

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GREATER HESSE
ECONOMICS DIVISION

Monthly Report, October 1946.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE

MONTHLY REPORTS

FOR

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER.

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GREATER HESSE
ECONOMICS DIVISION

Liaison & Security
Office, LK & SK Offen-
bach, (Germany),
APO 633, US Army
31 October 1946.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, October 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-Main,
SK Offenbach, (one building,
4 stories, the third was turned over
to the Naphtol-Chemie to be used by
them for storage). The Bunker,
Rathenaustrasse, Offenbach-Main, is
retained so that when and if the OAD
ceases to operate the remnants may
be held there safely.

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, 65. List of employees by branch
and sections, see Incl. 1.

c. Liaison. Complete list of foreign Officers
contacted.

- (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 Prinet, Bibliotheque
National, Paris.
- (5) Colonel Bonet Maury, French Restitution
Officer.
- (6) Captain Hubert de Brye, GFCC, French
Reparation Officer.

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

3. Building.

a. Security. No change.

b. State of Repair. The Naphtol-Chemie Offenbach (formerly I.G. Farben Offenbach) needs space badly for its operation. Accordingly the 3rd floor was turned over to them to be used as storage space only. For security sake walls were constructed, staircases blocked so as to cut off this floor from the other four floors used by the Depot.

c. Maintenance. No change.

d. Heating Supplies. No change.

e. Mess. No change.

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4. Receipt of Documents.

- a. 27 Sep 46.
From Liaison & Security Office, SK-Frankfurt library and archival material.
Ref.: Ltr. OAD, OMG, LGH, Economics Division to OMG, LGH, APO 633, US Army, MFA&A Section. Subject: Receipt of Documents, dtd 30 Sep 46.
- b. 4 Oct 46.
From Dresdener Bank Frankfurt-Main library and archival material.
Ref.: Ltr. OAD, OMG, LGH, Economics Division to OMG, LGH, APO 633, US Army, MFA&A Section. Subject: Acknowledgement of Receipt of Documents, dtd 14 Oct 46.
- c. 5 Oct 46.
From Palottinerkloster Limburg/Lahn, two thousand three hundred and fourty-six items.
Ref.: Ltr. OAD, OMG, LGH, Economics Division to OMG, LGH, APO 633, US Army, MFA&A Section. Subject: Acknowledgement of Receipt of Books, dtd 14 Oct 46.

5. Important Visitors and Events.

a. Visitors.

- (1) Mr. Alfred Skovron, G-2 Ops Doc Contr Sect. 30 Sep 46.
- (2) Mr. Ark Strage, G-2 Ops Doc Contr Sect. 30 Sep 46.
- (3) Major B.L. Bassinor, In & Sec Office SK-Offenbach. 5 Oct 46.
- (4) Major O.W. Jones, In & Sec Office SK-Offenbach. 5 Oct 46.
- (5) Lt. Colonel J. Podhajsky, Czechoslovakian Mission of Restitution. 7 Oct 46.
- (6) Mr. Siviero, Chief of Italian Mission of Restitution. 12 Oct 46.
- (7) Mr. G. Castle-Franko, Italian Mission of Restitution. 12 Oct 46.
- (8) Dr. Josef Horowitz, Jewish Agency for Palestine. 25 Sep and 17 Oct 46.
- (9) Mr. Wolf Birger, Jewish Agency for Palestine. 17, 18, and 22 Oct 46.
- (10) Dr. Gerhard Obitz, Librarian of the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Rome. 17 and 18 Oct 46.
- (11) Lt. F.G.A. Kraemer (Research Librarian ETIS), ETIS, USFET, APO 147. 18 Oct 46.
- (12) T/S Violette B. Vinson, ETIS, USFET, APO 147. 18 Oct 46.
- (13) T/S Lewis Dembitz, HQ CBS Bad Nauheim. 19 Oct 46.
- (14) Lt. Paul Klein, Mission Francisco de Restitution. 22, 23 Oct 46.
- (15) Capt. G.W. Gilkey, Hq USFET Frankfurt, 24 Oct 46.

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b. Events.

- 30 Sep 46 - One box with ministerial archives was sent to: 68889th Berlin Documents Center. Attn: Ministerial Documents Branch, APO 742, US Army.
- Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Mr. Alfred Skovron and Mr. Ark Strage from G-2 Ops Doc Contr Sect. Subject: Archival material in the OAD.
- 1 Oct 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Mr. J. Zuckerman, Chief LCM Berlin and Mr. Reuben Peiss, Chief LCM Fechenheim. Subject: Tracing small collection of books scattered in the American Zone.
- 3 Oct 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Major Jhr. D.P.M. Graswinckel regarding books in Stuttgart and Frankfurt.
- Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and S-4 and Economics Division, OMG GF, Wiesbaden. Subject: Transportation and Supply.
- 7 Oct 46 - Lt. Colonel J. Podhajsky, Czechoslovakian Restitution Officer signed receipt for six thousand five hundred and twenty-two items in fifty-six cases.
- Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Dr. Schmolk, Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt-Main.
- 12 Oct 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Mr. Siviero and Mr. G. Castle-Franko, Italian Restitution Mission. Subject: Restitution of Italian Collections, primarily Collegio Rabbinico, Italia.
- 17 Oct 46 - Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Dr. J. Horowitz and Mr. Wolf Birger, Jewish Agency for Palestine. Subject: Policy for returning collections to Private owners.
- Conference between Capt. I. Bencowitz and Dr. Gerhard Opitz Librarian of the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Rome. Subject: Private manuscripts among the Deutsche Historische Library of Rome.
- 18 Oct 46 - Mr. W. Birger translated library stamps.

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- 19 Oct 46 - T/S Lewis Dembitz, Hq CBS translated Hebrew library stamps.
- 20 Oct 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz left for Bremen. Object: Jewish books in the Bremen Enclave.
- 22 Oct 46 - Mr. Paul Klein, Librarian of the Bibliothèque Nationale, sent by Lt. Colonel Jean Prinet, Conservateur-Adjoint à la Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, arrived at the OAD to help identify rare manuscripts.
- 23 Oct 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz returned from Bremen. Many books there are scattered among private people. The civilian in charge of Jewish property working in the Property Control Section promised an early report on the state of Jewish books in the Enclave.
- 24 Oct 46 - Capt. I. Bencowitz went to Bad-Nauheim in the hope to obtain Corporal Dembitz from Hq CBS Chaplain's Office on a short SD assignment to the OAD to act as custodian until a permanent Director is found. The Head Chaplain thinks he cannot spare the Corporal.
- Capt. G.W. Gilkey, Hq USFET, Frankfurt arrived in the Depot to work through the propaganda collections in the OAD.
- 25 Oct 46 - Conference with Major Eric Winn, G-2 Documents Control Group USFET.
- 26 Oct 46 - Major L.K. Born and Mr. J.A. Horne, MFA&A Section QMGUS arrived from Berlin to discuss immediate problems of the OAD arising from Capt. I. Bencowitz's departure at the end of the month. Mr. T.A. Heinrich, MFA&A, OMG GH joined the conference.
- Mr. Lion Morpurgo of the Netherland Restitution Mission arrived to identify articles looted from Amsterdam Synagogues.
- 27 Oct 46 - Conference with Major L.K. Born and Mr. Joseph A. Horne, Subject: Estimated minimum budget necessary for future operation of the OAD.

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6. Transportation: No change.

7. Miscellaneous:

a. Status of small collections of looted library material within the American Zone. It is comparatively simple to trace and to bring together large libraries and collections. On the other hand, small collections scattered here and there, cannot be brought to light without energetic concerted effort. It is difficult to judge of conditions which obtain in other Länder. But in Greater Hesse, due to the enterprising efforts of Mr. J.I. Boell, many small collections, from one box to several thousand volumes were picked up in the Landesbibliotheken of Wiesbaden, Giessen, Darmstadt, and others. Yet despite Mr. J.I. Boell's efforts much remained undone as shown by the fact that the OAD without field service and without the authority to contact civilians directly has been able to locate through indirect sources five small collections of books in Land Greater Hesse. In Land Württemberg-Baden a collection of books was located in Schloss Ober-Kirchberg near Ulm. A part of it, is still there, while another part belonging to "Ahnenerbe" Holland has been removed by some American Officer. These books are in the custody of the Property Control Section OMG Württemberg-Baden. Ltr. to OMG, Württemberg-Baden, subject: Request for Removal of Books, dtd 8 Oct 46, was forwarded. The Netherland Restitution Officer is anxious to trace the books belonging to "Ahnenerbe". The collection of books belonging to Mombert, a Mannheim poet, and held in custody by the Property Control Section, OMG Mannheim, is still at the Heidelberg University. In Bavaria the Depot indirectly located the collection of books formerly of the Stürmer Verlag, Nürnberg. Half of it is still held by the OMG Bavaria. A small collection of books was traced in Ebensfeld near Bamberg. Authority for the removal of these books was asked through telephone conversation with Mr. Clem, Mil. Gov. Munich, Land Bavaria, and Ltr. to OMG for Bavaria, subject: Request for Removal of Books, dtd 8 Oct 46. All this is mentioned in this report merely to point out the difficulty of tracing and bringing together small collections. In this connection it is of interest to note a timely article, which appeared in the Frankfurter-Rundschau (see Incl. 10) in which Mr. H.Chr. Schmolk on his own initiative, appeals to the German people to help undo the work of Rosenberg, and inform the nearest MG Office of locations of looted Archival Material.

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- b. It is of interest to note the attitude of the Polish and Czecho-Slovakian Restitution Officers towards the generalized aim afloat regarding Jewish books. When explained that none Jewish books are ready for restitution to the respective countries, while the Jewish collections are held pending policy making and diplomatic negotiations the objectives of which may result in the reestablishment from these remnants a comprehensive Jewish library, both Restitution Officers appeared sympathetic and cooperative. Though, of course, neither of them had the authority to make any official commitment any more than the Director of the OAD had to receive such commitments, if made.
- c. Operational Policies. Due to the constant flux of operational conditions affected by rapidly changing Military Government operational procedures further enhanced by the uncertainty of various numerous factors such as the policy of disposition of books and the potential volume of books likely to be made available for the OAD and the rate at which it will be coming forth it was thought more expedient to complete the work as quickly as possible keeping a large staff of employees rather than spread the work over a longer period with a smaller staff. Similarly, with supplies, we looked forward to increasing difficulties and were guided by the desire to make supply requirements in the future negligible. Accordingly, we have on hand enough boxes to take care of any reasonable future demand. The photographic work is completed and there are enough supplies on hand to take care of the likely future needs. The number of employees were gradually reduced as shown below and the process of reduction will be continued, 10 men, 1 Nov 46, and 15 more by 15 Nov. A gradual rather than a sudden reduction of personnel was thought desirable also for reasons of security. Number of civilian employees in the OAD by month: March 167; April 176; May 163; June 143; July 140; August 121; September 88; October 65. In June the Civilian Mess was taken over by the local M.G. Detachment. During this month the Depot organized its own motor pool and stopped using vehicles from the local civilian motor pool (Fahrbereitschaft).

8. Recommendations. None.

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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 October.

- (1) One box of documents of the Reichsinnenministerium to:
6889th Berlin Documents Center. Attn:
Ministerial Documents Branch, APO 742,
US Army. 30 Sep 46.
- (2) Netherland, 6 coins. 5 Oct 46.
- (3) Czecho-Slovakia, 6,522 books (56 cases)
7 Oct 46.

b. Books Shipped from Date of Activation,
1 March to 25 October 1946:

- (1) Netherland, (1452 cases) 319,440 items
3 cases Religious Objects
6 coins
- (2) France, (1454 cases) 319,880 items
- (3) Belgium, (11 cases) 2,420 items
- (4) Great Britain, (17 cases) 3,740 items
1 case Emblems
- (5) Preussische Staatsbibliothek, twenty-three freight
cars 700,000 items
- (6) U S S R, (1055 cases) 232,100 items
- (7) Czecho-Slovakia,
(56 cases) 6,522 items
- (8) Poland, 1 case - 25 Seals
- (9) Library of Congress
Mission, 19,955 items
Brochures, 151 cases

REDUCED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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(10) American Joint Distribution Committee, 19,447 items

Grand TOTAL shipped out March-October 46, (estimated figures with exception of 7, 9, and 10) in which case the books were counted), 1,623,504 items

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

	Books ^{x)}	Cases
a. Austria archives	31,532	122
b. Belgium brochures	546	6
c. French brochures and archives	3,701	26
d. Germany (for American Zone & interzonal Exchange) Free Maison	5,077 36,249	-
e. Great Britain	257	2
f. Greece archives	984	6
g. Holland archives	7,101	36
h. Hungary	210	3
i. Italy Collegio Rabbinico Italia brochures	6,240	45
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz	-	578
Deutsches Historische Library, Rome	-	523
Miscellaneous	145	3
k. Poland, recognized Libraries Statistics, and books of specific interest to Poland, in the Polish language, without specific Library identification	12,753	143
l. U S S R	2,797	11
m. Switzerland	4,509	59
n. Yugo-Slavia, archives	308 364	2 2
o. U. S. A.	3,847	15
p. Spain & Portugal	75	-
q. Estonia brochures	279	3
r. Latvia	3,965	2

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

x) Books actually counted,
not estimated, 120,939 items
estimated on bases of
220 items per case, 257,400 items

TOTAL, . 378,339 items

3. Books and other Archival Material Awaiting
Restitution Policy.

a. Unidentifiable Books,

(1) Hebrew language . . . 103,281 items
293 cases brochures,
equivalent to, 64,460 items
167,741 items

(2) Jewish religious &
historical in va-
rious languages,

English 3,094 items
French 6,935 items
German 25,443 items
brochures, 64 cases,
equivalent to, 14,080 items
Latin 327 items
Polish 466 items
50,345 items

TOTAL Unidentifiable Jewish . . . 218,086 items

(3) General Subjects,

English 5,180 items
French 17,634 items
German language . . . 45,516 items
other languages . . . 5,850 items
74,180 items

TOTAL Unidentifiable 292,266 items

b. Identifiable Books.

(1) Identifiable by
Ex-Libris 4,646 items
Identifiable by
Names 23,931 items
Unknown Library
Markings, counted . . 13,316 items

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Yivo and associated
Libraries (345 cases) 76,042 items

117,935 items

(2) Jewish Identifiable
Libraries within:

Austria	6,426 items
Czecho-Slovakia . . .	4,781 items
Estonia	99 items
Germany	60,868 items
Latvia	4,510 items
Poland	4,854 items
Lithuania	5,050 items
Wilna	3,470 items
	<hr/> 90,058 items

TOTAL Identifiable 207,993 items

TOTAL Books Awaiting Policy of
Restitution, a + b 500,259 items

4. TOTAL Books still in the Depot.

2.	378,339 items
3.	500,259 items
	<hr/> TOTAL 878,598 items

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

1,b	1,623,504 items
4.	878,598 items
	<hr/> TOTAL 2,502,102 items

Isaac Bencowitz
ISAAC BENCOWITZ
Capt. SR
Director OAD
Economics Division

10 Incls.

- Incl. 1 - List of Personnel
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- Incl. 3 - List of Private Collections (more than one item)
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Inclosure 1: List of Personnel

25 October 1946

A. Director: Isaac Bencowitz

Secretary: Gudrun A. Hirschfeld

B. Operational Branch: Ludwig Weiss

Assistant: Friedrich Walther

SECTIONS:

1. Sorting: Western Section: Reinhard Schreff

Eastern Section: Fritz Kroll

Bauer, Wilhelm	Horbatiuk, Philipp
Depireux, Gerhard	Hübner, Adolf
Deuschel, Adam	Keller, Amandus
Engelhardt, Nikolaus	Kitzmann, Theodor
Eppelein, Antoinie	Martens, Else
Foesser, Ilse	Peemöller, Wolfgang
Gleissner, Walther	Roth, Eugen
Göbel, Philipp	Sohnrey, August
Hock, Wilhelm	Thomas, Edith

2. Shipping: Johannes Heimroth

August Wilzbacher

Dietrich, Franz	Neppach, Max
Gathof, Hermann	Ragati, Josef
Groh, Karl	Rosenberger, Leopold
Keil, Hans	Schulzki, Bernhard
Leitzbach, Jean	Sommer, Ludwig

3. Care & Preservation: Peter Leinekugel

Knoll, Ferdinand

4. Photographic Room: Otto Nischwitz

Blösser, Wilhem Winter, Maria

5. Clerical Staff: Wilhelm Brand

Koch, Cäcilie Weihrich, Franz

6. Supply: Friedrich Göllner

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Inclosure 1:

7. Security:

Blömecke, Kurt	Schaab, Helmut
Frühauf, Rudolf	Scholten, Erich
Hey, Anton	Tannreuther, Sofian

8. Transportation: Emil Schorb

Drescher, Kurt	Reich, Heinrich
Kirchner, Paul	Späth, Albert

9. Maintenance: Andreas Stroh

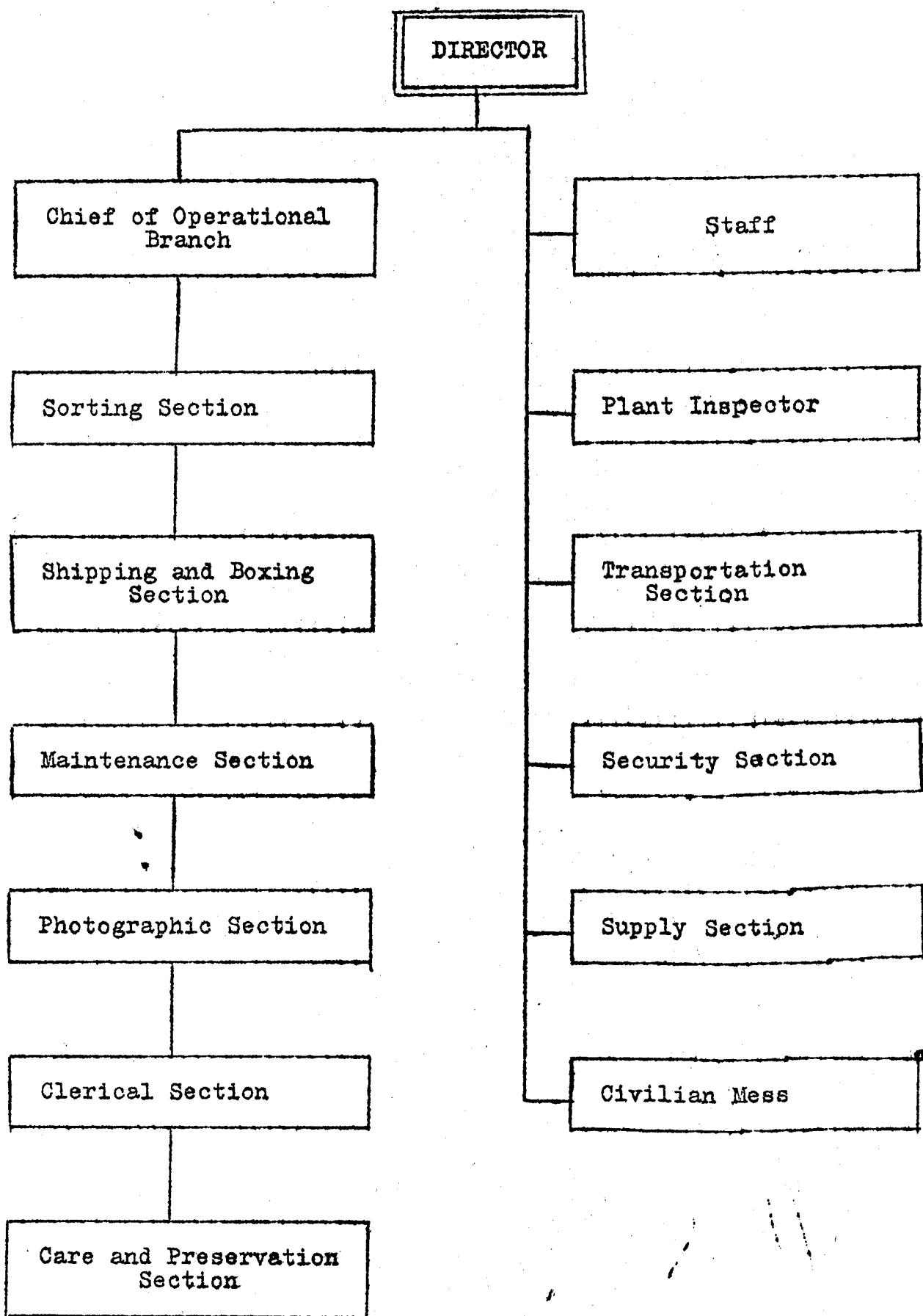
Arnold, Frieda	Grams, Elisabeth
Franz, Sofie	Müller, Charlotte

10. Civilian Mess:

Fritz, Katharina	Scharf, Maria
Gassemeyer, Konrad	Schönfuss, Friedrich
Krauss, Emma	

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Inclosure 2: Organizational Chart of OAD



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Inclosure : Article in FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, Frankfurt-Main,
12 October 1946.

K U L T U R und A N S T A N D

Eine Betrachtung zur Wiedergutmachung des Bibliothekenraubes.

By H.Chr.Schmolck.

Man muss noch einmal davon sprechen, dass es in Deutschland vor gar nicht langer Zeit noch ein "Amt Rosenberg" gab, das "Amt für weltanschauliche Erziehung in der NSDAP". Dieses Amt hatte viele Funktionen, wie alle nazistischen Ämter. Alle diese Funktionen konnte man so oder so verstehen. Das "Amt Rosenberg" z.B. wollte so verstanden sein, dass es als "Hort der arischen Kultur" und als "Retter des abendländischen Geistes" alle geistigen Fragen vom Weltanschaulichen her auf Grund des "Mythos des 20.Jahrhunderts" "erfasste" und in einem weitverzweigten, wohldurchdachten System den "Glauben an Deutschland" nicht nur den Deutschen, sondern allen Völkern der Erde "beizubringen habe", um Deutschland geistigen Machtanspruch ebenso zu "unterbauen" wie den politischen. Der politische wurde dann seinerseits wieder vom Geistigen her "unterbaut". Bis dann die ganze Methode des "Unterbauens" das "Lichtvolk" der Deutschen und damit das ganze deutsche Volk unter die Erde brachte, wo es durch diesen Krieg endete, aber mit ihm auch Millionen Menschen anderer Völker. Deutsche und Ausländer gingen also als "andersrassig", "fremdstämmig", "minderwertig" am lichtvollen arischen Prinzip zugrunde, am arischen Geist, weil der geistige Unterbau diesen arischen Geist zu jenem "harten politischen Zugriff" in den "Krankheitsherd" autorisierte.

Heute, da die Dinge bedeutend klarer liegen, steht jedenfalls fest, dass der Diebstahl, der Raub, ja der Leichenraub, ebenfalls zu jener grossen arischen Weltanschauung gehörten. Die Gesetze zur "politischen Bereinigung", zum "Schutz von Staat und Volk" usw. waren die politischen Gelegenheiten der Weltanschauungspäpste des Nazismus, Bibliotheken, Kunstwerke und wertvollstes Kulturgut jeder Art in die eigene Hände zu bringen. Die geistige Rechtfertigung gab das "Amt Rosenberg", die politische gab Goebbels, die juristische der Justizminister, bis dann schliesslich die Gestapo irgendwo erschien, den Besitzer solchen Gutes einfach verhaftete und das Gut "beschlagnahmte".

Wer heute einen Weg, den anständigen Weg aus diesem Elend, in das diese Machthaber des deutschen Volks gebracht haben, ernsthaft sucht, der kann ihn nicht allein in der Liquidation der Nazi-Organisationen und ihrer Wirksamkeit oder in der Liquidation des Lebens dieser Machthaber sehen. Er wird, eine ganz reale Gelegenheit suchen müssen. Es ist diesmal sicher nicht an uns Deutschen, nach diesen Geschehnissen die Welt erneut von unserem hohen Kulturwillen überzeugen zu wollen. Wenn wir Kultur haben, dann wird sie sich darin äussern, dass wir jede Möglichkeit der Wiedergutmachung unserer Schuld an der Menschheit wahrnehmen und verwirklichen. Dabei ist das Nächste immer das Einfachste und Richtigste.

Es entsprach einem konkreten Interesse, einmal aus nächster Nähe die Arbeit einer solchen Stelle der Besetzungsbehörden, dem ARCHIVAL DEPOT in Offenbach a.M. kennenzulernen, das sich damit befasst, das von den Nazis gestohlene Kulturgut wieder in die Hände der ehemaligen Eigentümer zurückzuführen. Es handelt sich dabei ausschliesslich um die gestohlenen Bibliotheken. Seit langer Zeit entdecken wir mit Erschütterung in den Tagesmeldungen immer wieder die hohen Zahlen der Bilder und Kunstgegenstände, die nun in die Sowjetunion, die Tschechoslowakei nach Italien, Holland oder Frankreich zurückgegeben werden können. Nicht weniger erschüttert waren wir davon, feststellen zu müssen, dass die amerikanische Militärregierung in Kellern, Tresoren, Klöstern und Privatbibliotheken bis jetzt 2 449 647 von den Nazis gestohlene und versteckte Bücher entdeckt hat. Davon hat sie in die Eigentumsländer bis jetzt 1 617 356 Bände zurückgeschickt. Die übrigen verbleiben hier, bis alle Eigentümer ermittelt worden sind. Nach den Methoden der Nazis, ihr gestohlenes Gut zu tarnen, dürfte dies doch noch keine endgültigen Zahlen darstellen. Wenn man erfährt, dass die Nazis, die aus rassischen Gründen Verfolgten nicht zuletzt ihrer "Geschäfts-methoden" halber zu verabscheuungswürdigen Geschöpfen stempelten, z.B. unschätzbare Bibliotheken zu fünen Reichspfennigen den Band im Ausland nach entsprechender vorausgehender Devisenverrechnung zusammenrammschten, weil sie es über Raub und Mord nicht erreichten, so sind auch diese noch verborgenen Bibliotheken genau so unredlich erworbenes Gut, das zurückgegeben werden muss. Man kann die zahlenmässige und juristische Ungeheuerlichkeit dieser Vorgänge leider beliebig fortsetzen. Sie gibt uns aber schon angesichts dieser Ermittlungen vor allen anderen Versuchen auf ideellem Wege eine Wiedergutmachung der deutschen Schuld zu ermöglichen, Gelegenheit, das R i c h t i g e zu tun. Jeder anständige Deutsche, dem an dieser Wiedergutmachung gelegen ist, jeder, der dem deutschen Volk das Vertrauen der Welt in unsere Redlichkeit und in unsere Kultur wiedergeben möchte, der mag bei diesen Realitäten beginnen. Die Wiedergeburt unseres Volkes liegt ausschliesslich in der Wiedergeburt des Menschlichen, also in uns selbst beschlossen.

G E S T O H L E N E B Ü C H E R

22 Oct 46

Jeder Deutsche, der am Wiederaufbau und an der Entstehung eines neuen Deutschland mitzuarbeiten gewillt ist, sollte damit beginnen, gestohlenes Gut zurückzugeben. Wo die Bücher, die während der Naziherrschaft anderen Völkern, Juden, Freimaurern und Antifaschisten weggenommen wurden, sich auch befinden mögen, als einzelne Exemplare oder als Bibliotheken, müssen sie wieder in die Hände ihrer rechtmässigen Besitzer zurückgelangen. Informationen oder direkte Rückgabe können jederzeit beim A R C H I V A L - D E P O T in Offenbach a.M. Mainstrasse 169, erfolgen.

S.