New JDC Archives Resources of Interest to Librarians

Jeffrey Edelstein, Digital Initiatives Manager, JDC Archives
Association of Jewish Libraries Conference • June 18, 2018
Received at 16 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK

A 18/31K D

YENIKEUY 50

JACOB SCHIFF

NEW YORK

PALESTINIAN JEWS FACING TERRIBLE CRISIS BELLIGERENT COUNTRIES STOPPING THEIR ASSISTANCE. SERIOUS DESTRUCTION THREATENS THIRIVING COLONIES FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS NEEDED BY RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE. DR. RUPPIN CHAIRMAN TO ESTABLISH LOAN INSTITUTE AND SUPPORT FAMILIES WHOSE BREADWINNERS HAVE ENTERED ARMY. CONDITIONS CERTAINLY JUSTIFY AMERICAN HELP. WILL YOU UNDERTAKE MATTER

MORGENTHAU
JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee)

- World’s leading Jewish humanitarian agency
- Founded in 1914 at outset of World War I
- Assists vulnerable Jewish communities in over 90 countries worldwide
- Support professional development and self-sufficiency initiatives for global Jewish communities
- Provides nonsectarian relief to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies
About the JDC Archives

- Founded in early 1960s
- Institutional repository for global organization
- Over 3 miles of documents
- Over 100,000 photographs
- Over 2,500 audio-visual holdings
- Research library of over 6,000 titles
- Global branches in New York and Jerusalem
- Digitized text and photo collections available online
- Names Index with 500,000 names
New Online Resources

• Updated website (Just launched!!)
• Newly digitized text collections
• Artifacts & Ephemera Collection now searchable
• Historic Film Collection and sample film clips
• Resources for genealogists and family historians
• Educational resources (topic guides)
New Website! archives.jdc.org

- Updated look
- Streamlined navigation
- New gallery presentation with full-screen image viewer
- New curated content
Curated content arranged by:

- **Topic:** Rescue, WWII-Era Refugees & DPs, Holidays & Celebrations, etc.
- **Location:** Yishuv/Israel, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America, etc.
- **Decade:** with interactive timeline

Each page includes:

- Brief intro and image carousel
- Relevant exhibits, galleries, and topic guides
- Related news and blog posts
Since its founding in 1914, JDC has been a lifeline for Jewish communities in need. Through wars, pogroms, famine, economic crises, and political instability, JDC has found ways to reach Jews in need. It has provided emergency assistance at moments of crisis and has partnered with local Jewish communities to establish and support social welfare programs and institutions. It has mobilized to assist Jewish refugees. JDC established homes for the aged around the world and has helped local communities upgrade their institutions in keeping with modern standards. Health programs have brought success to the sick, and services for the elderly bring sweetness and security to the lives of the elderly.

The relief operation in early 1940s, when the Red Cross red tape obstructed the delivery of food and clothing to the survivors of the Holocaust, JDC sent U.S. Red Cross funds for distribution in the newly liberated areas of Eastern Europe, providing clothing, blankets, food, and other supplies. These funds were channeled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine via the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which paid for relief supplies in the countries.
Jerusalem Collection, 1944-1952

- Office responsible for Israel, the Middle East, and the Balkans
- Shipping hub for packages, supplies to European survivors, esp. in the Soviet Far East, through Tehran and Istanbul; also to Cyprus internees and survivors in Poland.
- **Highlight:** Aden subcollection—records of “Operation Magic Carpet”
- Establishment of MALBEN in Israel
- Assistance to yeshivot relocating from Europe
- On-line finding aid
- Document-level search

Yemenite Jews board a JDC-chartered Alaska Airlines flight to Israel as part of Operation Magic Carpet. Aden, c.1950.
Recently Digitized Text Collections (2)

Geneva Collection, 1955-1964: Countries & Regions Subcollection

- JDC’s Overseas Headquarters
- Documents work in 67 countries
- Post-Holocaust reconstruction of Jewish communities in Europe
- Crises in Hungary and Egypt, 1956

Artifacts & Ephemera Collection

• Now searchable via our online collections database

• Over 750 works, 1917–present

• Includes:
  – Works of art
  – Jewish ceremonial objects
  – Plaques and medals
  – Albums and scrapbooks
  – Posters
  – Institutional ephemera, staff mementos

• Exhibit: JDC Artifacts through the Years
  (http://archives.jdc.org/exhibits/jdc-artifacts-through-the-years/)
Historic Film Collection

- More than 20 films digitized (see http://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/historic-film-collection/list-of-digitized-films/)
- Sample clips available online
- Available for classroom use at no charge

View film clip
New Resources for Genealogy & Family History

Background

- Searchable index of 500,000 names
- Those whose families were assisted by JDC—esp. WWII era
- Young people doing “roots projects”

Recently Indexed Material

- Operation Magic Carpet Passenger Lists: multiyear project; nearly 40,000 names indexed to date
- Departures from Europe: JDC Emigration Service lists, 1947-1953; to date, 1947-1949 have been indexed
Topic Guides (http://archives.jdc.org/topic-guides/)

- Brief introduction of historical event with primary-source materials (documents, photos, films) and suggested additional resources
- Can be used to develop lessons, curricula, programs, or readings
- Topics Include:
  - The Story of the S.S. St. Louis
  - Refuge in Shanghai
  - JDC and the War Refugee Board
  - JDC in the Displaced Persons Camps
Report on the Living (excerpts), 1947. Produced by JDC. Jews fleeing Poland following Kielce pogrom in 1946 on their arduous journey through Czechoslovakia to the DP camps of Germany and Austria.
Fellowships & Grants

Fellowships

- Funding to conduct research in the JDC Archives in New York or Jerusalem
- Two new fellowships added in 2018; total is now six
- Special new JDC Archives Regional Fellowship focused on Israel and North African Jewish communities
- Videos of fellowship lectures available online

Documentary Film Grant

- Funds for post-production work and/or distribution costs of a documentary film that draws on JDC archival collections
- Established in 2017; first awardee was Forgotten Jewels, A Haven in Havana

• Explore the new JDC Archives website: http://archives.jdc.org
• Search the JDC Archives Names Index: http://names.jdc.org
• Search the JDC Archives database: http://search.archives.jdc.org
• Online finding aids: http://archivesdev.jdc.org/our-collections/finding-aids/

Stay in Touch:

• Contact: archives@jdc.org
• Website: http://archives.jdc.org/
• Facebook: http://facebook.com/jdcarchives
• Instagram: http://instagram.com/jdc_archives