

***Dov Schidorsky: Shunami's Book-hunting Trips to Europe and the Absorption Provenance
Research Restitution and Distribution of the Treasures of the Diaspora***

The lecture focuses on the book-salvaging missions of Shlomo Shunami in Europe after the Holocaust and on aspects of centralization, provenance research, restitution and distribution of several hundred thousand books transferred from Europe to Israel. These are referred to as the “treasures of the Diaspora”. Between the end of the 1940's and the 1970's Shunami, librarian and bibliographer, made dozens of book-hunting trips to Europe in order to discover and ensure the safety of the treasures of the Diaspora and their secure transfer to Jerusalem. While his missions to Austria have already been explored and published, his missions to Italy, Germany, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Hungary, Romania and France have never been discussed. Success and failure of his missions in these countries are evaluated and analysed. Shunami headed the special department at the Jewish National and University Library that was established in 1950 to house the books that were brought to Israel as a result of his efforts in Europe. He advised the Hebrew University and the Jewish National and University Library on a system of guidelines and supervision in the context of which policies could be determined regarding the restitution and distribution of the books among libraries in Israel. The fact that provenance research of the books received in Israel is almost non-existent, is enlightened and discussed.

Dov Schidorsky, Studium der Politologie und Pädagogik an der Hebrew University Jerusalem und Bibliothekswissenschaft und Geschichte an der University of California, Berkeley. Director Emeritus der früheren School of Library Archives and Information Studies der Hebrew University Jerusalem. Gründer und leitender Bibliothekar der Tel Aviver Universitätsbibliothek. Autor von Büchern und Artikeln über die Geschichte von Bibliotheken in Palästina und Israel; derzeitige Forschungsprojekte: Unternehmungen zur Rettung von Büchern und Sammlungen der Jüdischen National- und Universitätsbibliothek, Schicksale jüdischer Bibliotheken während und nach dem Holocaust, Christliche und muslimische Bibliotheken im osmanischen Jerusalem.