

Großlogen Deutschlands des jüdischen Ordens B'nai B'rith, Berlin (Fond 769)
The Great Lodge of the Jewish Order, B'nai B'rith, Berlin
RG-11.001M.34

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Großlogen Deutschlands des jüdischen Ordens B'nai B'rith, Berlin (Fond 769)
The Great Lodge of the Jewish Order, B'nai B'rith, Berlin

Dates: 1928-1937

Accession number: 1993.A.0085.1.34

Creator: Grosslogen Deutschlands des jüdischen Ordens B'nai B'rith, Berlin

Extent: 6 microfilm reels (partial)
digital images

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: German
French
English
Hebrew

Scope and content of collection

Constitution of B'nai B'rith and other materials of the Great Lodge of Germany (B'nai B'rith), including minutes, financial reports, lists of members who were lawyers, proceedings, and information for local lodges; minutes of the executive committee of the Great Lodge; minutes of a 1932 secret meeting about annual reports, charity, and other questions; communications to the Ministry of the Interior and the Gestapo; correspondence with other lodges in Europe; correspondence with individuals regarding immigration conditions in other countries, in particular Argentina; correspondence with branch lodges and other organizations regarding charitable activities; reports for Jewish hospitals in Marienbad and Bad Kissingen and with other Jewish benevolent organizations; materials of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der deutschen Juden, including lists of locations abroad where Jewish law students could study and other matters; proceedings and minutes of various B'nai B'rith and Masonic organizations; issues of Monatschrift; correspondence with the Ministry of the Interior regarding abolition of the Great Lodge;

information about dissolution of B'nai B'rith lodges generally. The collection also contains bulletins of the Grand Lodge; pamphlets and journals; articles from Jewish newspapers on the Yishuv in Palestine; reviews and bibliographic indexes of Jewish and German literature; issues of the Jewish youth magazine "Der Jugendbund" and the Masonic magazine "Die Bauhütte"; issues of the bulletin "Der Orden Bne Briss", the women's magazine "Die Frau von Heute, and other publications; a collection of depictions of the seals of Jewish lodges of America and Germany; newspaper clippings on the works of Goethe, Lessing, Zola, Wagner, and others; clippings on manifestations of antisemitism, on the activities of the committee to aid Jewish victims in Russia; and a portrait of the Order of B'nai B'rith founder, Henry Jones.

Note: USHMM Archives holds only selected records.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on reproduction and use: Reproduction and publication only with written permission of the Russian State Military Archives.

Preferred citation: Preferred citation for USHMM archival collections; consult the USHMM website for guidance.

Acquisition information: Source of acquisition is the Russian State Military Archive (Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi voennyi arkhiv), Osobyi Archive, Fond 769. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the filmed collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archival Programs Division in 1993, and accretion 1999.

Existence and location of originals: Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi voennyi arkhiv

Related materials: Fishman, D. E. and Kupovetsky, M, Kuzelenkov, V. (ed.), Nazi-Looted Jewish Archives in Moscow. A guide to Jewish Historical and Cultural Collections in the Russian State Military Archive. Scranton: University of Scranton Press 2010.

Processing history: Processed by Aleksandra Borecka, 2018.

System of arrangement

Fond 769 (1844-1939). Opis 1-3; Delo 2,412. Selected records arranged in five series: 1. The constitution of the order "B'nai B'rith" (1935); 2. Reports, minutes and correspondence on various subjects, 1932-1937; 3. Freemason materials; 4. Issues of the bulletin of the United Lodges of Berlin, "Monatsshrift." (1931-1932); 5. Minutes of the meetings of the executive committee of the Great Lodge, and correspondence, 1930-1936.

Note: Location of digital images; Partial microfilm reels #103-105, 191-192, 204;

Reel 103: Image #1566-Reel end;

Reel 104: Reel start-Reel end;

Reel 105: Reel start-Image #476;

Reel 191: Image #1760-Reel end;

Reel 192: Reel start-Reel end;
Reel 204: Image #1052-1074.

Indexing terms

Jones, Henry
B'nai B'rith.
World Jewish Congress.
Jews--Germany--History--20th century.
Jews--Legal status, laws, etc.--Europe--History--20th century.
Zionism--Europe--History--20th century.
Freemasonry--Germany--History--20th century.
Jewish organizations--Germany--History--20th century.
Germany--Politics and government--1933-1945.
Europe--Politics and government--20th century.
Bulletins.
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Correspondence.
Pamphlets.
Portraits.
Registers.
Reports.

CONTAINER LIST

Note: Folders were not reproduced in numerical order on the microfilm reels. The order below reflects the order in which the folders appear.

Reel 103

Fond 769/opis 1

- 5 The charter of the Great Lodge of Germany. Protocols of meetings. Inquiries about the executive committee of the Order B'nai B'rith. Financial reports (1928-1932). Article of Dr. Paul Kahn "active and passive policy of Jews." List of advocate lawyers who are members of lodges in Germany. 1933-1934. 8 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0103.00001566.jpg

Treasurer's reports (1928-1932) of a Freemason lodge, with membership dues, detailed breakdown of activities, contributions, membership lists, etc. Critique of an article in a Berlin publication, "Active and Passive Jewish Policy." More materials about German Jewish Freemasons, including activities, contacts, etc. Listings of local lodges and membership numbers. 1933-1934.
- 21 Informational note for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Prussia about the origin, structure and purpose of Great Lodge. 1934. 18 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0103.00001669.jpg

Material from files of German Jewish Freemason organization. 1934.

- 35 Meeting minutes of the Great Lodge in 1931-1932. Letters about elections of representatives of other lodges. 1931-1932. 278 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0103.00001690.jpg

Representatives at Grand Freemason lodge meetings, 1931-1932, with minutes from various meetings. 1931-1932.

- 37 Protocol of the conference of the Great Lodge, plus appendices in February 1933. 105 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0103.00002096.jpg

Minutes of Freemason lodge meetings in Germany. 1933.

Reel 104

- 48 Protocols of the conference of representatives of the Great Lodge in 1930. Correspondence with European lodges of Romania and Poland about organization of international conference for Jewish students. October 1931. 15 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000006.jpg

Materials about German Jewish Freemasonry. 1931.

- 49 The protocol of the secret meeting of the "Non-American District" representatives of the Great Lodge and European Lodge on the matter of approval and adopting of annual reports, installing of general ritual, charity tasks of the order, and other questions. 1932. 24 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000039.jpg

Session of Austrian Grand Lodge, minutes, December 11, 1932.

- 154 Correspondence of lodge "Maimonid" in Nürnberg with the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the attitude of this lodge towards the Fascist regime. 1932-1937. 154 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000068.jpg

Materials on Freemasons; list of lodge employees and committees, 1919-1920. Letter to Interior Ministry on behalf of Nürnberg lodge, asking for legal help (December 1933).

- 209 Information of the General Committee to the state security police about its irregular meetings. 1937. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000215.jpg

Letter to Gestapo, Berlin, reporting a scheduled event by a Berlin Freemason lodge. 1937.

- 256 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1931. 68 pages. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000240.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 257 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1931-1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000372.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 258 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1932. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000534.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 259 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1931-1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000637.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 260 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1932-1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000790.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 261 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00000880.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 262 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1933-1935. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001005.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 263 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001223.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 264 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1933-1934. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001263.jpg
- Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.
- 265 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1934-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001356.jpg

Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.

- 266 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1934. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001428.jpg

Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.

- 267 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1934-1936 Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001511.jpg

Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.

- 268 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1935. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001805.jpg

Minutes of various local Freemason lodge meetings. 1932-1937.

- 269 Protocols of the meetings of the executive committee. 1935-1937. Folder begins at image Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001857.jpg

Records of lodge executive committee meetings, 1935-1936 and 1936-1937.

- 271 Minutes of the meetings of the executive committee. 1936-1937. Folder begins at image Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00001987.jpg

Records of lodge executive committee meetings. 1936-1937.

- 1618 Reports about the activity of Jewish hospitals in Marienbad and Kissingen for 1931-1932. Correspondence with branch lodges about the financing of Jewish charity societies. 1931-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0104.00002085.jpg (continues on next reel)

Letters to and from various Freemason lodges. 1934.

Reel 105

- 1618 (Continued from reel 104)

Freemason materials. Items requesting donations for Protestant Alliance for Childcare in Berlin; additional materials from Freemason lodges and their involvement in caring for sick and disabled people, including the fight against polio; reports about activities of Jewish benevolent organizations. No date.

fond 769/opis 2

- 30 Circulars and reports about the activity of the general committee in 1932-1935. Correspondence about meeting attendance. Information about agendas of the

meetings and other papers. 1932-1935. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00000604.jpg

Minutes from Committee meetings of German Freemason lodges (primarily in Berlin), as well as correspondence, treasurers' reports, etc. 1932-1935.

fond 769/opis 1

- 1619 Reports and bulletins of "The Society for Providing Aid to German Jews". 1933-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00000869.jpg

Item from files of Central Welfare Organization of German Jews; lists of locations abroad where Jewish lawyers could study (Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Netherlands, Italy, Yugoslavia, Palestine, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland). Central Welfare Organization announcement, with listings of employment opportunities abroad, including item about studying in the U.S., in China and Japan, in some cities, there are employment opportunities for music teachers. Facsimile of "Correspondence Section on Emigration and Settlement, published by the Aid Organization of German Jews, Central Office for Jewish Emigration Matters." 1933-1934.

fond 769/opis 2

- 37 The protocols of the congresses of the "Union of the Lodges of Eastern Prussia." 1933-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001134.jpg

Minutes and other reports from Freemason lodge meetings. 1922-1936.

- 43 Minutes of the meetings of the "Union of the Lodges of Western Germany." 1933-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001288.jpg

Minutes and other reports from Freemason lodge meetings. 1922-1936.

- 54 Correspondence with the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the abolition of the Order. Dissolving the lodges of B'nai B'rith in Germany. No date. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001306.jpg

Correspondence of lodges, lists of Freemasons lodges in Germany; minutes from lodge meetings; includes correspondence about Stapo authorization for regional lodges operations; also, correspondence with emigrated former lodge members, many of them now belonging to new lodges. 1933-1936.

- 55 Correspondence with members of the Union about immigration, and about the acquisition of tickets and affidavits (to come to USA) for them. 1938-1939. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001823.jpg

Correspondence and other materials from Czech Freemason lodges (in Czech). Various curriculum vitae of former Czech lodge members looking for work abroad (after German take-over).

- 76 Minutes of the meetings of the Great Lodge. 1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001924.jpg
- Minutes of lodge executive meetings (some of this material duplicates items presented earlier). 1936.
- 77 Minutes of the meetings of the Great Lodge. 1936-1937 Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0105.00001963.jpg
- Minutes from Freemason lodge meetings. 1936-1937.

Reel 191

Fond 769/opis 1

- 1 The constitution of the order "B'nai B'rith". 1935. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0191.00001760.jpg
- 36 Protocol of the conference of the Great Lodge in February 1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0191.00001874.jpg
- 46 Protocols of the conference of representatives of the Great Lodge in 1930. Correspondence with European lodges of Romania and Poland about organization of international conference for Jewish students. 1930-1933. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0191.00002005.jpg (continues on next reel)

Reel 192

Fond 769/opis 1

- 46 (continued from previous reel)
- 92 Annual report on the activities of the Great Lodge of Czechoslovakia for 1932; correspondence with this lodge and subsidiary lodges about the organization of summer holidays for members of the order and other issues. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00000113.jpg
- 270 Abstracts to the report at a meeting of the executive committee on the activities of subsidiaries and foreign lodges; President's report of the lodge in Glogau on its activities. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00000926.jpg
- 640 Correspondence with the Julius-Bin lodge in Eschwege about the submission to the Gestapo of lists of members of this lodge, changes in its personnel, termination of the activities of this lodge during the holidays and other issues. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00000934.jpg

Fond 769/opis 2

- 198 Information bulletin of the United Lodges of Berlin, "Monatsschrift." 1931-1932. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001340.jpg
- 199 Information bulletin of the United Lodges of Berlin, "Monatsschrift." (Lodge "Order Bris-Bris") 1932. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001478.jpg
- 200 Issues of the informational bulletin of the order. 1935. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001577.jpg
- 202 Issues of the informational bulletin of the order(of the Great Lodge). 1937. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001616.jpg

fond 769/opis 3.

- 17 Minutes of the meetings of the executive committee of the Great Lodge. 1931-1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001643.jpg
 - 18 Minutes of the meetings of the executive committee of the Great Lodge. 1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001714.jpg
 - 19 Minutes of the meetings of the executive committee of the Great Lodge. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0192.00001751.jpg
- Correspondence with the members of the committee about their visits to the meetings. Sending of the protocols and other matters. 1930-1936.

Reel 204

Fond 769/opis 1

- 648 Letter of female immigrant Meien addressed to Grosspräsident Beck about immigration conditions in Argentina. 1936. Folder begins at image RG-11.001M.0204.00001052.jpg