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Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 2001

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Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 2001

Peggy K. Pearlstein

Library of Congress
Washington, DC

The purpose of this column is to recommend current Judaica reference sources, both general and specialized. It is intended to serve as a guide to new tools for scholarly research as well as to more popular, but reliable, works. The annotations describe the scope, arrangement, and use of each work.

This column lists selected reference materials that appeared in 2001. The last issue of *Judaica Librarianship*, Volume 10, Number 1-2, Spring 1999-Winter 2000, listed Judaica reference works published from 1994-1996.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

Almanacs
Bibliographies and Dictionaries
Cairo Genizah
Dead Sea Scrolls
Encyclopedias
Genealogy
Hebrew Manuscripts
Holocaust
Israel
Judaism
Literature
Politics
Rituals
Travel

Almanacs

1. **Gross, David C.** *The Jewish People's Almanac*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 2001. 596 p. ISBN 0781809002. (paperback) \$19.95.

An expanded edition of a work that first appeared in 1981. The purpose of the volume is to introduce the reader to a variety of information about the Jewish people that is "amusing, moving, or surprising," and that will reinforce commitment to the "Jewish people's traditional reverence and love of life." Reprints of articles from Jewish newspapers and magazines are arranged under fifteen chapter headings. Subjects include America, Jewish holidays, the Bible, Israel, Holocaust, women in Judaism and Jewish women of special interest, choosing Judaism, and Jews around the world.

Bibliographies and Dictionaries

2. **Beider, Alexander.** *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation, and Migrations*. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2001. 682 p. ISBN 1886223122. \$85.00.

The fourth work by Beider on Jewish onomastics. The dictionary section contains 15,000 given names—based upon 735 root names. Under each root name there is a detailed description of the etymology of the name, a schematic list of the variant and derivative names, and many references to the variations of the root names, the earliest of which dates to the 11th century. In the introductory chapters, Beider provides a comprehensive linguistic analysis of Ashkenazic given names, traces migratory patterns, and discusses the origins and development of Yiddish and the non-Yiddish languages spoken by Jews in medieval and early modern Europe. There are numerous tables, several appendices, and name indexes in Latin, Hebrew, and Cyrillic characters.

3. **Singerman, Robert; edited by David L. Gold.** *Jewish Given Names and Family Names: A New Bibliography*. Leiden: Brill, 2001. 245 p. ISBN 9004121897. \$64.00

This new edition of Singerman's *Jewish and Hebrew Onomastics: A Bibliography* (New York: Garland, 1977) contains almost three times as many entries as the 1st edition. There are more than 3,000 books, essays in books, and articles on Jewish given names and family names. Both scholarly and non-scholarly studies are included, spanning 3,500 years of Jewish history and the entire reach of the diaspora. Entries are listed topically, under such headings as Biblical Names, Names in Divorce, Women's Names and Naming, Yiddish Names, and Sephardic Names, but the approach is primarily geographic. Thus publications about Sephardic Jews in Bulgaria are listed in the section under Bulgaria rather than under Sephardic Names.

4. **Singerman, Robert, compiler.** *Jewish Serials of the World (1986): A Supplement to the Research Bibliography of Secondary Resources*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001. 422 p. ISBN 031330663X. \$94.95.

Winner of the AJL Bibliography Award for 2001. The 3,000 citations in this book cover three hundred years of research literature on the history of the Jewish press and build on the 3,000 entries in Singerman's foundation bibliography, *Jewish Serials of the World; A Research Bibliography* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986). The polyglot research literature is arranged by country. Under that designation, the studies focus on serials by language. This is broken down further into sections on bibliography, general studies, and literature about individual serials. Internal cross-references and author and subject indexes enhance the usefulness of this work.

Cairo Genizah

5. **Baker, Colin F.; Polliack, Meira.** *Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic Manuscripts in the Cambridge Genizah Collections: Arabic Old Series (T-S Ar.1a-54)*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. 616p. ISBN 0521792800. \$190.00.

The initial volume of a new project to classify and describe the Arabic portion of the Genizah Collection. The subject matter of the 8,000 fragments includes literary material, private and business letters, legal documents, merchant accounts, and school exercise books. As such, it provides a glimpse into everyday life of Jews in Arab lands close to one thousand years ago. Indexes and a bibliography provide access to Jewish and Arab authors and to subjects.

Dead Sea Scrolls

6. **Pinnick, Avital.** *The Orion Center Bibliography of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1995-2000)*. Leiden: Brill, 2001. 232 p. ISBN 0169-9962. (Studies on the texts of the desert of Judah; Vol. 41). ISBN 9004123660. \$59.00.

The fourth "official" Scrolls bibliography, the first of which began coverage with 1948. The 3000 entries include reviews, journal articles, electronic publications, a text index, and a subject index.

Encyclopedias

7. **Schreiber, Mordecai, ed.** *The Shengold Jewish Encyclopedia*. 2nd ed. Rockville,

MD: Schreiber Publishing, 2001. 301 p. ISBN 1887563660 \$36.00.

Second edition of a 1998 major revision of Naomi Ben-Asher and Haim Leaf's *The Junior Jewish Encyclopedia* (1957-93). Reflecting major changes in world Jewry, the one volume work focuses on American Jews and on the State of Israel. There is a brief entry for every one of the U.S. states and a small map showing locations of local Jewish communities. The book features full-color illustrations, maps, a time line of Jewish history, and a variety of lists such as Jewish Nobel Prize Winners, Jewish Populations Around the World, The Books That Shaped Jewish History, and Great Jewish Women. "See also" references are printed in boldface type within entries and there are also numerous "see" references.

Genealogy

8. **Beare, Arlene.** *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia. No. 3 in the series—A Guide to Jewish Genealogy.* London: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, 2001. 76 p. ISBN 0953766926. \$10.00.

Arlene Beare is chair of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain Latvian SIG (Special Interest Group). Her guide provides resources for research not only in Latvia but in Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, the United Kingdom, YIVO in New York City, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Other sections include information on Latvia on the internet, travel in Latvia, basic Latvian terms, famous Jewish Latvians, and a bibliography. The same types of information are given for genealogical research in Estonia. The guide is indexed.

9. **Kurzweil, Arthur.** *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History.* Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 2001. 388 p. ISBN 0765762013. \$25.00.

A completely revised and updated edition, originally published in 1980. The author's aim is still to provide the most useful resources which a researcher needs to get started. Corrections, new information, and significant new sources have been added. There are chapters on getting started, especially on gathering information from family members and family papers, using contemporary books and publications and traditional sources, Jewish names, Holocaust research, immigration, and genealogical resources in Europe. An

appendix includes a family history workbook.

10. **Skyte, Thea; Shoenberg, Randol; Wenzel, Rosemary, eds.** *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany & Austria. No. 2 in the series—A Guide to Jewish Genealogy.* London: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, 2001. 76 p. ISBN 0953766918. \$10.00.

This guide is meant to enable members of the Society and others who are researching their German and Austrian ancestors to conduct research in both the United Kingdom and abroad. It is divided into three sections, one on Germany, another on Austria, and the third for general information. Topics include the use of vital records in the UK and in Germany and Austria, archives, museums, synagogues, concentration camps, deportation lists, and other Holocaust research. Included are German terms, the German script alphabet, and phrases for writing standard letters in German for the researcher. The guide is indexed.

11. **Wenzel, Rosemary, ed.** *A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Britain. No. 1 in the series—A Guide to Jewish Genealogy.* 2nd rev. ed. London: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, 2001. 80 p. ISBN 0953766934. \$10.00.

This is the first publication in the "Jewish Ancestors" series of booklets by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Britain. Members of the Society have written the different sections. These include topics such as Using Public Records, Reading Headstones, Using a Computer in Genealogy, Research Abroad, Glossary of Yiddish Terms, and References in "Shemot," the newsletter of the Society. There is an index.

Hebrew Manuscripts

12. **Richler, Benjamin, ed.** *Hebrew Manuscripts in the Biblioteca Palatina in Parma.* Palaeographical and codicological descriptions by Malachi Beit-Arie. Jerusalem: Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jewish National and University Library, 2001. Added Hebrew title: *Kitve ha-yad ha-'Ivriyim be-Sifriyat ha-Palatinah be-Parmah.* 574, 36 p. ISBN 9657207002.

A very comprehensive descriptive catalog of the 1600 Hebrew manuscripts in the Biblioteca Palatina in Parma which originated in the library of Giovanni B. De Rossi. The manuscripts, which date from the 11th to the 16th century, are arranged chronologically by subject. The works are

primarily biblical and liturgical. Author, title, place, catalog number and other indices, some both in Hebrew and in English, greatly facilitate the use of the catalog. All the manuscripts are on microfilm at the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in the Jewish and National Library in Jerusalem.

Holocaust

13. **Bard, Mitchell G., ed.** *The Complete History of the Holocaust.* San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2001. 566 p. ISBN 0737703733. \$123.75.

More than ninety works by survivors, scholars, and journalists, including Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, are included in this anthology covering the period from the rise of Hitler to recent Holocaust deniers. Ghettoes, victims, resistance, rescuers, and what the Holocaust means today, are among the nine broad headings under which book excerpts and speeches appear. In addition to a subject and a general index, there is a glossary of terms, chronology, list of prominent people, and Holocaust-related websites.

14. **Bard, Mitchell G., ed.** *The Holocaust.* San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2001. 272 p. ISBN 0737705760. \$32.45 073770572 (paperback) \$21.20.

This is a title in the Greenhaven Press Turning Points in World History Series for students. The anthology contains an introductory essay placing the event in its historical context. Articles by prominent scholars follow, arranged under the subjects of persecution, the Final Solution, why the Holocaust happened, if more Jews could have been saved, and the legacy of the Holocaust. Research tools include an appendix of excerpts from primary source documents, a bibliography, a chronology of events, and an index.

15. **Braham, Randolph L.** *The Holocaust in Hungary; A Selected and Annotated Bibliography: 1984-2000.* New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2001. 252 p. ISBN 0880334819. \$31.00.

This bibliography follows earlier bibliographies relating to the Holocaust of Hungarian Jewry. The first, *The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography*, with 752 entries, was published in 1962 under the auspices of YIVO and Yad Vashem; a second edition, with 2479 entries, was published under the auspices of the Institute for Holocaust Studies

at the Graduate center of the City University of New York, and Social Science Monographs, Denver, Colorado. The current title, with 1500 entries on publications in a variety of languages, focuses on the 1984-2000 period, with some references that were overlooked earlier and a few references to items published in early 2001. Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian titles are given in transliteration. English title translations are provided for citations in languages other than French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Annotations are supplied in cases where there is insufficient information in the title. The bibliography also has author, name, and geographical indices.

16. **Laquer, Walter, ed.** *The Holocaust Encyclopedia*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001. 765p. ISBN 0300084323. \$60.00.

More than 100 authors from 11 countries contributed to this encyclopedia. The work focuses on issues rather than personalities, and "the geography of mass murder." Features include a lengthy bibliographical essay, detailed chronology, and an index.

17. **Spector, Shmuel, editor in chief; Wigoder, Geoffrey, consulting editor.** *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem; New York: New York University Press, 2001. 3 volumes. 1769 p. ISBN 0814793568. \$395.00.

Winner of the 2001 AJL Reference Book Award. This three volume English language work covers about 6,500 Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust. The articles, arranged alphabetically by community name, contain about a tenth of the material in *Pinkasei ha-Kehillot*, a multi volume encyclopedia of Jewish communities published by Yad Vashem in Israel. The entries include information about the interwar and Holocaust periods, with material on the period up to World War I abridged, and statistical tables and reference sources eliminated. The end of the third volume contains an Index to Communities, which includes names of communities mentioned only within an article as well as variant spellings and additional names of communities. Another index is of persons mentioned in the book. The editors have also included a glossary of terms, a selected bibliography, and a chronology of events.

18. **Smelser, Ronald M.** *Learning About the Holocaust: A Student's Guide*. New York: Macmillan, 2001. 4 volumes. Set ISBN 0028655362. \$390.00.

Intended for school audiences, the 300 articles in this 4 volume guide are based on Macmillan's 1990 *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. New material and entries have been added. Each volume contains a time line and a cumulative index. The last volume also has a glossary and selected primary source documents in English translation.

19. **Totten, Samuel; Feinberg, Stephen, eds.** *Teaching and Studying the Holocaust*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2001. 342 p. ISBN 0205184952 (paperback). \$24.99.

The editors present this book as a resource guide for teaching about the Holocaust in secondary schools. It is part of a larger effort to develop entire curricula devoted to the Shoah and guidelines for teaching the history of the Holocaust in school systems in at least seventeen U.S. states. More than a dozen chapters written by specialists examine a variety of strategies across the educational curriculum that include the use of primary documents, first-person accounts, film, art, drama, music, and the Internet. There is a selected annotated bibliography of Holocaust films, education, and other resources.

Israel

20. **Bard, Mitchell G.** *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Chevy Chase, MD: American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), 2001. 464 p. ISBN 097129450X (paperback). \$9.95.

This publication grew out of surveys and analyses of pertinent issues about the Arab-Israeli conflict published by the *Near East Report*. It last appeared in hard copy in 1992. Since then, AICE has been producing an online version that is hyperlinked and constantly updated at: <http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>. Listed under more than two-dozen subject headings, there are dozens of myths and responses to them, offering documented facts to explain the complex issues involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The text also contains an index, maps, a list of internet resources, and key published documents on Middle East peace negotiations.

21. **Laquer, Walter; Rubin, Barry, eds.** *The Israel-Arab Reader; A Documentary History*. 6th rev. and updated ed. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2001. 580 p. ISBN 0140297138 (paperback). \$17.00.

This chronologically arranged documentary history covers the Israel-Arab conflict

from the earliest days through the breakdown of the peace process during the presidency of William J. Clinton. Speeches, letters, articles, reports, and agreements record the major events in the area from relevant political parties and key world leaders.

Judaism

22. **Neusner, Jacob; Avery-Peck, Alan J., eds.** *The Blackwell Reader in Judaism*. Oxford, UK; Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001. 452 p. ISBN 0631207376. \$72.95.

This first volume in the Blackwell Reader series is designed for reading in tandem with its corresponding volume in the series, *Blackwell Companions to Religions*. Twenty-six chapters written by leading international experts introduce undergraduate students, scholars, and general readers to the history, theology, fundamental doctrines, and contemporary issues of Judaism. English translations of primary sources from the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic writings, and medieval and modern writings afford readers a "direct encounter" with Judaism.

Literature

23. **Braude, Claudia Bathsheba, ed.** *Contemporary Jewish Writing in South Africa: An Anthology*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 168p. ISBN 0803212704. \$60.00.

In newly post-apartheid South Africa, the editor's introduction and the selections from the works of 15 different authors, "trace the construction of memory and racial identity in South African Jewish literary and cultural history." Both current and some older writing are included.

24. **Lawson, Peter, editor.** *Jewish Poetry in Britain Since 1945*. Nottingham, Britain: Five Leaves Publications, 2001. 354 p. ISBN 0907123732 (paperback).

This publication is the first anthology of Jewish poetry in Britain. The editor selected the works of twenty British authors, who are "members of a minority group, who write as Jews because of specific social, cultural and historical experiences." Yet Lawson also notes, in his introduction to the poets and the themes that run through the anthology, that only a few of the poems in the anthology bear directly on Judaism.

25. **Lerner, Michael, editor.** *Best Contemporary Jewish Writing*. San Francisco, CA:

Jossey-Bass, 2001. 436 p. ISBN 0787959723. \$27.50; 0787959367 (paperback). \$18.95.

Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* magazine, has selected for this initial annual of Jewish writing, works that reflect "the fundamental Jewish project of healing and transformation, both personal transformation and healing of the world..." The essays, poems, and short pieces of fiction by well-known and newer writers are in several categories, all of which attempt to "capture or imaginatively suggest some aspect of our contemporary Jewish situation." There is also a list of one hundred books available in English and written since 1985 that a panel of experts have deemed to be "central to contemporary Jewish history."

26. **Polonsky, Antony; Adamczyk-Garbowska, Monika, eds.** *Contemporary Jewish Writing in Poland: An Anthology*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 349 p. ISBN 0803237219. \$60.00.

Translations from selected works of a dozen Polish-Jewish writers. Jewish tradition and identity are of primary concern to these authors; their main theme has focused on the Holocaust and its implications. Four writers were already established before World War II, three had not yet entered the literary scene before the war, and the rest were adolescents or children during the Holocaust.

27. **Rosten, Leo; revised by Lawrence Bush.** *The New Joys of Yiddish*. New York, NY: Crown, 2001. 528 p. ISBN 0609607855. \$35.00. Also available on cd and audio cassette.

A revised edition of Leo Rosten's 1968 classic, *Joys of Yiddish*, a lexicon of Yiddish words and phrases that are now part of everyday English language. Lawrence Bush, in consultation with Rosten's daughters, has added commentary to the original text in the form of footnotes. He has also added notes about the history of Yiddish, its current revival, and the changes in American Jewish life since the book first appeared, including new roles for women in American Jewish life, changes in Jewish denominational life, Jewish spirituality, and the renaissance of Jewish identity and its counterpart, the complete Jewish entry into mainstream American life. Alphabetical entries present spelling variations, a guide to pronunciations, definitions, and cross references. Usage is often illustrated through Biblical and Talmudic references, but more often than not, through anecdotal

and jokes as well. An English-Yiddish dictionary is appended to this edition.

Politics

28. **Meisel, L. Sandy, general editor.** *Jews in American Politics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001. 506 p. ISBN 0742501817. \$39.95.

The first section of this two-part work contains fourteen analytical essays by experts in the field on various aspects of Jewish participation in American politics. The second section provides brief biographical sketches of more than four hundred Jews who have been prominent in American political life.

Rituals

29. **Kula, Irwin; Ochs, Vanessa L., eds.** *The Book of Jewish Sacred Practices; CLAL's Guide to Everyday & Holiday Rituals & Blessings*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001. 338 p. ISBN 1580231527 (paperback). \$18.95.

This book is the effort of the entire faculty of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL), which represents all denominations of Judaism. A brief explanatory note, a meditation, a ritual, a blessing (in Hebrew, English transliteration, and English translation), and Jewish teachings are presented for more than one hundred different events and holidays. Culled from both traditional and contemporary sources, the book offers opportunities to sanctify almost any moment. In addition to the rituals associated with the life cycle, holidays, charity, learning, and healing, the work includes rituals to mark gardening, going to work, running a marathon, and sending a child to college, among others.

30. **Cohen, Debra Nussbaum.** *Celebrating Your New Jewish Daughter; Creating Jewish Ways to Welcome Baby Girls into the Covenant—New and Traditional Ceremonies*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001. 232 p. ISBN 1580230903 (paperback). \$18.95.

This guide provides abundant resources for planning a *simhat bat*, or Jewish welcoming ceremony, for a new baby girl. In several sections, Cohen focuses on the history and tradition of the naming ceremony, suggests ideas for planning the event, gives complete step-by-step instructions for creating a special ceremony, and offers numerous prayers, blessings, poems,

and complete sample ceremonies for families of all constellations.

Travel

31. **Frank, Ben G.** *A Travel Guide to Jewish Europe*. 3rd ed. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2001. 752 p. ISBN 1565547764 (paperback). \$23.00.

The author, a journalist, describes his observations and experiences in more than 50 Jewish communities in Europe. Each chapter covers one country and contains a description of Jews within a specific society – past and present – and their institutions, customs, and places of interest. There are lists of synagogues, kosher restaurants, hotels, schools, cemeteries, and current and historical Jewish sites, all with contact information. Frank also gives a brief account of relationships among Jews and between Jews and non-Jews and Jews who have made contributions to their countries of origin. Suggested readings are included. (2nd ed. reviewed in *Judaica Librarianship*, Vol. 10, No. 1-2, Spring 1999-Winter 2000).

32. **Kamins, Toni L.** *The Complete Jewish Guide to Britain and Ireland*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2001. 148 p. ISBN 0312244487 (paperback). \$17.95.

Journalist and travel writer Toni Kamins covers sightseeing, lodging, transportation, and kosher food resources for the Jewish tourist. The guide begins with a chapter on the historical context of the Jews in Britain, from after the Norman conquest until the present day. Chapters on cities contain brief histories of individual communities, walking tours, descriptions of Jewish sites, and listings of some cemeteries.

33. **Kamins, Toni L.** *The Complete Jewish Guide to France*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2001. 238 p. ISBN 0312244495 (paperback). \$17.95.

This guide by freelance journalist and former editor Toni Kamins provides the tourist with information on sightseeing, hotels, transportation, and the many kosher food resources available to travelers in France. There is a list of French terms for kosher fish. An introductory chapter gives a historical overview of the Jews in France, beginning with the earliest settlement almost two millennia ago. Subsequent chapters on more than a dozen regions contain brief histories of individual communities, walking tours, and Jewish sites

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