

## Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 1986-1987

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This column lists selected reference materials that appeared in 1986 and 1987. Works from 1984 and 1985 are included if deemed significant. The purpose of this list is to recommend current Judaica reference books basic to research both general and special. 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 and use of each work. Prices are listed when available.

Hebrew reference works are starred, and corresponding Hebrew bibliographic data appears at the end of the list.

*The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:*

Bibliography  
Biography  
Children's literature  
Curriculum  
History—North Africa  
History—Poland  
Holocaust  
Israel  
Jewish law  
Jewish thought  
Literature  
Music  
Organizations  
Rabbis  
Travel  
Women

### Bibliography

1. **Frank, Ruth S.; Wollheim, William.** *The Book of Jewish Books: A Reader's Guide to Judaism.* San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986. 320 p. ISBN 0060630086. \$19.95; ISBN 0060630094. \$10.95 pb.

The authors describe and evaluate more than 500 books of interest to the general reader who wishes to learn about Judaism, Jewish thought, history, and culture. Divided into 12 categories, each subject area is introduced by an essay written by a noted expert in the field. A glossary and an index of authors and titles are included.

### Biography

\*2. **Kohen, Binyamin.** *Sefer Malkhe Tarshish.* Netivot, Israel: The Author, 1985 or 1986. 411 p.

A bio-bibliographical lexicon of Tunisian rabbis arranged chronologically and further subdivided within each period by rabbinic family and/or rabbi. The work includes noted figures from the Talmudic era to 1980. The section on the last and most important period, 1690-1980, is divided by the two major Jewish centers in Tunisia: Tunis and Djerba. The book includes a map of the Jewish communities in Tunisia, a necrology of Tunisian rabbis, and a variety of tables, photos, and facsimiles.

### Children's Literature

\*3. **Ofek, Uriel.** *Leksikon Ofek le-Sifrut Yeladim.* Tel-Aviv: Zemorah Bitan, 1985. 2 v. ISBN 9650303146.

A Hebrew bio-bibliographical lexicon of authors who wrote specifically for children or whose works are widely read by children, covering the period from ancient times to the present. The inclusion of almost every novelist, poet, editor, and translator that contributed to Yiddish and Hebrew children's literature is of particular interest to the Judaica librarian. The lexicon is illustrated.

### Curriculum

4. **Hessel, Carolyn Starman.** *NERCatalog.* New York: Jewish Education Service of North America, 1986. 96 p. \$8.95; \$5.95 (softcover).

The National Educational Resource Center (NERC) has a collection of non-book print material: thousands of articles, curricula, program suggestions, reprints, resource material, how-to-guides, and other sources for making Jewish teaching and educational programs more exciting and effective. The catalog is a guide to this collection, listing the hundreds of topics and categories for which one can order personalized resource packets. 47 major subjects are listed, from Adult education to Zi-

onism. The catalog features a list of Jewish educational centers in North America, including teacher and media centers.

### History—North Africa

\*5. **Attal, Robert.** *Yehude ha-Mizrah u-Tsefon Afrikah: Bibliografyah Mu'Eret (1977-1979).* Jerusalem: Ben-Zvi Institute, 1986. 161 p. ISBN 9652350184.

A continuation of the author's bibliographic survey of research and popular materials pertaining to the history of Oriental and North African Jewry from the 15th century to the present. This volume lists materials published from 1977 to 1979. It also includes additions to the author's previously published bibliography in *Sefunot* (N.S. vol. 1 (16) pp. 401-495), which covered the period 1974-1976. In the present volume, the author has added to the geographic section the Sephardi Jews in England, Holland, and Rumania. Bilingual indexes of authors, places, and subjects simplify the use of this bibliography.

### History—Poland

6. **Lerski, Jerzy Jan; Lerski, Halina T.** *Jewish-Polish Coexistence, 1772-1939.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986. 230 p. ISBN 0313247587. \$39.95.

A topical bibliography enumerating 2,778 books, pamphlets, brochures, and articles in journals pertaining to the interactions between Jews and Poles, as well as other ethnic groups who resided in multinational Poland, e.g., Germans, Ukrainians, and Belorussians. The authors cover the period from the first partition in 1772 until the eve of the Nazi invasion. Sections containing citations to biographical materials and *shtetlekh* are included. Unlike Majer Balaban's *Bibliografia Historii Zydow w Polsce . . .* (Warsaw, 1939), which is limited largely to Polish-language materials, and Gershon Bacon's and David Hundert's *The Jews in Poland and Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984), which is limited primarily to English-language materials, this work includes materials written in a variety

of languages. It is also more current than the former and more comprehensive in its coverage of this period than the latter. The bibliography includes an index of authors and editors.

## Holocaust

7. **Edelheit, Abraham J.; Edelheit, Hershel.** *Bibliography of Holocaust Literature.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1986. 842 p. ISBN 081337233x. \$80.

A classified, partially annotated bibliography containing 9014 entries for English-language materials published from 1930 to 1985. The monographs, scholarly articles, theses, newspaper reports, eyewitness testimonies, and memoirs listed in this bibliography pertain to various aspects of the Holocaust and its aftermath, as well as to Jewish life in pre-war Europe, antisemitism, fascism and Nazism. The preface to each major section provides a guide to further reading. The work includes an author index. Omissions, e.g., articles in collections and festschriften, Holocaust fiction, etc., as well as the lack of a subject index and internal cross references detract from the value and usefulness of this bibliography.

## Israel

8. **Facts About Israel.** Jerusalem: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Information Division, 1985. 135 p. Free.

A basic introduction to the State of Israel published annually in a handy pocket-size paperback. Covers geography, history, the State, economy, communities, education and sports, social affairs, and culture. Includes a bibliography, and is beautifully illustrated in color. Available free from the Israeli Consulate, which has offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

9. **Israel, Including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.** Edited by George Melrod. Singapore: APA Productions; New York: Prentice-Hall Press, 1986. 380 p. ISBN 0135062969. \$16.95.

A stunning guide to Israel with text, detailed maps, lavish color photographs, and practical information. This thorough overview of the landscapes, people, and history of Israel includes a 57-page Guide, with brief information on transportation, shopping, accommodations, tourist information, culture and entertainment, hotels, restaurants, and embassies. An excellent introduction to Israel by a team of experts and world renowned photographers. Indexed.

10. **The Israeli Education System.** Jerusalem: Association of Americans & Canadians in Israel, 1985. 83 p.

The purpose of this paperback is to acquaint the current and future *oleh* (immigrant) with the Israeli system of education by providing basic information and citing sources of information. The book is divided into 51 chapters (i.e., cities). Within each city, arrangement is by type of school: elementary, high school, vocational (secular and religious), and higher education. For each institution, the directory gives name of school, address, telephone number, and name of principal. While there is no index, the detailed table of contents is adequate for locating a city.

## Jewish Law

11. **Warburg, Ronnie F.** "A Bibliographic Guide to *Mishpat Ivri*: Books and Articles in English." In *National Jewish Law Review* (Washington, D.C.: National Jewish Students' Network) vol. 1 (1986), p. 61-135.

This guide is intended for students of law, rabbinics, religion, history, and philosophy. It seeks to indicate the breadth and depth of the Jewish legal tradition and to help make accessible this field's vast range of secondary material. The bibliography is divided into 17 chapters including: historical foundations, literary sources, philosophical foundations, comparative law, contracts, business law, criminal law, personal status and domestic relations, bioethics, future of Jewish law in Israel, Jewish law in secular tribunals, contemporary issues, and methodology and research in Jewish law.

## Jewish Thought

12. **Cohen, Arthur A.; Mendes-Flohr, Paul.** *Contemporary Jewish Religious Thought: Original Essays On Critical Concepts, Movements and Beliefs.* New York: Scribner, 1987. 1163 p. ISBN 0684186284. \$75.

A collection of 140 commissioned essays defining various aspects of Jewish thought and belief, among them: "Conservative Judaism" by Gerson Cohen; "Orthodox Judaism" by Emanuel Rackman; "Reform Judaism" by Michael Meyer; and "Judaism" by Gershom Scholem. Each essay is accompanied by a brief bibliography which points the reader to the literature for further inquiry. A glossary provides basic information for terms, authors, historical movements, and events mentioned at least twice in the essays. Author and subject indexes are included.

## Literature

13. **The Reader's Adviser: a Layman's Guide to Literature.** Vol. 2: The Best in American and British Drama and World Literature in English Translation. 13th ed. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1986. 898 p. ISBN 0835221458. \$75.00.

This reference work, designed as an introduction to literature, includes two valuable bibliographies of interest to Judaica librarians: "Yiddish literature," by Zachary M. Baker, p. 600-619, and "Hebrew literature," by Linda P. Lerman, p. 620-636. Books in English translation by and about the major authors in Yiddish and Hebrew literature are listed, with a concise biography of each author.

## Music

14. **Edelman, Marsha Bryan.** *A Bibliography of Jewish Music: Resource Materials for Educators.* New York: Hebrew Arts School, 1986. 50 p. \$6.00.

A bibliography of readily accessible teaching tools from beginning to advanced levels as well as a selected list of pieces "appropriate for a professional repertoire" and a limited discography. Liturgical and ethnic music—e.g., folk melodies—are included.

## Organizations

15. **Jewish American Voluntary Organizations.** Edited by Michael N. Dobkowski. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986. 700 p. ISBN 031321204X. \$75.00.

Contains historical sketches of 120 national and local voluntary, social service, philanthropic, religious, political, cultural, Zionist, and social agencies and organizations that have been part of American Jewish life. Alphabetically arranged by organization, with bibliographies at the end of each entry. The book also includes essays on major issues of Jewish-American organizational life. Indexed.

16. **Tabory, Mala; Liebman, Charles S.** *Jewish International Activity: An Annotated Bibliography.* Ramat Gan: Bar-Ilan University, Argov Center, 1985. 241 p.

A selective, annotated bibliography of literature dealing with international Jewish organizations, arranged alphabetically by organization, fifteen in all. Concentrating on historical studies of Jewish political activity during the 19th and early 20th centuries, this research tool contains a detailed and annotated review of secondary source literature published prior to 1974. For those who desire to explore any subject further, the

notes and bibliography lead to primary and archival material.

### Rabbis

17. **The Rabbinical Seminary of Budapest, 1877-1977: A Centennial Volume.** Moshe Carmilly-Weinberger, editor. New York: Sepher-Hermon Books, 1986. 334, 44 p. ISBN 0872031489. \$29.95.

A jubilee volume of essays in English and Hebrew pertaining to the history of the Seminary from the time of its founding until the present day. The volume discusses the Seminary's relationship with other institutions and contains review essays on the scholarly contributions of its professors. The topical listing of doctoral dissertations written by students of the Seminary and the alphabetical list of faculty and graduates are of particular interest to the reference librarian.

### Travel

18. **Bloomfield, Brynna C.; Moskowitz, Jane M. *Traveling Jewish in America: The Complete Guide for 1986 for Business and Pleasure.*** Lodi, NJ: Wandering You Press (P.O. Box 20, Lodi, NJ 07644-0020), 1986. 407 p. \$14.95 pb.

A guide for the traveler wishing to make use of Jewish facilities within the U.S. Arranged alphabetically by state, the detailed listings cover cities, towns, and resorts throughout the country. The guide features kosher restaurants (with full details on service and supervision), food shops, accommodations (including hotels with kosher dining facilities, motels near synagogues, private hospitality, and other facilities with kitchens and suites), synagogues and temples, and mikves. Includes addresses and telephone numbers.

19. **Israelowitz, Oscar. *Guide to Jewish New York.*** Rev. ed. Brooklyn, NY: O. Israelowitz, 1984. 199 p. \$7.50.

Designed to help acquaint the visitor with Jewish life in New York City. There are 12 complete walking and driving tours, with detailed maps showing locations of kosher restaurants, Jewish theaters, museums, landmarks, synagogues, and mikves in all five boroughs. Includes an index.

20. **Levitt, Joy; Davis, Nancy. *The Guide to Everything Jewish in New York.*** New York: Adama Books, 1986. 334 p. ISBN 0915361477. \$12.70.

A selective guide to Manhattan's Jewish resources. Thirteen chapters cover Children, College students, Singles, Marriage, Seniors, How we learn, Cultural resources, How we belong, Resources for Jewish holiday celebrations, Where we eat, How we help each other, Israel, and Major Jewish organizations. Includes an index.

21. **Postal, Bernard; Koppman, Lionel. *American Jewish Landmarks: A Travel Guide and History.*** Rev. ed. New York: Fleet Press, 1977-1986. 4 vols. Hardcover \$20.75-\$25.00; paperback: \$10.95-\$15.00.

Successor to *A Jewish Tourist's Guide to the U.S.* Covering all 50 states and Washington, D.C., its purpose is to identify, locate and describe the thousands of landmarks, sites, memorials, public buildings, and other places whose collective story constitute over three centuries of Jewish life in America. Vol. 1 covers the Northeast; vol. 2, the South and Southwest; vol. 3, The Midwest; and vol. 4, the West. Each chapter is divided into an introductory essay and a travel section. Indexes are included in each volume.

### Women

22. **Brewer, Joan Scherer. *Sex and the Modern Jewish Woman: An Annotated Bibliography.*** Essays by Lynn Davidman and Evelyn Avery. Fresh Meadows, NY: Biblio Press, 1986. 88p. ISBN 0930395018. \$9.25.

Part I contains two essays: one is written from a sociological perspective; the other examines the sexual portrait of Jewish women in fiction. Part II is a comprehensive bibliography on Jewish sexuality compiled from resources in religion, Judaism, feminism, sociology, mental health, and psychology. The bibliography includes extensive annotations, and an author index.

### Hebrew Bibliographic Data

2. כהן, בנימין רפאל. ספר מלכי תרשיש. נתיבות, תשמ"ו.

3. אופק, אוריאל. לקסיקון אופק לספרות ילדים. תל-אביב: זמורה, ביתן, תשמ"ו.

5. הטל, אברהם. יהודי המזרח וצפון אפריקה: ביבליוגרפיה מוערת תשל"ז-תשל"ט (1977-1979). ירושלים: מכון בן-צבי, תשמ"ו.

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**A title index appears on the following page.**

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### Reference Books Received

The following books of potential value to the Judaica reference librarian were received subsequent to the submission of this column. Some of them may be reviewed in future issues of this journal.

**The 1987-88 Jewish Almanac**, compiled and edited by Ivan L. Tillem. New York: Pacific Press, 1987. ISBN 0-915399-03-2.

**Altshuler, Mordechai.** *Soviet Jewry Since the Second World War: Population and Social Structure.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987. ISBN 0-313-24494-4.

**Ben-Rafael, Eliezer.** *Israel-Palestine: A Guerrilla Conflict in International Politics.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987. ISBN 0-313-25553-9.

**Fu, Charles Wei-hsun; Spiegler, Gerhard E., eds.** *Movements and Issues in World Religions: a Source Book and Analysis of Developments Since 1945.* [Vol. 1]: *Religion, Ideology, and Politics.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1987. ISBN 0-313-23238-5.

*Note to publishers: Monographs sent to the editors will be referred to the Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter for review.*