

# PROPOSAL

## FOR THE RESCUE AND PRESERVATION OF CHABAD CHASIDIC TREASURES

*The rescue, preservation, research, annotating, cataloging  
and publishing of a unique collection and legacy pilfered and  
confiscated by the Nazis, during World War II*

*With rich, vital cultural and religious significance for the  
worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch movement,  
and the entire Jewish World*



*Presented by:*

KEHOT PUBLICATION SOCIETY  
770 Eastern Parkway · Brooklyn, New York 11213

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEHOT PUBLICATION SOCIETY, a division OF MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH, INC. is the official publishing arm of the Lubavitch movement. It is one of world's largest publishers of Jewish literature, particularly of Chabad-Lubavitch philosophy and history.

Kehot's CHABAD RESEARCH CENTER, under the direction and leadership of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, has researched, cataloged, annotated and published a vast library containing the rich heritage of nine generations of Chasidic thought, culture, philosophy and teachings.

Combined with its publications on Jewish history, mysticism, halakha, philosophy and children's literature, Kehot has disseminated to date more than 100,000,000 volumes—in Hebrew, Yiddish, English, Russian Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, German, Farsi, Arabic and others.

## CHABAD - LUBAVITCH CHASIDIC LEGACY

The Chabad-Lubavitch movement, known more for its vast social and educational outreach network, is, perhaps less known for its rich cultural and philosophical heritage which fuels its activism.

The leaders of seven generations of Chabad-Lubavitch Chasidism, beginning with its founder, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812), and continuing through the seventh leader, Rabbi Menacehm M. Schneerson, of blessed memory, have enriched Jewish scholarship, esoteric as well as exoteric, via their ever prodigious writings, dissertations, memoirs, monographs, thesis, discourses, correspondence and responsa.

This continuous stream of inspired erudition has resulted in the development of a rich heritage and highly complex *weltanschauung*--the Chabad-Lubavitch Chasidic Philosophy--recorded in hundreds of thousands of manuscript pages, a veritable treasure of Jewish mystical/ethical teachings and philosophy. This collection, passed down from generation to generation, is known as the: CHABAD-LUBAVITCH MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION.

## THE CENTRAL MANUSCRIPT AND ARCHIVE COLLECTION

For more than two centuries, as it passed directly from Rebbe to Rebbe, the Collection continued to grow, each Rebbe's writings and teachings adding to this cherished and illustrious legacy.

Yet, even this well-guarded collection was not safe from the ravages of time. Several devastating fires in the city of Lubavitch (where the movement was headquartered for some 100 years), would not spare the Manuscript Collection; many volumes were consumed in these fires. However, the overwhelming majority of the collection was continuously maintained and preserved at the contemporary headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

### The Collection is Lost & then Partially Recovered

In 1934, the sixth Rebbe of Chabad-Lubavitch, R. Yosef. Y. Schneersohn, of blessed memory, fleeing Stalinist oppression, eventually establishing the Chabad headquarters in Warsaw, Poland, having successfully transported this valuable collection, intact.

When the Nazis overran Poland in 1939, the Collection was confiscated by the advancing German army and it became a victim of German venomous hatred. Late in 1939, this priceless, sacred collection was seized by the Nazis, and considered lost forever. Indeed, for thirty-eight years, its' fate was unknown.

Unexpectedly, in 1972, reports of its whereabouts, in a state library in Warsaw, were received at Chabad-Lubavitch World Headquarters in New York. By special arrangement with the Polish government, the Collection was eventually brought home to the presiding Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, and housed at the famous Central Lubavitch Library and Archive Center, at Lubavitch world Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York.

Here it was integrated into what is considered one of the world's finest repositories of Jewish books and Hebraica. Today, the Archive Center holds some 3,000 volumes of Chabad-Lubavitch manuscripts, several hundred of which were handwritten by the Rebbes themselves.

In addition, the giant Archive Center holds more than 100,000 letters and documents from seven generations of Chabad-Lubavitch leaders, plus thousands of precious handwritten letters and documents.

Under direction of the Rebbe, a talented staff was appointed at the CHABAD RESEARCH CENTER to compile, organize and publish these materials.

The joy of this recovery was premature, however, when catalogers and researchers soon discovered that only a small part of the Collection had arrived. A significant portion of the Collection was still missing and presumed lost.

Nonetheless, at the behest of the Rebbe, work immediately commenced on the researching, cataloging, and, eventual printing of this treasure.

To date, some 200 hardbound volumes, of these rescued manuscripts, have been published, at a cost of more than \$15,000,000.00, and to the delight of students of Chasidism and mysticism around the globe, these manuscripts can now be studied.

This scholarly work is an ongoing project, as specialists in deciphering the manuscripts work with annotators and researchers to prepare these treasures for publishing.

## RED ARMY ARCHIVES

*A recent discovery has pointed the way to the missing segments of the Collection. Investigators have discovered the partial existence of the missing archives amongst the Soviet Army archives which contains the missing portion of the Chabad Collection, which the Soviet Army recaptured from the Nazi booty!*

*As Germany burst through Europe, plundering and gathering booty in its wake, the Germans filled a train with plunder and sent it to Germany. The Chabad Collection was part of these spoils of war. The Russian Red Army, however, commandeered the train and changed its destination to Moscow. Eventually, the Chabad Collection was stored in various Red Army storage facilities in Moscow, where they have been languishing for well over 55 years.*

*Indeed, the recent discovery has yielded some 30-50,000 pages of manuscripts. This discovery is, no doubt, the greatest find in the world of Chasidic literature in recent decades, and will keep researchers and catalogers busy for years to come, ultimately revealing the precious heritage & teachings they contain.*

*These manuscripts are now available for our scholars to review and prepare for publication.*

# PRODUCTION BUDGET

## Chabad-Lubavitch Manuscript Collection

### Research Team

By conservative assessments, this work will require a team of six researchers/annotators/editors managed by a head researcher, and is estimated at a minimum of seven years.

### Research

\$70,000.00 per annum per researcher X 6	1,260,000.
\$100,000.00 per annum, chief researcher	300,000.
<b>Total Research</b>	<b>\$1,560,000.00</b>

### Typesetting

Typesetting of initial 30 volumes	300,000.
<b>Total Typesetting</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>

### Proofreading

Proofreading \$6,000 per volume X 30	
<b>Total Proofreading</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>

### Printing & Binding

Printing & Binding of initial run of 5,000 -- 7.50 per book X 150,000 books	
<b>Total Printing</b>	<b>\$1,125,000.00</b>

<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$3,165,000.00</b>
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