Rescue op Theit? The Postwar Transfer of French-Jewish Archives to the US

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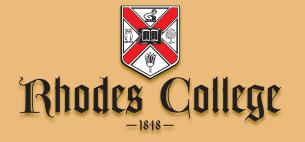


Dr. Lisa Moses Leff, Associate Professor of History at American University, will tell the story of Zosa Szajkowski, historian and archive "salvager," who recovered

and then moved thousands of documents about Jewish history from France to the US from 1940-61. He used these documents to create the field of French Jewish history, but then sold them to US research libraries.

Leff will explore Szajkowski's complicated motives for disposing of these documents, including money troubles, insanity, and views about where Jewish documents did or didn't belong. This fascinating story illuminates the connections between knowledge, document collecting, and power. How is an archive a site of forgetting rather than remembering? How are historians themselves affected by historical forces? What is the

relationship is between archives, memory and communal identity?



Sponsorsed by the Departments of History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Religious Studies, The Search Program, the Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities and The Memphis Jewish Community Center.