

Draft translation

**RG-15.251
Acc. 2012.292**

**Archive
Of the Jewish Historical Institute**

**Inventory
of the collection of materials related to the investing operations
at the Central Committee of Jews in Poland,
Building Department
(1945-1951)**

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Call No 303/X

See also ŻIH Archives Web Page at: http://www.jhi.pl/archiwum/zbiory_archiwum

Warsaw 2006

Introduction

History

A project of the setting up of the Building Department had already place in early 1945 and was discussed on the session of the Presiding Office on March 13,1945. One of its objective was to „conduct, in its own capacity, the construction and repairs of the objects belonging to CKŻP”¹. Since May1945, the Department² supervised the reconstruction works of the edifice located in 5, Szeroka St. in Warsaw. Having read the minutes of sessions of the Presiding Office, we learned that both, individual Jewish Committees and organizations appealed to CKŻP for the funds allocated to investments (repairs of synagogues and graveyards, furnishing of premises, launching of ritual and normal baths). Those motions were considered during the sessions of the Presiding Office of CKŻP, where specified amount of money were decided to be granted. Accordingly, one might deduct that the work and tasks of the Department were on the stage of organization then.

The Building Department (alternately used as a Department of Engineering and Construction) was established on March 1,1946r. It was to execute a CKŻP “investment plan of constructions”. Jego zadaniem była realizacja „budowlanego planu inwestycyjnego” CKŻP. The most important investment projects executed during the first dozen of months of the Department activity (from March 1946 through October 1947) were: a) reconstruction of the Judaist Library in Warsaw, in 5 Tłomackie St., to serve as a museum, library and offices of CŻKH, that was accomplished in May1947; b) adaptation of a building located in 60 Sienna St. rented from the Foundation of “the Bersons and Baumans Hospital” to the CKŻP offices; c) a reconditioning of an edifice located in 4/6 Jagiellońska St. for the CKŻP storehouse; d) withdrawal of the Ringelblum Archive (Warsaw,68 Nowolipki St.); e) An Orphanage Śródborów; f) Boarding house in Śródborów; g) reconditioning of a former school of the Jewish community in Warsaw in 28 Jagiellońska St.; h) an apartment house in Warsaw, in 16 Konopacka St.; i) building belonging to the youth summer camp in Świder; j) an orphanage called „Śródborowianka”³. In the matters of “more vital matter”, the works were coordinated and received by the Committee (Commission) for Construction set up on request of the Building Department. It consisted of: two experts- skilled workers, a member of the Presiding Office of CKŻP, his deputy, a manager of the Building Department, a director of CKŻP and a legal adviser. The meetings were also attended by, a/o: K. Tyszka, BSc, a director of the Building Department of the Ministry of Reconstruction and J. Sadłowski, BSc, from the Office of the Reconstruction of the capital city of Warsaw. Minutes sessions of the Committe from January to October 1947 survived. During those meeting, a/o the current matters were discussed – those related to the construction facilities, reconstruction and repairs of the apartment houses (16 Konopacka St, „Śródborowianka” villa, 6/8 Jagiellońska St.); construction of theaters in Łódź, Wrocław and Warsaw, as well as the construction of the Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes. A Commission of terminal building inspection was also created. It consisted of: a member of CKŻP, a representative of the Building Department invited „best architect of Warsaw”. The matters related to the construction initiatives (e.g. 15,Śliska St., 16 Konopacka St., 4/6 Jagiellońska St.) were also considered by the Presiding Office of CKŻP; for example, there is a motion in protocols which related to additional

¹ Presiding Office, 303/I/1, pp. 11.

² It was been headed by H. (B.?) Szwarz (Department of Construction, 303/X/12). During the same period, Mr. Sysak, BSc, made out the repairs cost calculation of the former Judaist Library in 5 Tłomackie St. in Warsaw (Presiding Office, 303/I/1, pp.56)

³Report of the activity of the Department of Construction from March 1946 to October 1947. (October 10, 1947).

works, such as the reconstruction of the Judaic Library in 5 Tłomackie St.⁴ (Sept.13,1946). An architect, E. Sekrecka was the head of the Building Department. The Department, as a single organization unit, was wound up at the end of 1947. After that, investment matters were supervised by other departments (a/o the Presiding Office, or the Department of Economy) of CKŻP (and later the TSKŻ (the Jewish Social and Cultural Society in Poland).

Characteristic features of the archive.

The collection has been made out artificially and contains not only the files of the previous/ancient Building Department but other departments too. Accordingly, there are the documents made out after 1947 here, i.e. after the Winding up of the Department. It was rearranged only provisionally and we don't know if it had been bigger at first – now it is of a rudimental character. Besides, it was divided into two collections and the major part was separated and included in the Building Department, while the minor one was incorporated into the Department of Culture and Propaganda as well as the unarranged materials.

There are some evident missing documents in the rescued files, e.g. the accomplishment of the Gerszon Dua's monument project. Other files practically lack the entire technical documentation, as it happens in the case of the stone to commemorate a bunker in 18 Miła St. in Warsaw (there is only a plan of the building that survived); a reconstruction of the building located in 60 Sienna St., or a theater in the Praga district in 28 Jagiellońska St. (we have only several photographs of it)⁵.

Also the archival unit 8 was missing, which, according to the fiches (card inventory), contained the in-coming and put-going correspondence concerning construction investments as well as minutes (1949, typescripts, Polish).

The undoubtedly most valuable unit in that collection is the material documenting the searching of the so-called part of the Underground Archive of The Warsaw Ghetto (The Ringelblum Archive) (1949-1950) in the ruins of the estate located in 34 Świętojerska St.

As it has been already mentioned, the documents that belong to the Building Department were included, partly in the Department of Culture and Propaganda, as well as in the non-arranged materials. Due to the documentation of the construction of the Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto heroes, which, because of its provenance, might have been left scattered throughout several departments of CKŻP, it has been agreed to form a separate collection and include the material that relate to that investments there⁶. The new collection has been also supplemented with information of the true condition of graveyards, which had been initially included in the Department of Finances, because of the subsidies paid to the Jewish Committees by CKŻP in order to protect the necropolis. The collection does not form a complete documentation of construction investments of CKŻP. The supplementary material is held in a/o AJDC (financial reports), minutes of the Presiding Office of CKŻP, the Secretariat of CKŻP as well as the Departments of: Organization, Personnel, Financial and Legal⁷. The information

⁴ Presiding Office 303/I/3.

⁵ Authors of the inventory of the Legal Department of CKŻP inform that, during the arrangement works, they withdrew the following documents conc. the reconditioning in 5 Tłomackie St., which cannot be find now: 1. A protocol of the final receipt of construction works; 2. An agreement between CKŻP and the Facility of Wooden Products (Wytwórnia Wyrobów Drzewnych Spółdzielnią „Stolbut”) conc. the production of outer doors; 3. A receipt for CKŻP conc. the production of the inner and outer gates; 4. A receipt for CKŻP conc. the executed electricity works.

⁶ The materials have been excluded from the Department of Culture and propaganda, as well as from the Department of Finances.

⁷ Information conc. the legal status of graveyards, 303/XVI/ pp.245-272.

concerning the construction and unveiling of the Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes can be also found in the bulletins of ŻAP.

Review of the inventory content:

Minutes and reports	archival unit 1
Archiwum dr. E. Ringelbluma	archival unit 2
Edifices	archival units 3-15
Graveyards	archival units 16-18
Investments in the Lower Silesia	archival units 19-20
Monuments	archival units 21-33
Administration and Housing Cooperatives	archival units 34-39
Theaters	archival units 40-42

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The works on the inventory of collected materials concerning the investment operations of CKŻP were performed in 2006 thanks to the financial support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

I would like to render heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tadeusz Epsztein for his advices and merit hints and to Yale Reisner for his assistance in the translation of documents in Yiddish.

Abbreviations

CKŻP – Central Committee of Jews in Poland
TSKŻ – the Jewish Social and Cultural Society in Poland
ŻAP – Jewish Press Agency

MINUTES AND REPORTS

1. A project to set up of the Department of Engineering and Construction at CKŻP (Feb.10,1945)⁸
Minutes of the sessions of the Building Committee (Constructions)⁹
A report from the activity of the Department of Constructions (March1946-October 1947)
1945-1947, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, p/pp./39

⁸ The document excluded from the Department of Social Welfare of CKŻP (a. u. 37).

⁹ Including the abstract from the minutes of session of the CKŻP Presiding Office of May 8,1947.

DR. EMANUELA RINGELBLUM ARCHIVE

2. Warsaw: Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto (the Ringelblum Archive):
Excavation works on the in the estate of 34 Świętojerska St.:
sketches, cost calculation, agreement, Minutes, correspondence, calculations
and bills
1949-1950, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp.14a¹⁰

EDIFICES

3. Calculations and bills for repairs and reconstruction:
Cost calculation of the dormitory construction in Łódź
A specification of total amounts of money paid to the repair and construction
facilities.
A receipt of the Healing Devices Facility (Zakład Urządzeń Zdrowotnych) HYDRO-
TERMA
1946-1947, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 27
4. Łódź: 49 Kilińskiego St.:
Repairs:
cost calculations, abstract from a protocol
1946, typescripts, Polish, p/pp. 26
5. Otwock: a house of Mrs. Szamesowa in Podgórska St.:
Repairs and reconstruction:
calculations and bills
1946, typescripts, Polish, pp. 18
6. Śródborów: 4 Literacka St.4 (a villa called „Śródborowianka”):
Repairs and reconstruction:
agreement, correspondence
1946, typescripts, Polish, pp. 19
7. Świder, 24/28/30 Słowackiego St. :
Repairs and reconstruction:
calculations and bills
1946, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. /23
8. Warsaw: 6 Garwolińska St. (a barrack):
A construction:
cost calculation
1946, manuscript, Polish, pp. 25
9. Warsaw: 4/6 Jagiellońska St.:
A reconstruction:
protocol of the envelopes opening (with offers), cost calculation, calculations
and bills
1946, typescripts, Polish, pp. 21
10. Warsaw: 16 Konopacka St.:
A reconstruction:
protocol, agreements, a receipt
1946-1948, typescripts, Polish, pp. 20
11. Warsaw: 18 Miła St.:
a plan/blueprint and situational sketch of the mortgage immobile property No

¹⁰ The file also includes the situational blueprint of the edifice located in 68 Nowolipki St.

- 2274^B in Muranowska St. and Miła St.
1948, a drawing, Polish, pp. 34
12. Warsaw: 5 Szeroka St.:
Repairs and reconstruction:
agreement, cost calculations, calculations and bills, correspondence
1945-1946, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 24
13. Warsaw: 51 Śliska St.:
A reconstruction:
Minutes of the envelopes opening (with offers), cost calculations, An
authorized copy of the Trade Register concerning the Engineering and Construction
Facility, St. Teichfeld, J. Roykiewicz and Co., agreements, calculations and bills, bank
statement of the CKŻP account of December 14, 1946r.
1946, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 17
14. Warsaw: 3/5 Tłomackie St.:
Repairs and reconstruction:
agreement, cost calculations, correspondence, calculations and bills
1946, typescripts, Polish, pp. 22
15. Warsaw: 3/5 Tłomackie St.:
plans/blueprints
missing date, manuscript, Polish, pp.14

GRAVEYARDS

16. A condition and protection of graveyards¹¹:
1.Łuków, Kraśnik, Parczew, Międzyrzec, Włodawa, Hrubieszów, Biała Podlaska,
Janów Podlaski:
Fencing of graveyards, erection of monuments (Kraśnik, Hrubieszów), a plan
of a graveyard (Hrubieszów), fencing of mass graves (Biała Podlaska, Międzyrzec),
fencing of the demolished synagogue (Janów Podlaski):
cost calculations, descriptions of the condition of graveyards 2.Sulbiny near
Garwolin:
Excavation and transport of tombstones from Garwolin to the graveyard of
Sulbiny, provisional fencing of the graveyard:
cost calculation, an agreement, a power of attorney, receipts, calculations and
bills
3. Tarnów:
Cleaning works:
A letter with the description of the graveyard condition
1945, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp./16
17. Siedlce:
A copy of the protocol of inspection of the Commission conc. the graveyard
condition.
1949, typescripts, Polish, p/pp./10
18. Warsaw: 49/51 Okopowa St. Cleaning of the graveyard area:
plan, cost calculation, agreement, correspondence
1950-1951, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp.11¹²

¹¹ The materials referring to graveyards (save the Warsaw one) have been excluded from the Department of
Finances of CKŻP (303/VII/780).

¹² The documents of 1951 have been made out and addressed to TSKŻ.

INVESTMENTS IN THE LOWER SILESIA

19. The Lower Silesia: investments:
 1. Minutes of the session of the CKŻP Executive Office of June 10, 1949.
 2. Legnica: G. Dua Folk House at the Yiddish Cultural Society:
Execution of moving the stage forward and lifting of the floor at the Yiddish Theater in Nowy Świat St.: cost calculation
 3. Pieszyce: Orphanage:
Reconstruction works: cost calculation
 4. Wałbrzych: a theater room at the Cultural Society:
Reconstruction works: condition of the object, cost calculation
 5. Wrocław: a kindergarten in the 1 Grabiszyńska St.:
Reconstruction works: cost calculation
 6. Wrocław: a theater in 31 Świdnicka St.:
Reconstruction and adaptation of the movies edifice to a theater. Minutes, cost calculations, agreement
1947-1949, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 12
20. Wrocław: a Pavilion of the Jewish Quarter at the exhibition of the Regained Territories:
Construction of a pavilion:
minutes of a conference concerning the organization of the exhibition, a work agreement, cost calculations, photographic of the pavilion construction, the offer of PZU (Polish Insurance Company): *Stawki za ubezpieczenie transportów kolejowych wewnątrz Polski* (rates for the insurance of railway transportation throughout Poland)
1947-1948, manuscript, typescripts, print, photos, Polish, pp. 9

MONUMENTS

21. Otwock: a monument in honor of the Jews murdered in August 1942 in the ghetto in Reymonta St.:
Monument construction:
monument project, calculations and bills
1949, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 7
22. Oświęcim: a commemorating plate of the Jews murdered in KL Auschwitz-Birkenau
a rough copy of the text in: Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish
missing date, manuscript, manuscript, Yiddish, Polish, pp. 40
23. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes¹³:
Monument construction:
Minutes of sessions of the Committee for the Monument Construction
A schedule business trips of CKŻP representatives to raise a funds
(Europe, North America, South America)
1947-1948, typescripts, Polish, p/pp./30
24. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:
Calculations and cross sections of rabbles, a protocol of the public opening of envelopes (with offers) for cleaning works, tenders for pulling down and withdrawal

¹³ The materials concerning the Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes have been excluded from the Department of Culture and Propaganda of CKŻP (303/XIII/163, 303/XIII/185) and the Department of Finances of CKŻP (303/VII/766).

- of rubbles), tenders for construction works, correspondence, a bill.
1947, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp.28
25. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:
settlement of dates of the granite deliveries, tenders for stone works, a protocol
the public opening of envelopes (with offers), cost calculation of the monument
construction, photographs, models, and offer for the supplementary works of the
monument.
1948-1949, manuscript, typescripts, photos, Polish, pp.29
26. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:
correspondence with the sculptor, Natan Rapaport. 1947-1948,
manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp.36
27. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:
actions organized for the sake of the construction (raising funds, purchase of
granite):
appeals to Jewish organizations with the request for the support of the
construction, correspondence, lists of addresses of the Jewish organizations worldwide
1947, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, Yiddish, English, French,
German, pp. 31
28. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:
actions organized for the sake of the construction (raising funds, transport of
granite and the sculpture, organization of the ceremony), organization of the
ceremony):
correspondence
1948, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, Yiddish, English, French,
German, Swedish, pp. 35
29. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes¹⁴:
Monument construction:
an action to support a construction (a sales of shares) performed by the
committees in Białystok, Bielsko, Bydgoszcz, Chrzanów, Częstochowa, Gdańsk,
Katowice, Krakow, Lublin, Łódź, Nowy Sącz, Olsztyn, Poznań, Przemyśl, Szczecin,
Tarnów, Warsaw, Wrocław, Zabrze:
reports, correspondence
1947-1950, typescripts, Polish, Yiddish, pp. 33
30. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes¹⁵:
Monument construction:
lists of payments for the construction, protocols (a/o concerning the damage of
bricks), receipts (a/o of the sculptor, Natan Rapaport, the molder, Eugène Rudier¹⁶),
calculations and bills
1947-1949, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, English, pp. 41
31. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:
Monument construction:

¹⁴ A report of the sale of shares (1948-1950) was initially located in the Department of Finances of CKŻP (303/VII/766).

¹⁵ Those materials were initially located in the Department of Finances of CKŻP (303/VII/766).

¹⁶ The receipts were attached by the contract for the cast of the sculpture in brass.

The Director, Henryk Kroszczor's notes (including the personal data of the architect, Leon Marek Suzin)

A motion of the city counselor, Henryk Wasser (Poalej-Sjon, the left wing (Lewica) concerning the access of the Metropolitan National Council to the action of the monument construction.

The protest resolution of the CKŻP Presiding Office concerning the granting of visas to the USA

A letter do provincial committees with an appeal to support the protest
Information of ŻAP (the Jewish Press Agency) about the resolution.

A program of a ceremony to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Distribution of discounted railroad tickets

Expenses for railroad trips (tickets)

1947-1948, manuscript, typescripts, print, Polish, Yiddish, p/pp.¹⁷

32. Warsaw: A Monument of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes:

Responses for the monuments:

Press cuttings (translation enclosed), opinions/statements of representatives academic and artistic circles.

1948, typescripts, Polish, English, Yiddish, pp. 37

33. Warsaw: Monuments of Gerszon Dua and the partisans of the M. Anielewicz squads on the Jewish graveyard.:

Monument construction:

projects of the monument, tenders, in-coming and out-going correspondence, reports from the fund for the monument construction, calculations and bills

1948-1949, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, Yiddish, pp. 8

ADMINISTRATION AND HOUSING COOPERATIVE

34. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie” (Rebirth):

A statute(August 15,1948)¹⁸

A copy of a document certified by the Cooperative Register (August 06,1948)

A promissory note of the Municipal Government in the city of Warsaw (April 24,1949)

Initial cost calculation of the construction of an apartment house situated in Warsaw among the Bielańska St. – Długa St. - the East-West route – (Trasa W-Z) (June 28,1949)

Agreement between the Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie” and a National Construction Facility „Beton-Stal” conc. the construction of apartment houses (June 30,1949)

Photographs and plates of the apartment houses situated on the corner of Bielańska St. And Długa St.¹⁹

Plans of apartment houses situated in 47, 49, 51, 53 Długa St.

A blank form attached to the § 35 of the Investment Instruction of the Chairman of the CUP of May 15, 1948 *Spis tytułów inwestycyjnych do Państwowego Planu Inwestycyjnego (A List of planned investments for 1949)*

1948-1949, typescripts, print, photos, Polish, p 1

¹⁷ A motion of Wasser, a protest resolution and a letter with an appeal for the support of the protest in many copies.

¹⁸ 3 copies

¹⁹ 3 photographs and 2 plates + 1 plate (a dim photo of a child)

35. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie”.
In-coming correspondence from the Headquarters of the housing cooperatives.
1948-1949, typescripts, Polish, pp. 2
36. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie”.
In-coming correspondence from the Construction Facility of the Quarters for Laborers and the Renovation Office for the city of Warsaw.
1948-1949, typescripts, Polish, pp. 3
37. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie”.
In-coming correspondence from „Odrodzenie”.
Out-going correspondence.
1948-1949, typescripts, Polish, pp. 4
38. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie”.
In-coming correspondence from „Odrodzenie”.
Declaration of an access to the Cooperative
1949, typescripts, manuscript, Polish, pp. 5
39. Warsaw: Administration and Housing Cooperative „Odrodzenie”.
In-coming correspondence from”.
Announcement conc. the meetings.
Minutes of the meeting of May 03,1949.
1949, manuscript, typescripts, Polish, pp. 6

THEATERS

40. Łódź: Jewish Theater (Teatr Żydowski „Scala”) in 15/17 Więckowskiego St. :
Reconstruction of the edifice:
Minutes, tenders, agreement, correspondence
1948-1949, typescripts, Polish, pp.13
41. Łódź: Jewish Theater (Teatr Żydowski „Scala”) in 15/17 Więckowskiego St. :
Reconstruction of the edifice: cost calculations , agreement,
correspondence
1949, typescripts, Polish, pp. 15
42. Warsaw: The Theater on the Praga District (Teatr na Pradze) in 28 Jagiellońska St.:
photographs
missing date, photos, Polish, pp. 32