

THE CHOSEN BOOK

Recently Published Acquisition Tools

Edith Lubetski

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This column lists new and recently published materials that may be useful as acquisition tools. If you are aware of anything that falls into this category, kindly send a brief notice to:

Prof. Edith Lubetski
Hedi Steinberg Library
Stern College for Women
245 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Bibliography

Center for Public Libraries in Israel

P.O.B. 242
Jerusalem 91002
Israel

The Center for Public Libraries in Israel has been around for awhile. They have recently reorganized their distribution services to customers abroad, however, and can now send their publications directly to customers outside of Israel.

The Center prepares Hebrew catalog cards on a regular basis for books and records produced in Israel. Their list of publications includes a number of bibliographies. Of particular interest to the acquisitions librarian are the following: *Recent Publications*, a weekly service in Hebrew, on sheets, giving short descriptions of new publications culled from publisher information and brief newspaper notices; and *A Collection of Book Reviews*, a semi-monthly in Hebrew. The entries in the latter are reprints of reviews appearing in Israeli publications.

Israel Book Bulletin

P.O. Box 1076
Kiryat Shmonah
Israel

Israel Book Bulletin is a recently begun quarterly. Vol. I No. 4, September 1986 is the latest issue to date. The entries are arranged by subject, and some are annotated. Full bibliographic information is given for each entry, including pagination and price. The *Israel Book Bulletin* is of particular value for a comprehensive Judaica library collection, since it lists primarily publications of insti-

tutes and organizations, rather than trade publications. These publications are generally not well represented in other bibliographic tools. Books can also be purchased through the *Bulletin*. For the convenience of those interested in acquiring these books, a list of publishers' addresses is appended.

Israeli Books in Print, 1986

Book and Printing Center
Israel Export Institute
29 Hamered Street
Tel Aviv 68125
Israel

This is the first compilation of non-Hebrew Israeli books published between 1970 and 1982. It is not an exhaustive listing as not all publishers participated, but it can still serve as a tool for the acquisitions librarian. Both general and Jewish subjects are covered, with a large number of books of interest to a Jewish Studies collection. The majority of the 1,260 books listed are in English; about 300 are in other languages.

The book is arranged by subject, and within subject, alphabetically by language. There is an author index. There are no promises that this will be an annual publication, but we can hope.

Book Clubs

Sefarim: A Guide to Jewish Books

No. 1 Winter/Spring 5746 (1985/86)
c/o The Hebrew Book Club
78A Shenkin Street
Tel Aviv 65223
Israel

In the last issue of *Judaica Librarianship*, the quarterly publication *Sefarim: The Good Book Guide* was discussed. Since then, the Hebrew Book Club has decided to prepare a special supplement for Jewish religious books. This new guide, which will also be issued on a quarterly basis, lists and describes a selection of hundreds of books on Torah, *Halakhah*, and Jewish faith. In addition to the books listed in the catalog, other books of this type can be ordered through the club. A one-year subscription is \$10.00;

members of the Hebrew Book Club pay \$5.00.

Shalshelles Book Club

1150 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Founded Hanukkah 1985, this Book Club offers Jewish juvenile titles written from a religious perspective. The club sends a catalog four times a year, each containing 24 new books and six tapes. A few books "Just for Mom" are included in each catalog. The books are grouped by age, and are aimed primarily at children in day schools and yeshivahs.

If a school sponsors the program, its library will benefit by receiving books at a discount.

Collection

Yiddish Library Development Program

National Yiddish Book Center
Old East Street School
Amherst, Mass. 01004

Libraries can now acquire a pre-packaged collection of new and out-of-print Yiddish books. The National Yiddish Book Center will provide your library with a pre-selected collection of 500 to 1,000 volumes of the most important works of modern Yiddish literature. The Center will also provide professional cataloging support to participating libraries. A basic collection costs \$5,000, and a comprehensive collection, \$10,000.

Media

Genut Audio Visual Productions

Harav Herzog 28
Givatayim 53587
Israel

This publisher has produced a number of slide-tape presentations. The tapes are available in either English or Hebrew, and are suitable—according to the catalog—for all age groups. Each slide-tape presentation lasts for an average of 15 minutes. To date, Genut has produced programs covering the major Jewish holidays, and one on

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Name of Book Fair Contact Person: _____ Work Phone: () _____

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SHAPOLSKY PUBLISHERS is a member of The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), and an Exhibitor at the ALA and AJL Conventions.

Psalm 104 (*Barkhi Nafshi*). The prices range from \$45.00–\$85.00.

JWB Jewish Media Round-up

Jewish Media Service
15 East 26th Street
New York, NY 10010-1579

The *Jewish Media Round-up*, which had suspended publication for a while, has returned to the scene in a new attractive, readable format. It provides information about Jewish films and TV, including Israeli films and media. Each entry in the "New & Noteworthy" section provides full information, including purchase or rental price as well as address of the producer or supplier. In some cases, there are descriptive annotations.

This publication also provides additional information concerning media, such as news items and articles.

Kabbalah Cassettes

Box 677, Astor Station
Boston, Mass. 02123

A small number of cassettes on the subject of Kabbalah are available from this company.

Tape Library Catalog

Rabbinic Alumni Office
Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033

Yeshiva University's Rabbinic Alumni Office has produced a list of its extensive audio-tape library of *shiurim*, lectures, and homiletic presentations dealing with the broad spectrum of Torah learning. The subjects include Talmud, Holidays, *Halakhah*, Portion of the Week, Philosophy, Ethics, and Issues of Contemporary Concern. Titles and speakers are listed in the catalog. Each tape costs \$7.00.

Publisher

Women's Institute for Continuing Education

4079 54th Street
San Diego, California 92105

This is a small publisher specializing in publications for and about the Jewish woman.

Edith Lubetski is Assistant Professor of Library Administration and Head Librarian, Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University. She is the co-author (with her husband, Prof. Meir Lubetski) of Building a Judaica Library Collection (Libraries Unlimited, 1983). Edith Lubetski is also President of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

EPISTLE FROM ISRAEL

Avraham Greenbaum
Institute for Advanced Studies
Hebrew University

Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem

The building on the Givat Ram Campus is being remodeled in order to obtain additional storage space. The Graduate Library School has moved to the Levy building, and its former quarters in the basement will be occupied by the Dept. of Manuscripts. The reading rooms on the second floor are at present not affected, but closing time is now 7 p.m., in what seems to this reader to be a continuous downward spiral. The previous closing time was 7:45, and a closing time of 9:45 p.m. is in recent memory.

The Library has passed through a financial crisis, and was unable to purchase new books from the spring to the fall of 1986. While formally, the previous level of acquisitions is being maintained, concern has been expressed at the 60% of budget which Judaica acquisitions has reached. It must be remembered that the Library is not only a depository library for Israeli imprints, but makes every effort to acquire all Judaica, broadly defined, published abroad in any language—a policy which automatically limits purchase of non-Judaic materials abroad.

Among new donations is what is described as the only Hebrew incunabulum containing woodcuts (*Meshal ha-kadmoni*, Brescia 1491).

Bar-Ilan University Library

Some very rare imprints, mostly from Russia and Poland, were included in a collection of over thirty thousand religious books from Rumania, found in unused synagogues and study halls and sent to Bar-Ilan through the good offices of Rumania's Chief Rabbi in 1983.

Bar-Ilan Library has prepared the first Hebrew subject headings list in actual use by an Israeli academic library. The list is largely based on LC, and has been used in the computer-produced subject catalog of recent Hebraica acquisitions. Formerly Bar-Ilan had not cataloged Hebrew books by subject; LC subjects were and continue to be used for Latin-alphabet imprints ("loazite" as I used to call them in my days at the Brandeis Library).

Dr. Avraham Greenbaum, Reference Librarian and Senior Lecturer in Jewish History at the University of Haifa, is currently in residence at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Susan Lazingar, the former editor of this column, is spending the year at Stanford University.

Haifa University Library

The library spent much of 1986 in a purchase freeze similar to the one at the National Library and could not order books for half a year. Librarians are also making an effort to reduce the number of journal subscriptions.

Meir (Manfred) Wasserman, a new immigrant from the U.S. who also teaches at the library school, has been appointed on a half-time basis to tackle the much neglected area of book preservation.

Tel-Aviv University Library

In a move similar to the one by the National Library at Givat Ram, the Central Library has closed its card catalog as of March 1985 and is continuing by computer. Computerization of other services is planned.

New Publication

A bibliography on anti-Semitism, planned as an annual and sponsored by the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism, is nearing completion. The first volume, which will be published by Garland, will cover books and articles published in 1984/85. The editor, Susan Cohen—who is also co-editor of *Index of Articles in Jewish Studies* ("RaMBI")—reports that her biggest problem is deciding when anti-Zionism becomes anti-Semitism. "Denial of the Holocaust," says she in answer to my question, is included automatically. The bibliography covers only "works about," not anti-Semitic literature.

Obituary

On Sept. 9, 1986, the bibliographer and literary historian Getzel Kressel passed away at the age of 75. Kressel, who lived in Holon, was an institution; possibly the last of the self-employed bibliographers, he supported himself through his writing. Among the innumerable books, articles, reviews and bibliographies he published since the late thirties—nearly all in Hebrew—his outstanding work is the first bio-bibliographical lexicon of Hebrew literature (*Leksikon ha-sifrut ha-ivrit*, Merhavva 1965–1967). His last book before his death was a bibliography of his own writings.