

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MISSION
Hq. US Forces, European Theater
APO 757 US Army

21 March 1946

Dear Mr. Clapp:

I would like to tell you of the latest rumors, suggestions and developments in connection with the vast amount of Jewish materials now stored in the Offenbach Archival Depot of MFAA. In a previous communication I told you that we have applied for clearance for approximately 8,000 books that constituted the working library of the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage. This clearance has now been obtained from General Clay's office and we expect to have these materials in our warehouse today.

Shortly after my first talk with Captain Pomrenze of the Depot, I had another talk with him and Professor Pinzin of Queens' College, Long Island. They asked my opinion on the chance of establishing a Jewish library mission to the theater that would be solely concerned with materials of the nature that are in the depot. They wondered especially if they might hope to have Mr. Evans' support to such a mission. They were also envisaging formation in the States of a Jewish commission which would handle the distribution of the books and other materials to American Jewish institutions.

I told them that I thought it undesirable that any additional library missions be established for work in the theater. I suggested instead that this proposed commission in the States, once it was established, present its aims to the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress might then decide that the commission's interest could be looked after through a subcommittee on the Cooperative Distribution Project Committee. If matters should ever progress to that state then I felt that the commission might make personnel, now in the theater, available for use by the Mission on the depot collection. This seemed to me a much better prospect than the establishment of any independent mission.

I now learn that such a commission has actually been established in the States and you are doubtless, already familiar with its program. It is Commission of European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and Professor Baron of Columbia is, I am told, the head of the Commission. Their intentions with respect to the distribution of materials to research institutions is world-wide and not limited to the States.

George Brown By 6

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

If it is true that such a commission has been formed and if its purposes are as I understand them to be, the problem of clearance for completely unidentifiable and unreturnable materials will be greatly facilitated. The problem of restoring Jewish materials is one that has headaches in it for whomever touches it. There is a good prospect I think, that those agencies that are concerned with clearance would welcome the opportunity to turn over unidentifiable materials to a commission charged with the responsibility of the problem and fair distribution of the materials.

If the interests of the commission are located with the Cooperative Distribution Project Committee, then it will become quite justifiable for the mission to proceed with clearance and shipment.

This proposal is very much in the air over here now and a number of persons have talked with me about it. At the moment I am in the position of being a very interested observer. I shall proceed with requests for clearance on such groups of materials that come to my attention and seem to fit in completely with our regular clearance procedures. I am urging all concerned that in my opinion the first step is for the commission and the Library of Congress to get together on the matter. If you think well of the idea, I would like to suggest that you have a talk with Professor Baron.

Let me acknowledge your letter of 4 March which was received today. Many thanks for your viewpoint on the want-lists.

The want-list from AML was received on 20 March and we are placing it in the hands of the detachments for their information. I am sure that Bill Wright is aware of the fact that many of the particular volumes requested are available through APC.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

David H. Clift
Deputy Chief
Library of Congress Mission