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### Acceptance Remarks, Abraham J. Edelheit (Association of Jewish Libraries Bibliography Award, 1992)

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Association of Jewish Libraries Bibliography Award, 1992\*

**Peggy K. Pearlstein**

*Library of Congress  
Washington, DC*

**Presentation of the Award**

I am pleased to be able to present the Association of Jewish Libraries Judaica Bibliography Award for 1992 to Dr. Abraham J. Edelheit and his father Hershel Edelheit for their *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature*, published by Westview Press. The Edelheit's first volume was issued in 1986; a supplement followed in 1989; the second volume of the supplement appeared in 1992.

On behalf of AJL, I thank Dr. Greta Silver of New York City for funding the Judaica Bibliography Award for 1992. I would also like to thank Charles Cutter (Brandeis University), Norman Gechlik (Jewish Division, New York Public Library), Heidi Lerner (Stanford University), and Ann Masnik (University of Maryland) for serving with me on the R&S Reference Book Award Committee, which was ably chaired by David J. Gilner (Klau Library, Hebrew Union College). This was the first time that I had the opportunity to actively participate with my colleagues in selecting book award winners. It was also the first time that I served on a committee, cast my ballot for the book awards, and was notified of the winners shortly after voting—all via the wonders of electronic mail and the Internet.

The *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature*, on the other hand, is the result of well over a decade of intensive research by the authors to locate and systematically classify a variety of materials written in the English language on the Holocaust. The first volume contained 9,014 entries for items published between 1930 and 1985; the supplement added 5,637 citations; and volume 2 of the supplement has 3,870 selections.

The more than 18,000 records include monographs, pamphlets, dissertations, scholarly articles, contemporary newspaper reports, eyewitness testimonies, memoirs, Holocaust-related novels and short stories, and reviews of Holocaust lit-

erature, drama, and films. The entries are classified under subheadings such as Antisemitism, Fascism, Resistance Efforts, Reaction of the Free World, and Distortion of the Holocaust. Significant items are annotated, and introductory essays provide a focus for the historiography of the Holocaust. Cross-references between bibliographic entries, as well as author/title and subject indexes, enhance the usefulness of this bibliography.

It is particularly fitting that AJL's Bibliography Award this year is for a work on the Holocaust, for it follows the opening in recent months of Bet Ha-Shoah, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. These museums and their research institutes document the Holocaust, memorialize the victims, and educate future generations about the Nazi war on the Jews and the horrors of genocide. On the university level, this period of history is the focus of courses offered at more than 1,000 campuses. For scholars, students, and others who wish to broaden their knowledge, the *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature* is an excellent tool which makes accessible English-language materials for research.

Dr. Abraham J. Edelheit, currently Visiting Professor of History at Touro College in New York, received his Ph.D. in history from the City University of New York Graduate School. Hershel Edelheit, a Holocaust survivor, directs the Edelheit Research Institute for Contemporary History, a nonprofit institute dedicated to the study of Jewish history during this century.

It is my pleasure to present to both of you this Bibliography Award of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

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*Peggy K. Pearlstein is the Area Specialist in the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress. She holds an M.L.S. and an M.A. in Jewish Studies, and recently received a Ph.D. in American Jewish and cultural history from George Washington University.*

**Remarks by Abraham J. Edelheit**

Thank you, Peggy.

First, I would like to take this opportunity—speaking for my father and myself—to offer a collective “thank you” to all the librarians who have helped make our *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature* a reality. As much as this award is an honor for us, it also reflects upon librarians in general, and Jewish librarians in particular, in the United States, Israel, and other places.

Second, I would like to acknowledge a person who is unable to be here tonight: my mother, Mrs. Ann D. Edelheit. She has stood by us through thick and thin, and this is as much her award as it is ours.

Finally, I would like to make a few brief comments on a project that is dear to all our hearts, and one that we hope to successfully undertake.

The three volumes of *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature*, for which we have been honored tonight, list a total of 18,521 books, pamphlets, dissertations, and periodical articles—and may be considered comprehensive by present standards. But, the *Bibliography* is still limited, because only English-language materials are cited. As the next step in this project, we plan to include works in all relevant languages, on the basis of our already existing database. Doing so would make research on the Holocaust considerably easier and would make the fruits of scholarly research known to a wider audience than was hitherto possible.

Our task cannot be considered complete until a comprehensive bibliographic database, listing all available materials, is produced. In essence, we plan to create a bibliographic database that will record in one place all the pertinent materials on the Holocaust and related issues that are so vital for scholars, students, and interested general readers. In this master database, all the materials published on the events that led to the Holocaust will be included.

Chronologically, the database will encompass all relevant studies on the Holo-

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\*Presented at the Banquet of the 28th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries, New York, June 22, 1993.

caust, from the Nazi *Machtergreifung* (seizure of power) in 1933 until the aftermath of the Third Reich's collapse in 1945. We hope to include also items that view the extermination of European Jewry from a Nazi perspective—primarily articles in official journals, pamphlets, and books published by the involved governmental agencies. These items have not been cataloged previously; indeed most are unknown outside of a small circle of scholars.

Such a bibliography would afford scholars the opportunity to access bibliographic data in this field to an unprecedented degree, thereby widening the scope of Holocaust and related research and, perhaps, expanding the circle of those who have forsworn racial, religious, or ethnic hatred and are working to insure that history does not repeat itself.

Almost needless to say, this new project will require an even greater level of support from librarians than we have needed in the past. So even as we say thanks to the AJL, we put you on fair warning that the "Boys from Brooklyn" will be roaming your libraries shortly. And we are confident that we'll have your full support.

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*As we were going to press, we learned that Hershel Edelheit passed away.—Ed.*

**The winner of the 1993 AJL Bibliography Award is Robert Singerman for his *Spanish & Portuguese Jewry: A Classified Bibliography*.**

**The co-winners of the 1993 AJL Reference Book Award are Macy Nulman, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Prayer* and Charles Cutter & Micha Oppenheim, *Judaica Reference Sources*.**

#### GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

*Shimeon Brisman, Editor, APPROBATIONS*

Book reviews are expected to include descriptions, evaluations, and critical comments (preferably in this order).

The descriptive part should acquaint the reader sufficiently with both the purpose and contents of the work. Data about the author, or additional information about the work (part of a series, illustrations, etc.), may be included in this part.

The evaluation of the material should consist of an objective examination of the contents, a spot-checking of sources, and summarization of findings (whether the work meets the stated objectives of the author, whether the work meets scholarly standards, etc.). Critical comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the work (arrangement of material, order of chapters, bibliography, etc.) may be included in this section.

Basic criticism, including the reviewer's opinions and final judgment of the work, should be relegated to the end of the review.

*Note to publishers:* Monographs are not reviewed in the journal, nor are such books received listed. Judaica publications other than reference books, works of professional interest, and new periodicals should be sent to:

Association of Jewish Libraries  
*Newsletter*  
 Irene Levin-Wixman, editor  
 5494A Palm Springs Lane  
 Boynton Beach, FL 33437

#### Reference Books Received

The following books of reference value were recently received. Some of them may be reviewed in a future issue of *Judaica Librarianship*.

American Theological Library Association. *Religion Indexes: Thesaurus*. 6th edition. Evanston, IL: ATLA, 1994.

Association of Research Libraries / Association for Jewish Studies. Task Force on Foreign Acquisitions: Israel. *Report*. Preface by Charles Berlin. Cambridge, MA, 1994. Supplement to *Association for Jewish Studies Newsletter*, No. 44 (Summer 1994).

Bar-Ilan University Library. *Hebrew Subject Headings: Additions and Changes*, July 1992 - October 1993. Ramat-Gan: The Library, 1994.

Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana. *Treasures of Jewish Booklore*, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Leiser Rosenthal, 1794-1994, edited by Adri K. Offenbergh. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 1994.

Harduf, David. *Harduf's Transliterated English-Hebrew Dictionary*. Willowdale, Ont.: Harduf Books, 1994. Vol. I: A-D; Vol. II: E-G.

Marcus, Jacob Rader, ed. *The Concise Dictionary of American Jewish Biography*. Brooklyn, NY: Carlson Publishing, 1994. 2 vols.

Vinograd, Yeshayahu. *Thesaurus of the Hebrew Book: Listing of Books Printed in Hebrew Letters Since the Beginning of Hebrew Printing, circa 1469 through 1863*. Part II: Places of Print. Jerusalem: The Institute for Computerized Bibliography, 1993. (Part I forthcoming).

Wachs, Sharona R., comp. *Kosover Collection of Judaica, 1545-1850*. Albany, NY: University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York, 1993.

Weinstein, Ana E.; Gover de Nasatsky, Miryam E. *Escritores judeo-argentinos: Bibliografía, 1900-1987*. Buenos Aires: Editorial Mila, 1994. 2 vols.