

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-45
Greece

RG-45.007
Acc.2009.13

Title: Records of the Jewish Community of Patras, Greece, 1947-1982.

Extent: 1 DVD

Provenance: From the Jewish Museum of Greece. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the collection from the Jewish Museum of Greece via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Project in March 2009.

Biographical/Historical Note: In 1940, the combined Jewish Community of Patras and Agrinio consisted of 265 individuals. During the German occupation, the order of 8 October 1943, for the Community's members to be registered, was widely resisted. All the Jews of Agrinion fled to the mountains, while in Patras the Germans managed, mainly with the help of their local collaborators, to arrest and deport 213 members of the Community. 152 of those survived and returned after the war, but the Community was a mere shadow of its former self. Apart from the dead in the Holocaust, the number of surviving Jewish families gradually waned, mainly because many of them chose to relocate to other cities in Greece or abroad. Being declared inactive in 1970, the Community was officially dissolved in 1991.

In 1984, the interior of the Patras Synagogue was transported, a little before the building itself was demolished, to the Jewish Museum of Athens, where it was installed and rededicated.

The Community's post-war archive, five archival boxes in all, is now part of the collection of the Jewish Museum of Greece it graphically illustrates the slow decline and eventual demise of this once flourishing Community, as a direct result of the Holocaust.

Restrictions on Access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on Use: Restrictions apply. No publication without permission of the source archive.

Language: Greek

Preferred Citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Curatorial Affairs Division, Archives Branch.

Scope and Content: Consists of correspondence files concerning postwar activities of the Jewish community related to restitution matters, commemoration of Holocaust

victims, elections of the communal board, burial permissions and maintenance of the Jewish cemetery, disposal of the community's property, a list of community members, financial records, and minutes from the meetings of the Board of the Jewish Community.

Inventory:

Box 1: Archives of the Jewish Community of Patras

Subseries 1.1: Loose material

A book containing laws governing the “Central Board of Jewish Communities” and “The Greek Jewish Communities.” Contains a document regarding the appointment of a trust company of the Community. 32 pages.

List of names from Patras to be inscribed on the proposed monument to the victims of the Holocaust. 3 pages

Correspondence and documents of the Jewish Community of Patras. 5 pages

Reprint of an article by Steven Bowman: “A Corpus of Hebrew Epitaphs in Patras.” Contains a card with Errata. 37 pages

Subseries 1.2: Material in files

Two blocks of payment receipts of the JCP

Block 1: Receipts 1351-1400. 50 pages

Block 2: Receipts 1701-1750. 52

1.1. Material in files

1.1.1. Two blocks of payment receipts of the J.C.P.

1.1.1.1. Block 1: Receipts 1351 – 1400 50 pages

1.1.1.2. Block 2: Receipts 1701 - 1750 50 pages

1.1.1.3. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P. 129 pages

1.1.2. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P.

1.1.2.1. SUBJECTS: Community elections, laws in the Government Gazette, war criminals, cemetery on the island of Corfu, German reparations, cemetery of Patras, applications, certificates, declaration of the Community as inactive, rescue of Community archive, Synagogue interior and its artefacts by the J.M.G., lists of Community members by name for 1952, 1955, 1971, 1972 and 1973.

211 pages

1.1.2.2. A notebook, titled “Book of Community Elections 1946 - ”. 12 pages

BOX № 2: ARCHIVE OF THE J.C.P., 1947 – 1949

- 2.1. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1947 – 1948
SUBJECTS: Monthly activity reviews of the Community, fiscal reviews, circulars by the C.B.J.C., activity reviews of the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee, Jewish property: claims, restitutions. YIVO, WJC, minutes of the Community Board's sessions on the mentioned topics, receipts of incoming and outgoing payments. (*Some up to A3size*) 351 pages
- 2.2. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1948 – 1949
SUBJECTS: As before + relief and rehabilitation organisations, lists of relief allocation, burial permissions for the 1st Municipal Cemetery of Patras.
382 pages

BOX № 3: ARCHIVE OF THE J.C.P., 1951 – 1968

- 3.1. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1951 – 1958
SUBJECTS: As before + 10th anniversary from the establishment of the state of Israel, a "Book of minutes of the Community Board's sessions from 1/1/1955 – 25/10/1970". 44 pages
- 3.2. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1959 – 1960
SUBJECTS: As before + anti-Semitism, drafting into the Army of the Community's religious functionaries, one "Correspondence protocol book 15/7/59 – 25/10/70. 158 pages
- 3.3. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1961
SUBJECTS: As before. 102 pages
- 3.4. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1962 – 1963
SUBJECTS: As before. 48 pages
- 3.5. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1964 - 1968
SUBJECTS: As before. 98 pages

BOX № 4: ARCHIVE OF THE J.C.P., 1969 – 1972

- 4.1. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1968 – 1969
SUBJECTS: As before + lists of the Community members by families.
119 pages
- 4.2. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1970
SUBJECTS: As before + "Treasurer's Book of the Inactive Jewish Community of Patras from 26-10-70" + disposal of the Community's property to other Jewish Communities in Greece and erection of a high-rise building on a Community piece of land. 149 pages
- 4.3. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1971
SUBJECTS: As before + a "Correspondence protocol book 1-2-71 of the Jewish Community of Patras" 119 pages
- 4.3. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1971
SUBJECTS: As before. 113 pages

BOX № 5: ARCHIVE OF THE J.C.P., 1973 – 1982

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| 5.1. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1973 – 1974 | |
| SUBJECTS: As before. | 179 pages |
| 5.2. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1975 – 1976 | |
| SUBJECTS: As before. | 172 pages |
| 5.3. Correspondence and documents of the J.C.P., 1972 – 1982 | |
| SUBJECTS: As before. Last document: a certificate, dated 5.5.82. | 120 pages |