

ARCHIVES DE NUREMBERG: JUIVES DE RIGA, 1931-1944
RG-43.146M, Acc. 1998.A.0105

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: Archives de Nuremberg: Juives de Riga.

Dates: 1931-1944.

Accession number: 1998.A.0105, RG-43.146M.

Creator: [name of creator of the collection, DACS 2.6, MARC 100 or 110]

Extent: 2 microfilm reels.

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

Abstract: Contains documentation about the German occupation authorities in Latvia, the expropriation of Jewish property, and the head of the Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete, Alfred Rosenberg. The documents that comprise this collection were selected by the source repository, the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, following the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, from documents that had been collected as potential evidence during the trial of Alfred Rosenberg.

Languages: 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), Archives de Nuremberg: Juives de Riga, RG-43.146M, 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 "Rosenberg Files" were originally assembled by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg from the archives of the organizations Rosenberg had headed in preparation for the Trial of Major War Criminals.

Those documents considered important for the purposes of the trial were selected from the collection, but the remainder was not accessioned into the archives of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

Following the trial, the CDJC was authorized to select those materials relevant to its work from the remainder. These thousands of documents, most of them not included the official collections of the tribunal, formed the basis of the Rosenberg Collection of the CDJC. This collection includes only a portion of that.

In 1956, all or part of the CDJC's Rosenberg Collection was filmed for Yad Vashem. In 1998, a microfilm reproduction of all or part of the CDJC's copies of the Yad Vashem film was made for USHMM which accessioned them in several parts. The collection "Juives de Riga" constitutes one of the smaller of these parts.

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

Related archival materials:

1998.A.0104, Archives de Nuremberg: Rosenberg, available at USHMM, was originally part of the same collection and is still internally identified as such. The Rosenberg Papers covers Cotes 139-146 and Cotes 147a and 147b. It thus comes both before and after Juives de Riga (Cote 147).

Other Cotes at the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (CDJC) and documents in the Archives of the Nuremberg Tribunal, which can be found at the National Archives, are related to these materials.

See: Billig, Joseph, ed. *Alfred Rosenberg dans l'action idéologique, politique et administrative du Reich hitlérien: inventaire commenté de la collection de documents conservés au C.D.J.C., provenant des archives du Reichsleiter et ministre A.Rosenberg*. Paris: Éditions du Centre, 1963.

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, August 2013.

Administrative history

RMfdbO (1941-1945)

In April 1941 as part of the planning for the upcoming invasion of the Soviet Union, Alfred Rosenberg was named *Beauftragter für die zentrale Bearbeitung der Fragen des osteuropäischen Raumes* (Representative for the Central Processing of Questions of Eastern European Space).

In this role, he began planning for the occupation under the guise of the *Institut für kontinental-europäische Forschung* (Institute for Continental European Research).

With the start of invasion in July, the position was clarified through the new title *Reichsminister für die besetzten Ostgebiete* (Reichsminister for the Occupied Eastern Territories).

The *Reichsministerium* placed Rosenberg in charge of the German civil administration in the occupied Soviet Union. Despite the name, “the occupied eastern territories” did not include Poland, nor did they include the regions at or near the front lines, which were under direct military administration.

The administrative structure of the RMfdbO was a hierarchy based on territory, with the largest unit being the Reichskommissariat.

- Reichskommissariat - Led by “Reichskommissar”
 - Generalbezirk - Led by “Generalkommissar”
 - Gebiet - Led by “Gebietkommissar”
 - Stadt - Led by “Stadtkommissar”

In unusual cases, the RMfdbO would also group together more than one Gebiet or Stadt for administrative convenience to create Hauptbezirks led by Hauptkommissars as an intermediate level between the Generalbezirk level and the Gebiet and Stadt level.

Although more were planned, only two Reichskommissariats were actually set up, Ostland and Ukraine.

- Reichskommissariat Ostland (HQ: Riga)
 - Generalbezirke:
 - Estland (Estonia); HQ: Reval (Tallinn)
 - Lettland (Latvia); HQ: Riga
 - Litauen (Lithuania); HQ: Kauen
 - Weissruthenien (Belarus); HQ: Minsk
- Reichskommissariat Ukraine (HQ: Rowno)
 - Generalbezirke:
 - Wolhynian und Podolian (Volhynia and Podolia)
 - Shitomir (Zhytomyr)
 - Kiew (Kiev)
 - Nikolajew
 - Dnjepropetrowsk

- Krim (Crimea)

The Jewish Community of Riga, 1941-1943

The Baltic States were quickly occupied in the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. In the first months after the invasion, pogroms by local inhabitants and mass shootings conducted by the SS and its collaborators killed tens of the thousands of Latvian Jews including thousands from Riga and its environs, more would follow.

The first anti-Jewish measures in Riga were carried out under the military occupation, but the transition to a civil administration in July with the appointment of Hinrich Lohse as Reichskommissar Ostland and later Otto-Heinrich Drechsler as Generalkommissar Lettland, brought a systematization of these measures and orders for the creation of a ghetto in Riga.

The ghetto was established in October 1941, and became the center of a long running dispute with the SS over control of Jewish policy.

A particularly important issue was control over seized Jewish assets. Many had been taken by the Wehrmacht or the SS prior to Lohse's arrival, but the SS continued to push for control over them throughout the period of the ghetto.

Lohse asserted his authority over Jewish assets in his proclamation on the forfeiture of Jewish property, on October 13th, 1941. This was further cemented in a decree of July 6th 1942, which shifted the administration of moveable non-commercial Jewish, ownerless, and subversive owned assets from Trusteeship Office to the Finance Departments for "asset management" (Vermögensverwaltung) of Reichskommissariat Ostland and its Generalbezirke.

Ultimately, the SS reasserted control of Jewish policy when in early April 1943 Himmler ordered the population of the ghetto (controlled by the civil administration) transferred to new concentration camps wholly controlled by the SS.

The Riga ghetto was emptied by the end of November 1943.

Scope and content of collection

As this collection originally constituted part of the Alfred Rosenberg Papers, it documents the organizations and agencies he headed.

The first part primarily contains documents from the Foreign Policy Office of the NSDAP (APA), mostly from the 1930s, as well from the Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories (RMfdbO).

It also notably contains the registries of *Institut für kontinental-europäische Forschung* (Institute for Continental European Research), registries were an integral part of traditional German recordkeeping practices to track incoming and outgoing documents and identify them with numbers and short summaries.

The registry of the institute was kept in a large volume with the left page recording incoming documents, listing sender, date, and contents note, and the right page listing outgoing and "working" documents, listing recipient, date, and contents note.

The second part contains the records of seized assets. Most are forms created in compliance with an order from the Reichskommissar dated October 14th, 1942 on the confiscation of movable non-commercial property from the Jews of Riga. There are also documents from the finance department dating from December 1943 concerning the leasing of Jewish assets after the dissolution of the ghetto.

System of arrangement

The first part of Reel 1 is slightly out of order, with the last part of the registry in no. 12 being attached to the front of the reel prior to no. 1.

The individual files on reel 2 are grouped by the name of the person they concern, but not in alphabetical order by name nor seemingly in any chronological one.

Indexing terms

Germany. Reichsministerium für die Besetzten Ostgebiete.
Latvia--History--German occupation, 1941-1944
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Latvia
World War, 1939-1945--Confiscations and contributions
Aryanization

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Cote	No.	Title/Description
1	CXLVII(147)		
1	CXLVII(147)	12(cont.)	Registry of the "Institut für kontinental-europäische Forschung" (cont.)
1	CXLVII(147)	1	Preliminary Dress Code for the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg in the Occupied Territories; Oct. 1942
1	CXLVII(147)	2	Correspondence Regarding Espionage by the French Embassy; Apr.-Aug. 1931
1	CXLVII(147)	3	Article in the Volkischer Beobachter about an anti-Nazi Speech by Cardinal von Faulhaber; Jan. 1934
1	CXLVII(147)	4	Open Letter to Goebbels; Feb. 1939
1	CXLVII(147)	5	Report to Rosenberg about Scheidt's Trip to Norway; Jul. 1939
1	CXLVII(147)	6	Report of a Rumor in Denmark about British Agents Posing as BUF Members Collecting Money in Berlin; Mar. 1940
1	CXLVII(147)	7	Table of Information on People in Amt Rosenberg; Apr. 1941
1	CXLVII(147)	8	Report of the Reichsministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories on Japan's Administration of Occupied Territory; May 1942
1	CXLVII(147)	9	Letter to Rosenberg about the Administration of Reichskommissariat Ukraine; Mar. 1943
1	CXLVII(147)	10	Registry of the "Institut für kontinental-europäische Forschung"; Jun. 1941-Dec. 1943

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| 1 | CXLVII(147) | 11 | Secret Documents Not Returned to the Registry, and List of Cosignatures; Feb. 1942 |
| 1 | CXLVII(147) | 12 | Registry of the "Institut für kontinental-europäische Forschung"; 1941-1944 |
| 2 | CXLVII(147) | | |
| 2 | CXLVII(147) | 13-83 | Individual Files on the Non-Commercial Movable Property of Jews in Riga; Nov. 1942-Dec. 1943 |