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5. TOTAL Books handled in the Depot since  
Activation March 46.

( 1, b )	1,617,356 items
( 4 )	832,291 items
<hr/>	
TOTAL	2,449,647 items

*Isaac Bencowitz*  
 ISAAC BENCOWITZ  
 Capt. SR  
 Director OAD  
 Economics Division

- 9 Incl.  
 Incl. 1 - List of Personnel as 25 Sep 46.  
 Incl. 2 - Complete List of IDENTIFIABLE Jewish Libraries  
 from Eastern Countries awaiting disposition  
 policy.  
 Incl. 3 - Complete List of Jewish Libraries within  
 Germany, INTERNAL LOOT.  
 Incl. 4 - List of old books in GREEK among the  
 UNIDENTIFIABLE collection.  
 Incl. 5 - List of old books in ITALIAN among the  
 UNIDENTIFIABLE collection.  
 Incl. 6 - List of old books in LATIN among the  
 UNIDENTIFIABLE collection.  
 Incl. 7 - List of old books in SPANISH among the  
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 Incl. 8 - Complete List of German Residents whose  
 Correspondence has been collected and is  
 stored in the Depot.  
 Incl. 9 - Revised Directive  
 Establishing the OAD as a ZONAL INSTITUTION.

Tel.: Frankfurt Switch  
 24532 or 34861/2  
 Ext. 59



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 Inclosure 1:

Hübner, Adolf  
 Keller, Amandus  
 Kitzmann, Theodor  
 Martens, Else  
 Peemöller, Wolfgang  
 Roth, Eugen

Schwab, Heinrich  
 Seidler, Otto  
 Sohnrey, August  
 Steigerwald, Karl  
 Stock, Ludwig  
 Thomas, Edith

2. Shipping:

Jean Leitzbach

Johannes Heimroth

Fischer, Leopold  
 Dietrich, Franz  
 Gathof, Hermann  
 Keil, Hans  
 Kipp, Heinrich  
 Kitzinger, Christian  
 Krämer, Paul  
 Kromm, Ludwig  
 Groh, Karl

Neppach, Max  
 Perl, Franz  
 Ragati, Josef  
 Rosenberger, Leopold  
 Schwab, Adam  
 Schulzki, Bernhard  
 Sommer, Ludwig  
 Wilzbacher, August

3. Care and Preservation:

Peter Leinekugel,  
 Foreman

Deuschel, Adam  
 Göbel, Philipp

Knoll, Ferdinand

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Inclosure 9:

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)  
Office of the Military Governor  
APO 742

AG 007 (ED)

10 September 1946

SUBJECT: Removal to Central Archival Depot of Archives, Books, Other Library Materials and Jewish Religious Objects.

TO : Directors, Office of Military Government for Bavaria  
Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse  
Office of Military Government for Wuerttemberg-Baden.

1. This letter supersedes letter of 1 May 1946, file AG 007 (ED), subject: Removal to Central Archival Depot of Archives, Books and Other Library Materials.

2. The Offenbach Archival Depot is staffed and equipped to handle all looted archives, books, and other library materials, and Jewish religious objects in preparation for their restitution or other disposition under appropriate directives.

3. The Offenbach Archival Depot is accordingly designated as the sole archival depot in the U.S. Zone to which all materials described in par 2 will be moved.

4. The Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot should promptly communicate with the Chief MFA&A Officer of the Office of Military Government for each Land, and make arrangements for the transfer to the Offenbach Archival Depot of all such materials on the following conditions:

a. Removals and inspections incident thereto will be accomplished only with the prior approval of the Chief MFA&A Officer of the Land concerned.

b. When removals are made, a transfer receipt will be executed by the Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot of Archives, Books, Other Library Materials and Jewish Religious Objects AG 007 (ED), OMGUS, 10 September 1946.

Depot, and distribution thereof made in a manner satisfactory to the Chief MFA&A Officer of the Land concerned.

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Inclosure 9:

c. The Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot will normally be responsible for transportation and for security during movement between repository and the Offenbach Archival Depot.

5. The archives, books, other library materials and Jewish religious objects will be restituted by the Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot in accordance with procedures set forth in Title 18, Military Government Regulations, or otherwise dealt with under the appropriate directive.

BY DIRECTION OF THE MILITARY GOVERNOR:

Telephone BERLIN 43194

G. H. GARDE  
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General