

**INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES DES QUESTIONS JUIVES, 1941-1953**  
**1998.A.0098, RG-43.139M**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Institut d'études des Questions Juives.

Dates: 1941-1943.

Accession number: 1998.A.0098, RG-43.139M.

Creator: Institut d'études des Questions Juives.

Extent: 8 Microfilm Reels.

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

Abstract: This collection contains the records and correspondence of the French anti-Jewish organization The Institute for the Study of Jewish Questions (IEQJ) and its leader Paul Sézille.

Languages: French, German.

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but may be stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Institut d'études des Questions Juives, RG-43.139M, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Microfilm copies obtained from the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (CDJC) of the Mémorial de la Shoah, 1998.

Custodial history: The collection was acquired by *Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine* (CDJC) after 1945. In January 1956 it was microfilmed as part of a joint project with Yad Vashem, and in 1998 copies of those reels were refilmed for USHMM as part of the International Archives Project.

Existence and location of originals:

Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine  
Mémorial de la Shoah  
17, rue Geoffroy l'Asnier  
75004 Paris  
FRANCE  
tel. +33-(0)1 42 77 44 72  
[www.memorialdelashoah.org](http://www.memorialdelashoah.org)

Related archival materials: A number of related materials exist in the collections of the CDJC and elsewhere. See: Joseph Billig, *L'Institut d'étude des questions juives, officine française des autorités nazies en France: inventaire commenté de la collection de documents provenant des archives de l'Institut conservés au C.D.J.C.* (Paris, 1974).

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Joel Horowitz, December 2013.

### **Administrative history**

*L'Institut d'étude des Questions Juives* (Institute for the Study of Jewish Questions) or IEQJ, was a French anti-Semitic organization that operated under German sponsorship from May 1941 to June 1942.

The IEQJ was an idea of Theodor Dannecker, who headed the Gestapo's Jewish Affairs Department (*Judenreferat*) in occupied France until July 1942.

In the fall of 1940 Dannecker had made contact with Paul Sézille and other anti-Semitic activists who had formed *La Communauté Française* (CF). In December, he urged them to create a research institute to spread racial anti-Semitism on the model of that being established in Frankfurt under Alfred Rosenberg, leading to the formation of the *Cercle d'études et de Documentation contre l'Emprise judéo-maçonnique* (Circle of Studies and Documentation against Judeo-Masonic Influence) under the leadership of René Gérard.

In late-January 1941, Dannecker unsuccessfully tried to have an institute incorporated into the CGQJ, which Vichy was forming to handle Jewish affairs, but the CGQJ's head, Xavier Vallat, managed to prevent this and stymie Dannecker's efforts to give the CGQJ a role in anti-Semitic propaganda.

As a substitute, the Cercle was renamed the IEQJ on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1941 under Gérard and the CF rechristened *Amis de l'IEQJ* (Friends of the IEQJ) under Sézille. But on June 22<sup>nd</sup> Sézille displaced Gérard and became Secretary General of the IEQJ as well.

The IEQJ was largely funded and directed by the German authorities, answering in particular to Dannecker of the SS, but also collaborating with the German embassy and to a lesser extent the Ministry of Propaganda and Amt Rosenberg.

The IEQ's biggest propaganda effort was the exposition *La Juif en France*, which ran in Paris from August 1941 to January 1942. After closing, it was acquired by the German embassy which moved it to first Bordeaux, and later Lille, in the spring and summer of 1942.

The IEQ also published a "scientific" journal, *La Question juive en France et dans la Monde*, through the institute's German counterpart in Frankfurt, as well as the more low-brow *Le Cahier Jaune*. The *Amis* also had their own publication, *Action Antijuif*.

Sézille also created the *Service d'Enquetes de l'IEQJ* and *Section Speciale de Recherches* which promoted aryanization by denouncing Jews and Jewish enterprises to the French authorities and conducted surveillance on Jews and reported them for violations of anti-Jewish legislation.

The CF and IEQ also maintained links with the collaborationist MSR (*Mouvement Social Révolutionnaire*) and other right wing groups including the RNP and PPF. The CF was also called the MSR's "section antijuif" until the spring of 1941.

In April 1942, Admiral Darlan was replaced as prime minister by Pierre Laval, who in early May had Vallat replaced as head of the CGQJ by Louis Darquier on the recommendation of Dannecker, who hoped that he might add a research institute and propaganda arm to the CGQJ as he had wanted originally.

Sézille had actually worked closely with Darquier in the *Rassemblement Anti-Juif de France*, but the IEQ's often troubled relationship with the CGQJ did not improve.

In Early June, Sézille mobilized the *Amis* in anti-Semitic demonstrations which were objectionable to all concerned. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942, Darquier demanded the dissolution of the IEQJ and Sézille gave in, although on paper at least the IEQJ merged with the CGQJ. A few further issues of its journal were published before it too disappeared entirely.

Sézille still controlled the *Amis* however, which he rechristened the *Antijuifs europeens (section française)*. He remained involved in anti-Semitic activities until his death on April 20<sup>th</sup> 1944.

CGQJ did in fact later develop propaganda and research arms as Dannecker had planned. These included Darquier's old group "*L'Union Française pour la Defense de la Race*," "*L'Institut d'Anthropo-Sociologie*" and "*L'Institut d'Etudes des Questions Juives et Ethno-Raciales*" (IEQJER) which had little in common with the IEQJ despite the name.

### **Scope and content of collection**

This collection contains the records and correspondence of the IEQJ and its leader from 1941 to 1942. This includes correspondence with the German and French Authorities, collaborationist parties and groups, and the organization's own supporters.

In addition to the organization's relations with those groups, the subjects of correspondence include the aryanizations and the enforcement of anti-Jewish laws, propaganda and the IEQJ's Exposition "la Juif en France", publications including *Questions Juives en France et la Monde*, *Le Cahier Jaune*, and *Action Antijuif*, and the administration of the organization itself.

Although the collection represents the correspondence and documents of a single organization, it was divided into several chronological series. Despite this, most subjects and types of documents occur in multiple series.

#### Series XI

This series consists primarily of the correspondence of Sézille and his German backers. It covers anti-Jewish propaganda, aryanization, the exposition *la Juif en France*, IEQJ publications, and requests for intercessions on behalf of subordinates.

#### Series XIa, b, c

This series is similar to XI, except primarily with French correspondents, particularly in the government. It covers the administration of the CF, IEQJ, and *Amis*, records of the exposition, relations with the CGQJ, intercessions with the police on behalf of members, investigations of Jews, aryanizations, anti-Jewish laws, relations with the MSR and RNP, and the bulletin *Action Antijuif*.

#### Series XI d

This series is similar to the preceding one, but for the most part is with French correspondents outside the government and includes handwritten correspondence with members of the *Amis* and other supporters as well as correspondence with the MSR, RNP, and PPF. It covers the exposition, aryanizations, anti-Jewish laws, case files on investigations into Jews and Jewish enterprises, and the publication of *Questions Juives en France et la Monde*. It also contains issues of *Action Antijuif*.

#### Series XIe

This series contains miscellaneous material that is largely undated and not in chronological order. It includes documents on the exposition, the organization and statutes of the CF, *Amis*, IEQJ, and related organizations, lists of members and sympathizers, and reports and forms relating to aryanizations, as well as an issue of *Action Antijuif*.

#### Series XI f

This series contains correspondence, much of it with the PQJ and other French police authorities involved in Jewish matters. It also includes reports of investigations into Jews, letters from members and supporters of the *Amis*, and documents relating to aryanizations.

#### Series XI g

This series of IEQJ records and Sézille correspondence is in places arranged thematically and only after that chronologically. It includes a file containing forms submitted to denounce Jewish people and enterprises and documents on aryanizations, a file from the *service contentieux* (litigation), and a file from the *section special*.

Series XI g also includes material on the founding of the CF, correspondence with the MSR and RNP, documents about the exposition, issues of *Action Antijuif*, documents on the revue *Le Cahier Jaune*, and a report on the IEQJER from early 1943 (after the dissolution of the IEQJ).

#### **System of arrangement**

While the collection is mostly arranged chronologically, attempts at thematic arrangement at the series level and within some of the smaller series through the use of subfolders were made.

Certain errors not present in the original arrangement occurred during filming. It should thus be noted that the second half of Reel 1 is a repeat of the first, as Cote XI 1-170 were filmed a second time.

**Indexing terms**

*Personal names*

Sézille, Paul.

*Corporate names*

Institut d'étude des questions juives (Paris).

*Topical terms*

Antisemitism--France.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France.

Jews--France--Exhibitions.

## CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Cote	No.	Description	Date
1				
1	XI	1, 6-170	Copies of Letters from Captain Sezille: Secretary General of the IEQJ	11 May 1941-21 Apr. 1942
1	XI	1, 6-170	Copies of 1, 6-170	
2				
2	XI	171-199	Copies of Letters from Captain Sezille: Secretary General of the IEQJ (cont.)	21 Apr.-5 Jun 1942
2	XIa	200-416	General Correspondence	23 Jan. 1941-24 Jul. 1941
3				
3	XIb	417-633	General Correspondence (cont.)	24 Jul. 1941-29 Nov. 1941
4				
4	XIc	634-776	General Correspondence (cont.)	2 Dec. 1941-25 Jul. 1942
5				
5	XId	1-136	General Correspondence	Jan. 1941-Jul. 1941
6				
6	XId	136-361	General Correspondence (cont.)	Jul. 1941-May 1942
7				
7	XIe	1-62	General Correspondence	
7	XIf	1-59	General Correspondence	Feb. 1941-Jun. 1942
8				
8	XIg	1-120	General Correspondence	Feb. 1941-Jan. 1943