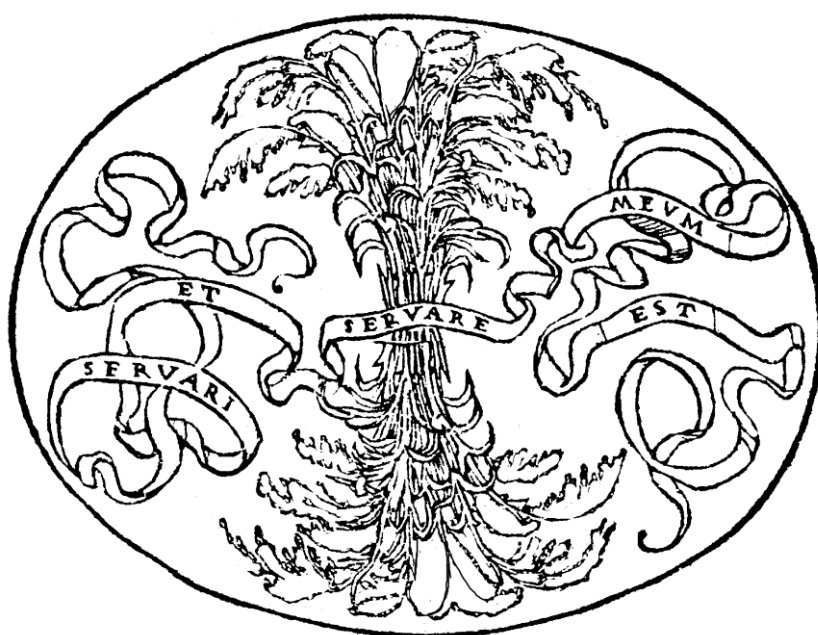


STUDI  
DI  
**MEMOFONTE**

*Rivista on-line semestrale*

Numero 22/2019



FONDAZIONE MEMOFONTE

*Studio per l'elaborazione informatica delle fonti storico-artistiche*

[www.memofonte.it](http://www.memofonte.it)

## COMITATO REDAZIONALE

*Proprietario*

Fondazione Memofonte onlus

*Fondatrice*

Paola Barocchi

*Direzione scientifica*

Donata Levi

*Comitato scientifico*

Francesco Caglioti, Barbara Cinelli, Flavio Fergonzi, Margaret Haines,  
Donata Levi, Nicoletta Maraschio, Carmelo Occhipinti

*Cura scientifica*

Daria Brasca, Christian Fuhrmeister, Emanuele Pellegrini

*Cura redazionale*

Martina Nastasi, Laurence Connell

*Segreteria di redazione*

Fondazione Memofonte onlus, via de' Coverelli 2/4, 50125 Firenze

[info@memofonte.it](mailto:info@memofonte.it)

ISSN 2038-0488

## INDICE

### *The Transfer of Jewish-owned Cultural Objects in the Alpe Adria Region*

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| DARIA BRASCA, CHRISTIAN FUHRMEISTER, EMANUELE PELLEGRINI<br>Introduction   | p. 1   |
| VICTORIA REED<br>Museum Acquisitions in the Era of the Washington Principles:<br>Porcelain from the Emma Budge Estate  | p. 9   |
| GISÈLE LÉVY<br>Looting Jewish Heritage in the Alpe Adria Region. Findings from<br>the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI) Historical Archives                                     | p. 28  |
| IVA PASINI TRŽEC<br>Contentious Musealisation Process(es) of Jewish Art Collections in Croatia   | p. 41  |
| DARIJA ALUJEVIĆ<br>Jewish-owned Art Collections in Zagreb:<br>The Destiny of the Robert Deutsch Maceljiski Collection  | p. 50  |
| ANTONIJA MLIKOTA<br>The Destiny of the Tilla Durieux Collection after its Transfer<br>from Berlin to Zagreb  | p. 64  |
| DARIA BRASCA<br>The Dispossession of Italian Jews: the Fate of Cultural Property<br>in the Alpe Adria Region during Second World War   | p. 79  |
| CAMILLA DA DALT<br>The Case of Morpurgo De Nilma's Art Collection in Trieste:<br>from a Jewish Legacy to a 'German Donation'   | p. 107 |
| CRISTINA CUDICIO<br>The Dissolution of a Jewish Collection: the Pincherle Family in Trieste  | p. 123 |
| ELENA FRANCHI<br>«The Chair with the Green Back and Yellow Flowers».<br>Furniture and other Property belonging to Jewish Families in Trieste<br>during Second World War: the Frigessi Affair | p. 138 |
| GABRIELE ANDERL, ANNELIESE SCHALLMEINER<br>Sequestered/Confiscated Assets in Trieste: A List of Austrian<br>Jewish Owners in Viennese Archives. A Workshop Report                            | p. 147 |

IRENE BOLZON, FABIO VERARDO

Postwar Trials in Trieste: Collaboration and Crimes against Jewish property during the German Occupation

p. 163

ANTONIA BARTOLI

Flagging a Red Flag: Contextualizing the Activities of Alessandro Morandotti between 1939 and 1945 in Light of the Art Looting Investigation Unit Report (1946-1947)

p. 174

FRANCESCA COCCOLO

Rodolfo Siviero between Fascism and the Cold War: Negotiating Art Restitution and 'Exceptional Returns' to Italy after Second World War

p. 198

CATERINA ZARU

The *Affaire Ventura*. Antiquarians and Collaborators during and after the Second World War

p. 210

## LOOTING JEWISH HERITAGE IN THE ALPE ADRIA REGION. FINDINGS FROM THE UNION OF THE ITALIAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES (UCEI) HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

### *Sources and research questions today*

Important documents produced under the Allied Military Government (AMG) from 1943 to 1947 are kept in the Historical Archive of the Italian Union of the Jewish Communities (Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane, UCEI). This paper aims at illustrating some of these documents relating to the Alpe Adria territory and to cases already mentioned in the proceedings of the so called Anselmi Commission. It also presents documents dating from 1987 that until today have not yet been inventoried and still wait for proper consideration.

This paper intends to hint at the variety and importance of the historical archive of the Union for research on Jewish provenance. The selected cases also attest to the great difficulty Jews met in recovering their properties. This is true in particular of the members of the Jewish Community of Trieste<sup>1</sup>. However, in Trieste one of the first actions of the AMG was to abrogate the racial laws (General Order no. 3 of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1945).

### *Historical overview*

Across Europe, the devastation caused by the Holocaust left deep scars: where once there was the pulse of millions of Jews, only the trauma of the few survivors remained with the memories of entire communities lost.

Also in Italy, the diabolical plan of the ‘spoliation’ of Jews started before the war, resulting in mass plundering and the destruction of property belonging to Jewish citizens. The racial laws put into place in 1938 sought to control their behaviour and economic life, forcing many Jews into exile. Those who emigrated attempted to carry their furniture, linen, work tools, art objects and so on, with them.

Foreseeing the imminent exodus of the Jews and their property, the Circular no. 43, dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1939, issued by the Ministry of National Education, encouraged Custom Offices to make the export of art objects more complicated. Customs officers were supposed to overestimate the value of the objects in order to demand a higher export tax. Under those conditions, many who were forced to flee for their lives had to leave their property in Italy. This situation gave origin to the myth of the ‘treasure’ of the Jews.

The Italian Police were unrelenting in preventing the ‘expatriation’ of jewels and money by persecuted Jews. The Police focused their activities on seizing goods of high value, such as gold, precious currency, securities in the form of stocks and bonds, as well as valuable works of art.

After September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1943, occupied Northern Italy was divided into two Operational Zones. Their Supreme Commissioners – the *Gauleiter* of Carinthia, Friedrich Rainer, who became head of the Operational Zone Adriatic Littoral, and the *Gauleiter* and *Reichsstatthalter* of Tyrol Franz Hofer, who was appointed head of the Operational Zone Alpine Foothills – received orders directly from Hitler. The occupation of Trieste by the German troops

---

<sup>1</sup> Rome, Archivio Storico dell’Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane (from now: AUCEI), UCII dal 1934, box 65A, folder 7 *Commissione Alleata 1946*, which contains correspondence between the Jewish Community of Trieste and the AMG.

occurred soon after the signing of the Armistice between Italy and the Allied forces. The Supreme Commissioner issued a law stating that all Jewish assets were confiscated and taken by the Reich. The assets were looted, the furniture removed from the houses, and the bank deposits blocked, while the Jewish population was captured in the streets.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1943, the Council of Ministers of the Italian Social Republic (Repubblica Sociale Italiana, RSI) that continued Fascist politics in Northern Italy under control of the German occupation forces, approved a first provision on Jewish property: a legislative decree of Mussolini ordered that Jewish owners report their cultural assets, which (at the request of the interested superintendents and according to the procedure of the law of war, when compatible) were to be seized by the heads of the provinces. This decree, which affected both private Jews and Jewish institutions, never came into force<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1943, the RSI established the seizure of all assets belonging to Jews - 'the enemies of the homeland' - and then on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1944, the definitive confiscation of all their property took place. A special body for the management of Jews' properties (Ente per la Gestione e Liquidazione dei Beni Ebraici, EGELI) had already been established in 1939 after the promulgation of racial laws of 1938.

By April 1944 the spoliation was sharpened with the arrest and deportation of Jewish citizens. In addition to seizures under the regulatory framework, there were uncontrolled thefts of property by plundering and raiding.

In North-Eastern Italy, in the Operational Zones, the Nazis also ordered the seizure of rare books and entire libraries, a field which until then had not been particularly targeted by the Italian provisions. Rather, the assets of communities, synagogues or cemeteries were often targeted and devastated by fascist squads, as in Trieste, Alessandria, Florence, Ferrara, Split, Padua, Gorizia, Vercelli and Bologna, whereas the synagogues of Leghorn and Turin were devastated by bombing<sup>3</sup>. German authorities looted the valuable volumes of the libraries of Jewish Communities in Trieste and Rome, where they also seized the library of the Italian Rabbinical College<sup>4</sup>.

One of the first orders of the German occupying authorities in Trieste, on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1943, was the one addressed to the local branches of banks, such as the Banca Commerciale Italiana and the Credito Italiano. The banks were requested to verify all bank accounts and security boxes entitled to Jews; after that, all their accounts were closed and the money transferred into the *Oberkasse* of the Supreme Commissioner. With an order dated November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1943, the same happened at Rijeka and Pula<sup>5</sup>; bank deposits confiscated in Opatija were transferred into the bank account of the Reichskreditkasse of Rijeka<sup>6</sup>. In order to identify the accounts of the Jews, recourse was made to the personal data of registers; the safety deposit boxes were opened, while all the expenses for the blacksmith work were charged to the owners.

---

<sup>2</sup> On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1943, the Circular n. 665 of the Ministry of National Education, General Direction of the Fine Arts, signed by Bottai, was addressed to the heads of provinces, superintendents and heads of revenue offices. It ordered the seizure of all real estate, securities, artistic, historical and bibliographical assets of private Jews and Jewish institutions. It is to be found in the Prefecture archive groups of the Italian State Archives.

<sup>3</sup> *RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE* [ANSELM] 2001, pp. 148; 154-156.

<sup>4</sup> AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, box 35C, folder 10, *Biblioteche, Archivi-1943* contains documents on the Library of the Jewish Community of Rome looted by the Nazis on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1943, and on the Library of the Rabbinical College, both known for their inestimable value. The shipping company Otto & Rosoni loaded with materials from these libraries two freight trains coming directly from Munich, marked with the abbreviations DPRI Munchen 97970 G and DPRI Munchen 97970 C. Another part of the Library of the Rabbinical College was shipped on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. After the end of the war, this latter was found by the Allies and transferred to the Offenbach deposit. See also AUCII dal 1934, Box 65A, folder 9 *Comunità 1944-1945*. See SARFATTI 2003; TEDESCHI 2004, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> *RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE* [ANSELM] 2001, p. 216.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 229-30.

Looting increased over time, as well as blackmailing and extortion by way of threats, either at the moment of the arrest of Jewish persons or when they tried to cross the borders and were offered false promises of salvation<sup>7</sup>. Often, Jews had to escape by abandoning their homes, which were looted also by neighbours, or other people they trusted. Sometimes the properties, like linen or pieces of furniture, were distributed among the victims of air raids. It is to be noted that after the war, the Italian State did not acknowledge any compensation in these cases.

While the Nazi administration required accurate registration and identification of the seized assets, there also were many cases of looted goods used for personal purposes both among the Italian policemen and in the German army. This is the reason why much of the stolen heritage has been dispersed or disappeared.

When the war was over, and restitutions were demanded, Jewish organizations and individuals met great difficulties in identifying the owners of objects or their heirs<sup>8</sup>. In Trieste the Office of the Jewish Property Control worked until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949. Its aim was carrying out the return of the assets to the owners: the bank accounts and the valuable effects were examined.

Allied Military Government documents reported that a lot of progress was made regarding the recovery of bank accounts and jewels: however, despite the accuracy of Nazi administration in recording confiscation, it was very difficult to identify owners and in the dossiers we frequently find typical generic remarks such as: «this amount is resulting from the sale of objects belonging to the Jews». Many compensations could not be carried out by the AMG. In 1946 AMG informed the Union of Jewish Communities that in Trieste many steps had been taken to recover bank accounts and jewels belonging to Jews; however, some large sums confiscated by the Germans did not mention the owner's name but only the generic description mentioned above. The funds resulting from the sale of objects belonging to the Jews remained blocked in the bank by AMG, as it is mentioned in a letter dated August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1946<sup>9</sup> (Fig. 2). Finally, these amounts were returned to the Trieste Jewish Community after the expenses for researches made by AMG were deducted<sup>10</sup>.

Therefore, while information related to bank accounts seized by the Germans had been recorded in detail – listing accounts by name –, it was nearly impossible to reconstruct the fate both of those who attempted to escape across the border and of their looted property. In September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945, Giuseppe Nathan, Commissario Governativo of the Union of Jewish Communities, wrote to the Governor of the Bank of Italy in order to research jewels and values seized by the Fascists and deposited in the Vicenza branch of the Bank of Italy. At the beginning of the summer, he had already alerted the Head of the Government, Ferruccio Parri, about the difficult situation of the Jews of Trieste, many of them displaced, and asked for a provision to allow them to settle in apartments occupied by Fascists, as it had been already done in favour of partisans<sup>11</sup>. In August the same Parri was further requested by the Union of the Jewish Communities to ease in general restitutions of assets and goods which had been confiscated by Fascists and had been given in use to local prefectures<sup>12</sup> (Figs. 3-4).

<sup>7</sup> ZABLUDOFF 1995; ZABLUDOFF 1998.

<sup>8</sup> WEINBAUM 1995. See also, *Moral and Material Restitution: An Interim Report* by the Institute of the World Jewish Congress, Policy Dispatch No. 54, September 2000, kept at the Library of UCEI.

<sup>9</sup> AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, box 65 folder 7, *Commissione Alleata*, 1946.

<sup>10</sup> AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, box 65 A, folder 7, *Commissione Alleata*, 1946. Letter by the Jewish Community of Trieste to UCII, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1946; letter to AMG, 13<sup>th</sup> Corps, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1946.

<sup>11</sup> AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, box 83B, folder 6 *Ministeri 1945-1946*. Letter from Nathan to Parri of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1945.

<sup>12</sup> AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, box 83B, folder 6 *Ministeri 1945-1946*. Letter from the Union of the Jewish Communities to Parri of August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945.

*Trieste books restitution*

A letter dated August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1949 by the Italian Diplomatic Mission for the Restitution of Works of Art in Germany reported that 147 books of the Jewish Community of Trieste were found at the Studienbibliothek in Klagenfurt<sup>13</sup>. The Head of the Diplomatic Mission and responsible for restitutions, Rodolfo Siviero, was also called to examine the collections in the Offenbach and Wiesbaden storages, while an additional warehouse of books had been discovered in Grundlsee.

*Plunder activity in Alpe Adria*

Many documents relate to pieces of evidence offered by Jews who suffered lootings and deportation. Many private apartments were looted. As for Gorizia, Massimo Della Pergola and Marcello Morpurgo reported that their houses had been raided. In Rijeka Andrea Emodi had all his belongings looted, whereas Teodoro Morgani reported that the Moorish style Temple of via Pomerio and the Jewish cemetery had been set on fire. In Trieste the owner of villa Spiegel was deported and killed in Auschwitz after having been robbed of all his goods.

*Some examples of confiscations or pillages of art collections<sup>14</sup>*

In Trieste most of the seizures were carried out by German authorities, among them the property belonging to Bruno Pincherle, Arnaldo Frigessi and Mario Morpurgo.

In Meran Mr. Julius Berman, back in the town after the war, denounced the looting of his apartment and the fact that many of his goods had been given to private individuals. When he found some of them, the new owners declared in trial that they had legally bought and paid for these goods, and that they did not know who the previous owner was<sup>15</sup>.

*The restitution of looted assets and the role of UCEI*

The restitution of property was submitted to a very complex process that depended on a number of circumstances: whether the owners had been killed in camps, whether they had heirs, whether they were members of Jewish communities or had abjured, etc.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1947 a decree was issued integrating an article of the Civil Code on matters of inheritance. It regulated the succession of heirless Jews, deceased following racial persecutions after September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1943. The beneficiary was no more the State, as in the Civil Code, but the Union of Jewish Community. The essential conditions for the application of the law are: that the Tribunal has issued a declaration of presumed death and that the deceased Jew had not abjured his faith (according to art. 5 of the RD October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1930, n. 1731). The inheritance was transferred free of charge.

Later, according to the Law n. 336 of 1970, which refers to the rights and benefits of formerly persecuted people, and its subsequent modification with Law n. 233 of July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1997, dealing with goods stolen because of racial persecution to Jewish citizens, detained by the Italian State, it was established that such goods are to be assigned to the Union of Jewish

---

<sup>13</sup> RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE [ANSELM] 2001, pp. 157-158.

<sup>14</sup> For a general overview see FELICIANO 2001.

<sup>15</sup> For further information on this case see RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE [ANSELM] 2001, pp. 195-196.

Italian Communities which has the task to distribute the proceeds to the individual communities.

A large bulk of archival documentation exists at the Historical Archive of the UCEI on these matters. Most of it has not yet been ordered and needs further investigation.

One case is that of Bernardo Czopp, a vet active in Bolzano, born in Ukraina in 1879, who was arrested in December 1943 and never came back. Before being arrested, he had left his money to a friend, Giovanni Battista Baggio of Bassano del Grappa. After the war, as attested by some documents in the UCEI, his friend returned the money he had received from Bernardo to the Union of Jewish Communities. His legacy could be transferred to the Union because he was a member of the Jewish Community<sup>16</sup> (Fig. 5).

Different is the case of Malvina Weinberger married name Lehmann. She lived in Merano, but was a German citizen. Her belongings did not go to the Union because the lady, deported and presumably killed soon after her arrest, had previously abjured to the Jewish religion; therefore the Union had no right to receive her property<sup>17</sup>.

A third significant case is that of Anneliese Herzberg Körpel. In 1990, the Merano Jewish community communicated to Tullia Zevi, President of UCEI, the existence of a security box in the Banco di Roma in Bolzano under the name of Anneliese Herzberg Körpel. Some of the gold coins it contained had been sold by order of the District Court of Bolzano in order to pay charges on the deposit box during the years. Moreover, these coins had been sold at a time when the price of gold was low. In this case the situation was more complex because research carried out on the lady's family origin revealed that she was originally a refugee in Merano and Polish citizen married to a German. However, she was registered in the Jewish Community of Merano, where she resided. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1943, she and her two children, Rolf and Ellen, were arrested and killed. Thus, she died heirless.

After the discovery of the security box UCEI lawyers obtained by the General Advocacy that its contents would be returned to the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities. The criterium of the lady's affiliation to the Jewish Community was fundamental for the decision. The amount received was transferred to the Community of Merano and used for charity activities<sup>18</sup>.

### *'Bisacce' of Trieste - The Trieste Saddlebags*

According to the German documentation found after the war, more than 131 houses belonging to Jews in Trieste were plundered and their assets – having a value of more than 186 Million Lire of the time – were partially transferred to the Reich.

During an investigation dating back to 1962, it emerged that the looted Jewish goods from Trieste, shipped to Carinthia in five trucks, were stored in different places: the basement of the office of the *Gauleiter* Rainer in Klagenfurt, the castle of Osterwitz, the elementary school of Pörtschach and the cellars of an abandoned brewery of Silberegg. These Jewish goods were recovered in 1946. Saddlebags, containing personal objects, were traced in an auction house in Graz by Manlio Cecovini, who was at that time the legal advisor of the Allied Military Government.

After these objects had returned to Trieste, they were showed to the victims of Jewish persecution of the city at the Monte dei Pegni of the Cassa di Risparmio of Trieste on

<sup>16</sup> RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE [ANSELM] 2001, p. 193; AUCEI, AUCII dal 1948, box 166, folder 1 *Patrimonio di deportati che va all'Unione per mancanza di eredi*, subfolder *Czopp Bernardo*.

<sup>17</sup> RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE [ANSELM] 2001, p. 194.

<sup>18</sup> AUCEI, Box n. 211: 1987-1990 file 66; Box n. 312: 1994-1997, file 66. All archival documentation relating to the years after 1987 has not been inventoried and therefore not available to the public.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1952. Few people were able to identify their property. Goods were personal items such as: wedding rings, cigarette boxes, photo frames, and mismatched pieces of silverware<sup>19</sup>. Although these personal objects did not have a monetary value, they are strong material evidence of the harsh persecution against the Jews that took place in Trieste and clearly show the suffering of human beings to whom life has been denied.

The objects which have not been recognized were transferred to the Central Treasury Bureau (*Tesoreria Centrale dello Stato*) in via XX Settembre in Rome in 1962. Here, in the ministerial bureau, they stayed unnoticed for 35 years, until February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1997, when they were 're-discovered'. There were five bags, with the acronym number 1117, which in the press were labeled as «Jewish Treasure».

After the finding, the Ministry of the Treasury appointed a commission to ascertain the legitimate property of the goods.

In the end the unclaimed objects were given to the Union of the Jewish Communities to be returned to the Community of Trieste. The official ceremony of the return of the unclaimed goods to the Jewish Community of Trieste took place in the Great Hall of the Ministry of the Treasury in Rome on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997, at the presence of the Minister of Treasury, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, of Tullia Zevi, President of the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities, and of the members of the Commission that had investigated<sup>20</sup>. Only a couple of weeks before, a law entitled *Provisions in favour of members of the former Jewish communities persecuted for racial reasons* was approved by Parliament for its moral and social relevance<sup>21</sup>.

In the year 2000 the objects were restituted to the Community of Trieste, which decided to exhibit a great part of them in its Museum entitled to Carlo and Vera Wagner. A small significant selection is today also exhibited at the Risiera di San Sabba and at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem<sup>22</sup>.

---

<sup>19</sup> An article on the newspaper «La Nazione» dated February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997, mentions that the 'bisacce' contained eye glasses, gold dental prostheses and simple personal objects.

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.tesoro.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/1997/comunicato\\_0059.html](http://www.tesoro.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/1997/comunicato_0059.html), <May, 2019>.

<sup>21</sup> Law 233 of July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1997.

<sup>22</sup> <https://moked.it/triestebraica/luoghi-ebraici/il-museo-ebraico/>, <May, 2019>.

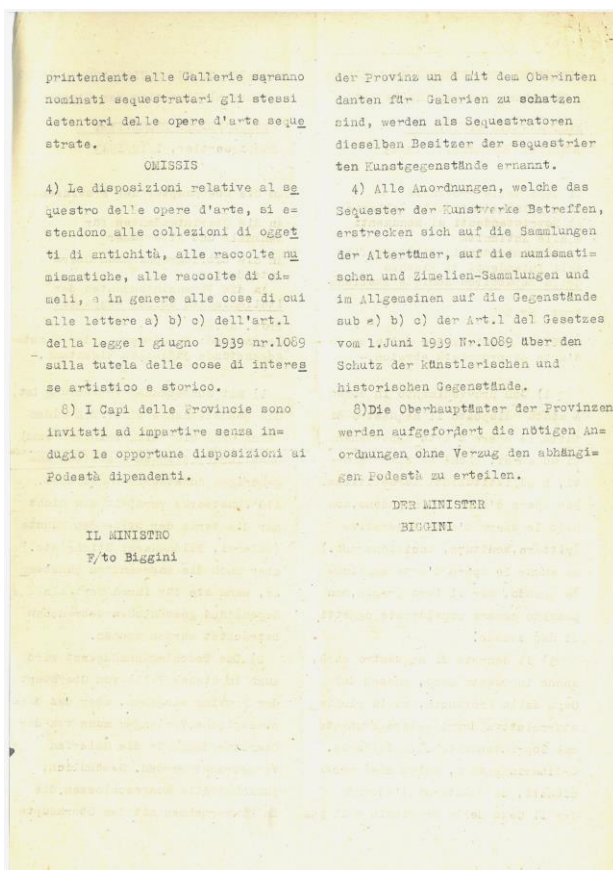
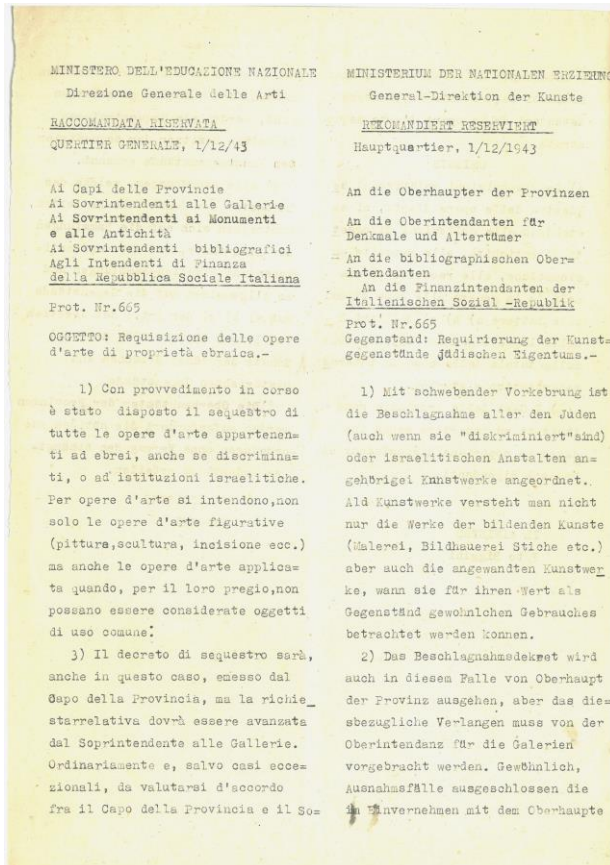


Fig. 1: Ministerial Circular no. 665 on the Requisition of Jewish-owned Artworks, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943. AUCEI, AUCII dal 1948, Box 65 A, Folder 6 *Rapporti coi Ministeri 1944-1945*

Looting Jewish Heritage in the Alpe Adria Region. Findings from the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI) Historical Archives

1946-65 HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
FINANCE DIVISION  
13. CORPS  
65

TELEPHONE: Nr. 29701/EXT. 18 Property Control

REF : 136/AMG/CP/229  
TO : COMUNITA' ISRAELITICA.  
MILITARY DIVISION 9. R.O.M.A.  
SUBJECT : Jewish property.

19 AUGUST 1946  
R 30/8  
C. Trunk

1. By A.M.G. Area Order No. 3 issued by the AREA Commander under date 20 AUGUST 46 a special administration was appointed for the Jewish Community of TRIESTE.

2. This Administration has done very good work and amongst others has made exhaustive examination into the question of Bank accounts, securities, bonds, jewellery and other valuables sequestered and/or confiscated by the German authorities.

3. As a direct result of their work many hundreds of Bank accounts, securities and pieces of personal jewellery have been definitely identified and returned to their rightful owners by this office.

4. A considerable sum, amounting to several millions of lire cannot be definitely identified for the moment and this sum remains in a blocked account under control of this A.M.G. To a very great extent this balance represents the proceeds from sales of furniture, valuables, etc. by the German authorities, but in respect of which no detailed records are available. For example there are many entries such as "Sales of Jewish property say L.2,000,000.-" There are no records whatever to indicate whose property was sold nor whether this is a gross or net sum after deducting commission expenses etc.

./.

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
FINANCE DIVISION  
13. CORPS

TELEPHONE: Nr. 29701/EXT.

REF :  
TO :  
SUBJECT :

5. To carry out this investigation it was necessary for the Administration to employ expert and other assistance, and the question of payment has arisen.

6. Your Committee has undoubtedly met a somewhat similar position in Italy and your comment on how and from what source such expenses have been met there would be appreciated.

H. T. BEARD  
H. T. BEARD, Lt. Col.  
CHIEF FIN. OFFICER

Fig. 2: Letter by AMG to Italian UCII, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1946. AUCEI, AUCII dal 1934, Box 65 A, Folder 7 Commissione Alleata, 1946

85

26 Giugno 1945  
----- 52-397

597.

A Sua Eccellenza  
Il Prof. FERRUCCIO PARRI  
Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri - Ministro dell'Interno

R O M A

Eccellenza,

Da un ufficiale ebreo triestino, che ha partecipato alla campagna di liberazione dell'Alta Italia e che ha avuto recentemente la possibilità di recarsi a Trieste, mi è stato riferito che in quella città, ove la Comunità Israelitica si componeva di oltre cinquemila aderenti prima dell'applicazione delle inique leggi razziali, tutte le abitazioni degli ebrei sono state, senza eccezione, spogliate di tutto il contenuto da parte dei tedeschi e gli ebrei, che sono riusciti a sfuggire alle persecuzioni e alle deportazioni, non sono in grado di rientrare a Trieste non sapendo dove potrebbero trovare alloggio. D'altra parte a una larga proporzione di triestini, che avevano assunto la cittadinanza italiana nel 1919, questa fu tolta con le leggi razziali ed essi pertanto oggi si vengono a trovare nella posizione di essere apolidi.

Data la incerta sorte che si prospetta per quanto concerne la delimitazione del confine orientale, a me sembra che sia, sotto ogni punto di vista, conveniente di far ogni possibile manifestazione a favore di questi connazionali così duramente colpiti dalle leggi fasciste, offrendo loro una equa riparazione mediante un'ordinanza prefettizia che autorizzi, come è già stato fatto per i partigiani, gli ebrei triestini che rientrano nella loro città di occupare alloggi sotto sequestro per l'avvicinazione dei profitti di regime o posseduti da fascisti. Siffatta di-

./.

597                      2

sposizione dovrebbe essere sottoposta all'approvazione del Comando Alleato su proposta di questa Unione.

Voglia gradire, Eccellenza, gli atti del mio ossequio.

IL COMMISSARIO GOVERNATIVO:  
(Giuseppe Nathan)

Fig. 3: Letter by Giuseppe Nathan to Ferruccio Parri, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1945. AUCEI, AUCII dal 1948, Box 83 B, Folder 6 Ministri 1945-1946

83

9 Agosto 1945

802.

N/1

Sig. Prof. FERRUCCIO PARRI  
Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri - Ministro dell'Interno

R O M A  
Palazzo Viminale

Mi prego di portare alla Vostra conoscenza che, in parecchie città le Autorità Comunali e Prefettizie esercitano un'azione se non ostruzionistica certamente non di assistenza per gli ebrei, i quali sono stati vittime di furti e spoliazioni dei loro beni da parte dei fascisti.

E' stato riferito da parecchie fonti a questa Unione che, appunto in diversi casi, sono stati rintracciati mobili ed oggetti personali trafugati a ebrei presso le locali Prefetture e non è stata autorizzata la restituzione dei beni stessi ai legittimi proprietari, sulla base che non esistevano istruzioni al riguardo.

In altri casi, in cui notoriamente mobili ed oggetti personali di proprietà di ebrei erano stati trafugati da locali gerarchi fascisti, le proprietà di questi ultimi sono state sequestrate e trasportate al Municipio o alla Prefettura ma, alla richiesta dei legittimi proprietari di poter esaminare questa roba per vedere se vi si trovava quanto era di loro pertinenza, è stato risposto che o mancavano le istruzioni, o non vi era il tempo per fare l'inventario di questi oggetti sequestrati.

Ritengo che, dopo quanto è avvenuto in Italia, sia legittimo da parte degli ebrei di attendersi maggiore comprensione e assistenza da

./.

802. 2.

parte delle Autorità e, sono certo, che la S.V. non mancherà di richiamare opportunamente i Capi delle Province e dei Comuni all'osservanza di questo elementare dovere.

Porgo gli atti del mio ossequio.

IL COMMISSARIO GOVERNATIVO:  
(Giuseppe Nathan)

Fig. 4: Letter by Giuseppe Nathan to Ferruccio Parri, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945  
AUCEI, AUCII dal 1948, Box 83 B,  
Folder 6 Ministri 1945-1946



Fig. 5: Wallet-sized photograph of Bernardo Czopp and his bearer passbooks of the Cassa di Risparmio di Verona e Vicenza, bank branch of Bassano del Grappa. AUCEI, AUCII dal 1948, Box 166 Folder 1 Patrimonio di deportati che va all'Unione per mancanza di eredi, Subfolder Bernardo Czopp

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

FELICIANO 2001

H. FELICIANO, *The Great Culture Robbery: the Plunder of Jewish-Owned Art*, in *The Plunder of Jewish Property during the Holocaust*, edited by A. Beker, London 2001, pp. 164-176.

RAPPORTO GENERALE DELLA COMMISSIONE [ANSELM] 2001

*Rapporto generale della Commissione [Anselmi] per la ricostruzione delle vicende che hanno caratterizzato in Italia le attività di acquisizione dei beni dei cittadini ebrei da parte di organismi pubblici e privati*, edited by the Italian Government, Rome 2001, [http://presidenza.governo.it/DICA/beni\\_ebraici/](http://presidenza.governo.it/DICA/beni_ebraici/), <May, 2018>.

RENDINA

C. RENDINA, *Le biblioteche ebraiche saccheggiate dai nazisti*, «La Repubblica», October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, <https://ricerca.repubblica.it/repubblica/archivio/repubblica/2013/10/13/le-biblioteche-ebraiche-saccheggiate-dai-soldati-nazisti.html>, <May, 2019>.

SARFATTI 2003

M. SARFATTI, *Contro i libri e i documenti delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane, 1938-1945*, «Rassegna Mensile di Israel», s. III, LXIX, 2, 2003, pp. 369-386.

TEDESCHI 2004

D. TEDESCHI, *Alla ricerca della biblioteca della comunità ebraica di Roma saccheggiata nel 1943*, «Rassegna mensile di Israel», s. III, LXX, 3, 2004, pp. 165-174.

TEDESCHI 2007

D. TEDESCHI, *La biblioteca razziata nel 1943 a Roma*, «Mosaico», May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 <https://www.mosaico-cem.it/attualita-e-news/italia/la-biblioteca-razziata-nel-1943-a-roma>, <May, 2019>.

WEINBAUM 1995

L. WEINBAUM, *Righting an Historic Wrong. Restitution of Jewish Property in Central and East Europe* (Policy Study No. 1), Jerusalem 1995.

ZABLUDOFF 1995

S. J. ZABLUDOFF, *Movements of Nazi Gold. Uncovering the Trail* (Policy Study No. 10), Jerusalem 1997.

ZABLUDOFF 1998

S. J. ZABLUDOFF, «*And it all but disappeared*». *The Nazi seizure of Jewish Assets* (Policy Forum No. 13), Jerusalem 1998.

## ABSTRACT

After the dreadful catastrophe that struck Europe, the Second World War and the persecution carried out against the Jews, first against their properties and then against their lives, the few survivors faced many difficulties in recovering their rights and (part of) their properties. Through archival documentation this essay shows that in North Eastern Italy even Jewish communities did not fully succeed in overcoming the bureaucratic obstacles that represented an additional barrier to justice.

Dopo la terribile catastrofe che si era abbattuta in Europa, la Seconda guerra mondiale e la persecuzione contro gli Ebrei, prima sui loro beni e poi sulle loro stesse vite, i pochi superstiti tentarono con molte difficoltà di rientrare in possesso dei loro diritti e di parte delle loro proprietà. In questo saggio si evidenzia attraverso la documentazione archivistica come anche le Comunità Ebraiche del Nord Est Italiano spesso non riuscirono neanche dopo decenni a superare gli ostacoli burocratici che rappresentavano un'ulteriore barriera alla giustizia.