

Scatter of the Literature, January 2023–December 2024*

Konstanze H. Kunst

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ENGLISH

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* For abstracts of English and Hebrew titles, see the Zotero group, “JUDAICA Librarianship Bibliography” (https://www.zotero.org/groups/5155481/judaica_librarianship_bibliography). Annotations to citations are based on those provided by indexing and abstracting services; sometimes translated into English by the compiler.

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חלק ב. הספד שנישא בערב הזכרון -- לא בחיל ולא בכח כי אם ברוחי: מעלת המנורה ונצח-
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DUTCH

Bax, Marty. *Boekenroof voor Alfred Rosenberg, 1940–1945*. Amsterdam: Bax Bookstore, 2024.

This book maps out for the first time how, when and by whom the literary landscape in the Netherlands was razed to the ground. All kinds of branches of the civilian Nazi government preyed on the books. The focus is on the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, which initially limited itself to the theft of books and archives, but from March 1942 also gained control over the so-called ‘Möbel-Aktion’: the plunder of all household goods of deported Jews and other ‘subversive’ groups.

Wallet, Bart. *Joachimsthal: familie en firma 1823–1945*. Zwolle: WBOOKS, 2023.

Joachimsthal was one of Amsterdam’s best-known Jewish bookstores, publishers and printers, located in the heart of the Jewish quarter. In this book, the story of Joachimsthal is told for the first time, introducing the family behind the business and its innovative, often surprising production. What was Joachimsthal’s secret? How could this company, started in 1823 by German-Jewish immigrants, so quickly gain such a central place in the Jewish Netherlands, and how did it manage to occupy the foremost place in the Jewish public sphere by 1891? The book contains more than 20 in-depth essays describing Joachimsthal’s cultural-historical significance. These include a focus on piety and mysticism, prayer books and political pamphlets, Jewish Orangism and antifascism, design and art, Jewish communication networks and relationship to non-Jewish society, Zionism and anti-Zionism.

GERMAN

Bünger, Karin, and Ortwin Pelc, eds. *Jüdisches Leben in Erinnerung und Gegenwart: Archive, Bibliotheken, Museen, Gedenk- und Forschungsstätten im deutschsprachigen Raum*. Schriften der Kommission für die Geschichte der Juden in Hessen 33. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2023.

They were and are determined to preserve the cultural legacy of German-speaking Jewry, which was almost wiped out by the Holocaust. A multitude of institutions and initiatives in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland collect and research Jewish history and culture and impart knowledge about them. The institutions and initiatives include museums, libraries and archives, memorial sites, associations, commissions, university institutes, and private initiatives; there are projects to research Jewish cemeteries as well as genealogical societies. They are active locally, regionally and nationally and are supported by state funding or private engagement. This book is the first to offer an up-to-date survey of

these institutions and initiatives, some of which can look back on a long tradition, but, particularly in the last three decades, have grown in number and importance. In this clear reference work, the individual institutions describe their origins, development, and responsibilities. Detailed information on the archives and collections gives interested parties access to written, pictorial, and material records of Jewish history and culture in German-speaking countries.

Dudde, Daniel, and Ulrike Vogl. “NS-Raubgutforschung in der Universitätsbibliothek J. C. Senckenberg.” In *Kulturgüter, Provenienzen und Restitution: Objektgeschichten aus Frankfurter Museen, Sammlungen und Bibliotheken*, edited by Franziska Kiermmeier, Maike Brüggem, and Evelyn Brockhoff. Frankfurt am Main: Henrich Editionen, 2023.

Golinetz, Viktor, ed. “Beredete Objekte—Provenienzforschung zu NS-Raubgut = Eloquent Objects—Provenance Research on Nazi Looted Property.” In *Trumah: Zeitschrift der Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg*, 1–80. Heidelberg, Neckar: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2023.

The contributions collected here result from the workshop “Current projects and research on Nazi-looted property” that took place at the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies. The focus is on items such as books or ritual objects of Jewish origin, because they bear witness to both crimes and personal fates. The essays deal with Nazi forced labor in connection with expropriated Jewish libraries, with the demand to view Judaica in the light of provenance research and with the examination of specific collection holdings and -objects—from embedding them in their historical context to practicing their documentation and restitution. In this way, current provenance research bears witness to the social relevance of this young discipline.

- Farack, Bettina. “Die Träume der ‘Arbeitssklaven’: Zwangsarbeit für die ‘Judenbibliothek’ des Reichssicherheitshauptamts.” *Trumah* 26 (2023): 11–45.

Among the many German institutions that participated in carrying out the National Socialist plunder of books, the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA) took the leading role. In order to provide their department for Research on Ideological Opponents with source material, the Security Service of the SS, in collaboration with the Gestapo, seized Jewish private and public libraries all over Europe and transferred them to their Berlin headquarters. The result was the so-called “Judenbibliothek”, a library built exclusively of looted Jewish books. Starting in 1941, Jewish forced laborers were used to sort and catalog the stolen books. These groups of conscripted scholars became known as “Grumach-Gruppe” and “Talmudhundertschaft”. Drawing on private correspondence of two surviving forced laborers, Jenny Wilde (1874–1949) and Ernst Grumach (1902–1967), this article illuminates the victims’ perspectives: How did they perceive the task they were forced to do? What did they hope for? However, to gain an accurate understanding of the forced laborers’ experience, our picture of the “Judenbibliothek”, the context that frames this experience, has to be corrected first. Based on provenance marks of books

that were incorporated into the “Judenbibliothek” of the RSHA, this article offers a more detailed picture of the “Judenbibliothek” than previous studies. It discusses classification scheme, processing practice, retrieval and usage of the books, and challenges the widely held notion, that the librarians of the Security Service never succeeded in transforming the heap of hastily accumulated books into a working library of immense proportions.

- Finsterwalder, Sebastian. “Es ist uns bekannt: Statusbericht zum ‘Zugang J’ der Berliner Stadtbibliothek.” *Trumah* 26 (2023): 41–45.

This article aims to provide an update on the status of the restitution efforts and provenance research on the Nazi-looted books acquired by the Berlin City Library in 1943. It includes a brief history of the involved libraries and librarians and summarizes the known sources that are available to date regarding the acquisition. The text at hand also sheds light on how and when the issue of provenance gained importance in the Berlin Central and Regional Library and what steps were taken to develop the co-operative approach to provenance research that is the Looted Cultural Assets database.

- Reuther, Silke. “Silberbestände aus ungeklärter Herkunft im Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg.” *Trumah* 26 (2023): 47–60.

The Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg (MK&G) holds 3.100 silver objects that were confiscated during the Nazi era. A total of 20 tons of silver were seized in Hamburg. Of this, the city acquired two tons of “silver with antiquities status” for its museums. During the World War II, it was stored in the Finance Authority. As of 1945, about half of it could be returned to the rightful owners or their descendants. Hamburg bought the rest from the Jewish victims’ associations in 1959. After that, the silver was distributed among the museum collections. In 2018, the MK&G was able to identify a Kiddush cup in its silver holdings from the confiscation that belonged to the Judaica collection of Max Raphael Hahn. In 2018, it was restituted to Michael Hayden on behalf of the Hahn family. On the occasion of the handover, the MK&G and Hayden decided to launch a research project to reconstruct the provenance of Max Raphael Hahn’s lost Judaica collection. The so-called “Hahn-Projekt” has been financed by the foundation “Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste” since March 2020.

- Zschommler, Philipp. “Theresienstadt, Prag, Heidelberg: Stationen eines geraubten Buches aus der Bibliothek von Hugo Friedmann.” *Trumah* 26 (2023): 61–80.

The value of objects such as books can be defined in many different ways throughout history. It is always dependent on the respective context in which an attribution is made. A book from the library of the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg makes it possible to understand the different ways in which a book is viewed. Conversely, it reflects the needs and ideas of their collectors. A book from the collection of Hugo Friedmann (1901–1945) allows us to address some of these aspects of collecting. As part of a project

on provenance research, the book's journey has been reconstructed, from its acquisition by the original owner to its current handling.

Groschek, Iris, and Habbo Knoch, eds. *Digital Memory: Neue Perspektiven für die Erinnerungssarbeit*. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2023.

What opportunities and challenges do digital transformation processes offer for work at memorial sites in the 21st century? This issue presents questions, approaches and concepts in this regard. The aim is to contribute to the active shaping of the new hybridity that is emerging from the interaction between memorials at historical sites of National Socialist crimes and the digital world. The booklet discusses both the structural conditions of the digital transformation process in the interplay between digital media and historical learning as well as representations of the Holocaust in VR and computer game worlds. The booklet also presents specific examples of applications from the field of memorial sites, such as crowdsourcing campaigns and various interactive elements in exhibitions. From the (in)appropriateness of “selfies” to the development of a participatory memory, the possibilities of social media are discussed, especially in the field of education.

Hecht, Louise. “Maskilische Schriften der Graßischen Druckerei in Breslau.” *Aschkenas: Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kultur der Juden* 34, no. 1 (2024): 91–109.

The article focuses on the history of the Graß or Graß and Barth publishing house in Breslau from the eighteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century. In particular, it tackles the role of women in the management and the involvement of the printing house in the dissemination of Haskalah literature, two chapters that are usually underrepresented in book history. In addition, the commitment of a Christian printer to Hebrew printing and his involvement with the Jewish Enlightenment will be addressed. The hitherto under-researched history of the Graßische Druckerei in Breslau will thus be embedded in cultural-historical questions about booklore, the Central European Haskalah and Gender Studies. Additionally, the paper examines the transfer of knowledge between the majority and minority population.

Kühnert, Jürgen. “Jüdische Verlage und Buchhandlungen.” In *Geschichte des Deutschen Buchhandels im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert. Band 3: Teil 2, Teilband 1: Drittes Reich*, edited by Ernst Fischer and Reinhard Wittmann, 165–214. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111145310>.

Schneidawind, Julia. *Schicksale und ihre Bücher: Deutsch-jüdische Privatbibliotheken zwischen Jerusalem, Tunis und Los Angeles*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2023.

ITALIAN

Olschki, Daniele. *Gioverà Ricordare: Meminisse Iuvabit*. Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2024.

A publishing enterprise, well-established and on its way to growing success; a bibliophile entrepreneur full of ideas; a family of Jewish origins with a foreign name; a story to be fulfilled, coming to a sudden halt with the racial laws of '38. On that fateful September 13, when the publishing house receives the formal notice to denounce Jewish collaborators and authors, everything seems headed towards slow, inexorable destruction, under the direction of an entity that provides no explanation as to why. A story that unfolds on the margins of the even more terrible tragedy of death and deportations, but one that exposes the dullness of power in the bureaucracy of evil. *Gioverà ricordare*, it is worth remembering.

POLISH

Bendowska, Magdalena. “Identyfikacja cennego druku weneckiego w zbiorach ŻIH.” *Kwartalnik Historii Żydów* 286, no. 2 (2023): 377–83. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/viewpdf?id=1247264>.

In the course of works on a collection of old Hebrew prints from the Jewish Historical Institute collections, one of the books preserved there with the title page missing was identified as the original print of the work by Moshe ben Josef di Trani “*Kirjat sefer*” (Venice: Aloisio Bragadini, 1551). The book is one of the oldest Hebrew prints in the library collections.

Bendowska, Magdalena. “Kalonimos ben Mordechaj Jafe i Eliezer ben Icchak. Dzieje żydowskiej oficyny drukarskiej w Lublinie w latach 1563–1573.” *Kwartalnik historii żydów* 288, no. 4 (2023): 697–732. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/viewpdf?id=1286247>.

The Jewish printing house operating in Lublin since 1547 resumed operations in 1567 after a break of several years. The partners, Eliezer ben Yitzhak and Kalonimos ben Mordechai Yafe, were the first to publish a prayer book for the entire year. After producing three more tractates from the first Lublin edition of the Talmud (Betzah, Sukkah, Erubin), the printers dissolved the company. Kalonimos’s name disappeared from Lublin prints, and Eliezer ben Yitzhak received a royal printing privilege in 1566 and from 1570 he was the only one to print in Lublin. He published small items in quarto format, such as Ayzik Tyrnau’s *Minhagim*, prayer books (*Sidur*, *Yotsrot*) and popular pamphlets. Above all, however, two more Talmudic tractates were published under his press: *Kiddushin* and *Niddah*. The last item he produced in Lublin was *Pachad Yitzhak* (1573). The printer and his son then printed in Constantinople and Safed and the Lublin publishing house was taken over entirely by Kalonimos ben Mordechai Yafe, who managed it until his death in 1603. In total, 14 books were published in the period reviewed here, including the first Lublin print in Yiddish (around 1570).

Matczuk, Alicja. “Majer Bałaban—pionier bibliografii historii Żydów w Polsce.” *Kwartalnik historii żydów* 285, no. 1 (2023): 9–31. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/viewpdf?id=1162442>.

Majer Bałaban (1877–1942) was a leading researcher of the history of Polish Jews in the interwar period and the author of numerous bibliographical compilations on the history, culture and life of the Jewish community in Poland. In 1903 he published a literature review of the history of Jews in Poland (1899–1903) in *Kwartalnik Historyczny*. This is how M. Bałaban’s public bibliographic activity began, the ultimate achievement of which was the “Bibliography of the History of Jews in Poland and Neighboring Countries 1900–1930”. Its first issue was published in 1939. The work was created with the participation of students from the University of Warsaw who attended Bałaban’s seminar. The bibliography recorded the entire literature on the history of Jews in Poland and Polish Jews abroad -in neighboring states and other European and overseas countries. Territorially, it covers the historical borders of the Polish state. In terms of chronological range, the bibliography includes publications relating to the history of Polish Jews from the earliest times to 1930, published in the years 1900–1930. The bibliography registered works in Polish and foreign languages (German, English, French, Russian, Hebrew) regardless of where they were published. In terms of the description, each entry is usually just registered, although it is often supplemented with comments about the content of the works. The entire bibliography was to have a systematic layout, consisting of 25 main sections and a number of subsections. It was designed to be provided with an index of people and geographical names. The outbreak of World War II arrested the publication of subsequent issues. However, even before the publication of the first volume, the reaction of the Jewish scientific community to Bałaban’s work was enthusiastic. The fundamental importance of the Bibliography for the historiography of the Polish Jewish society is evidenced by the fact that the first issue was published in the form of a reprint in Jerusalem in 1978 by World Federation of Polish Jews.

PORTUGUESE

Alba, Amparo. “Una semblanza de Abraham Yahuda (1877–1951): Académico, catedrático, político y coleccionista.” *Boletín de la Real Academia de la Historia* 220, no. 2 (2023): 281–300.

RUSSIAN

Белкина, Е.М. “‘Еврейские Рукописи’ Владимира Иванова. Часть I. Собрание И Архивные Материалы.” *Восток. Афро-Азиатские Общества: История и Современность*, no. 3 (2023): 201–12. <https://doi.org/10.31857/S086919080025426-5>.

The “Bukharian Collection” of Vladimir A. Ivanov included dozens of Jewish manuscripts. They came to the Asian Museum in St. Petersburg in 1915, and Alexander A. Freiman has systematized some of them—in Judeo-Persian only—by 1918. Over the past century, there have been several (re-)inventories, so nowadays one cannot rely on those obsolete publications, working with these monuments. Part of the provenance has been

lost. Based on Ivanov's archive and the inventory books of different years, this article is an attempt to update the information on all Jewish manuscripts acquired in Bukhara. The Aramaic and Hebrew manuscripts are newly introduced to the academic circulation, the provenance of the Judeo-Persian manuscripts is clarified. Ivanov's personal notes for each manuscript are scarce. Nevertheless, they are the primary source of information about the manuscripts, and today his "notebook" on the "Collection" is kept in the Archive of Orientalists of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS. Using Ivanov's list of manuscripts and their description by Freiman, as well as the current inventory, the author managed to restore the provenance of almost all materials. The last several Hebrew manuscripts in this list are particularly difficult to identify, while other documents within the Jewish fund have been erroneously attributed to the "Collection" for a long time. Only one manuscript from Bukhara has yet remained unidentified. Checking the rest of the manuscripts for Ivanov's notes at the margins in his "notebook" helped to match and connect the archival data with the source data of the manuscripts.

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דובאוויק, יוסף מרדכי. "מן האליטה אל הרבים: עיונים בהדפסת ספר מאור ושמש." בתוך **מאור ושמש: היסטוריה, הגות, סיפורת ומורשת**. בעריכת יצחק קופר, אריאל אבן מעשה, וצבי מרק, 43–65. הוצאת אוניברסיטת בר-אילן, תפשי.

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