

# Memory of nazi loots: the archive collection of the Office des biens et intérêts privés

Archives départementales de la  
Moselle, autumn 2005

Freie Universität Berlin, June 29th 2017

# I- Why this collection?







# The three ages of archives

## Reception or creation of papers

First disposal made by the user

Containing wastepaper basket

## First age: current records

Duration: 1 to 4 years

Place: administrative workplace

User: administration

Responsibility: administration

Second disposal made by the user under control of Archival Services

Comprising papers of no administrative use and no historical value

## Second age: archives for deposit

Duration: 20 to 100 years

Place: intermediate depository

User: administration

Responsibility: administration under control of archival service

Third disposal made by the archival service

## Third age: Archival archives

Duration: unlimited

Location: archives

User: historical research and occasionally administration

Responsibility: archival service

# About archives...

- Ancient series before 1790
- Revolutionary series from 1790 to 1800
- Modern series from 1800 to 1940
- Contemporary serie from 1940
  - The W serie was created in 1979. It applies to all public archives produced after 1940
    - 1 to 999W for archives produced before 1980
    - 1000W and so on for archives produced after 1980
- Series with no limitation of date: E-dépôt, H-dépôt, Fi, etc. including the J serie: documents entered by extraordinary way

# What happened in Moselle

- Extension of racial discrimination under direct nazi administration
- Repression against political opponents
- Economic plundering of the country

# The frame of dispossession: A continuum of nazi violence with a legal frame

Process of racial oppression and extermination: location, exclusion, expelling, internment, extermination

Process of aryanisation of businesses :

- 1) location of some goods, buildings or a business to dispossess ;
- 2) appointment of a temporary manager;
- 3) evaluation of the nature and interest of the goods ;
- 4) search for an aryanisation solution;
- 5) transformation, sale or liquidation ;
- 6) consignment of the dispossession product on a bank account.

Process of dispossession of material goods in the frame of « Aktion-Möbel »



# The legal frame of compensation

- 1943-1944: London declaration, decree of Algiers
- 1946: french law about the compensation of war damages
- 1958: german BRÜG law

# The Office of private goods and interests

- Created in 1919
- Settled in Metz in 1945
- Dismantled in 1953
- The compensation files were managed by the service des Domaines until 1974 (73000 files)

# The collection

- 468 W 1-321
  - *Zivilverwaltung Überleitungstelle für das Volks- un Reichsfeindliche Vermögen.*
  - Office des biens et intérêts privés
    - General information
    - Files
      - B I – Industrial activities
      - B II – Wholesale trade
      - B III – Retail trade
      - B IV – Handicraft
- Only a sample: 32 out of 515 linear meters

Postkarte



Schornacker

Kloster - Kohlenb.



Sachsen-Steinkohlen-Verwaltung  
Die Kohlenwerke Falkenberg  
des Steinkohlenbergbau-Gesellschaft

Abetz

Manningerstrasse 52

798



*Kommissarische Verwaltung*

~~Société Mielle-Cailloux~~

*Firma* „**Les ECO**”

*in*

**METZ**

28-32, Rue Maréchal Pétain

*Hindenburgstrasse*

# The current compensation of victims

- 1995, président Jacques Chirac, commission Matteoli, Commission d'indemnisation des victimes de spoliation auprès du Premier ministre
- Other Archive collections available: franche diplomatic archives, Archives du ministère des affaires étrangères, 3 rue Suzanne Masson, 93126 La Courneuve
  - Creation of a single research database (50000 records, on test)
  - Digitisation of photographix documents, classified by owner
  - Digitisation, indexing and uploading (in 2014) of photographs of the Goering collection
  - Digitisation and uploading of german lists (ERR...) of looted property