The works are arranged in the following categories:

I. Bible
II. Biblical Concordances
III. Bibliographies
IV. Manuscripts

V. Hebrew Printing
VI. Dictionaries
VII. Hebrew Literature
VIII. Jewish Law
IX. Gematriya
X. Biography
XI. World Jewry
XII. Israel - Bibliographies
XIII. Israeli Newspaper Indexes
XIV. Cults in Israel
XV. Israeli Publishers
XVI. Geography of Israel
XVII. Museums in Israel

Editor's Note: A draft of this column was submitted in 1990, but owing to its length as well as that of the preceding issue, its publication was deferred.

Most of the Israeli publications appeared in 1989 or 1990, but some of the European publications date from 1987-1988. Although this column may assist Judaica acquisitions librarians in identifying reference works that have not been listed in standard sources, its primary purpose is to arrange the reference works systematically and to show how they relate to each other and to earlier publications. Feedback on this column is welcome.

The directories, encyclopedias, biographical dictionaries, and bibliographies listed below are part of the collection of the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL). Most were published in Israel, but some of them are in the Library because it is the Library's aim, as the National Library of the Jewish people, to collect Judaica from all over the world. Some non-Israeli publications that may not have come to the attention of U.S. librarians are therefore included in this list.

Hebrew bibliographic data is given at the end of the article for all the starred entries. Translated titles in brackets are supplied for Hebrew works lacking English title pages. Starred page numbers indicate pagination in Hebrew letters. Price in dollars is given where known, otherwise, in NIS (New Israeli Shekels) with approximate dollar equivalents.

The works are arranged in the following categories:

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Libby Kahane
Jewish National and University Library
Jerusalem, Israel

I. Bible


Peshitta is the name given to the translation of the Bible into Syriac, a dialect of Late Aramaic. The dialect dates from the first to the fourth centuries, C.E. Because it is a translation that conforms very closely to the text of the Bible, Peshitta is of special interest to Biblical scholars.

This multilingual, 523-item bibliography is arranged under categories such as Surveys of Manuscripts, Studies Concerning Separate Books, and the History of the Text, and is indexed by authors.


This is the first in a projected series of bibliographies on books of the Bible, with Samuel and Kings to follow. It is multilingual in coverage and lists books, articles, and dissertations. The bibliography is arranged by subjects and by chapters of the Biblical books, with cross references for entries that relate to two categories. Among the subjects are Literary Aspects, Linguistic Aspects, Chronicles as a Historical Source, Theology, and Prophecy.


This is a collection of basic grammatical rules and standard definitions that are scattered throughout the commentaries of Rashi (Solomon ben Yitshak) on the Bible and the Talmud. Since the rules and definitions are not repeated in Rashi's commentaries, or are repeated only briefly each time a given term occurs, this is a useful tool.

Arranged alphabetically, each entry gives Rashi's definition, and a commentary at the bottom of the page discusses the application of the definition to other occurrences of the term in Rashi's commentaries on the Bible and Talmud.

This is one of a series of publications emanating from the United Ariel Institutes' Rashi Hashalem project.


This multilingual bibliography of 1,250 books and articles has four main sections: The Book of Nahum, the Book of Habakkuk, the Qumran Nahum Commentary, and the Qumran Habakkuk Commentary.
II. Biblical Concordances


When Even-Shoshan's Konkordantsyah Hadashah Le-Tanakh (New Concordance of the Bible) was first published in 1977, it represented a completely new approach to Hebrew Biblical concordances. It aimed for a more simplified structure than that of the widely used Vetus Testamenti Concordantiae = Concordance on the Bible, by Solomon Mandelkern, which listed all words under their respective roots, making it necessary for the user to have advanced knowledge of Hebrew grammar.

In Even-Shoshan's concordance, Hebrew verbs are listed under their roots, but there are references from difficult verb forms to the root, e.g., from hol in to yld. A noun like efroah is listed under the letter aleph, and not under the letter peh, for its root peh. To further simplify the structure of the concordance, there is one alphabetical listing for all words, including proper names and Aramaic words.

This new edition differs from the 1977 edition in that it gives the Biblical reference in Latin characters (e.g., Jer. 12:2; Deut. 3:9) instead of Hebrew characters. This may be helpful to the English reader.


Rabbi Wachsman aimed to create a concordance that can be used by someone who knows very little Hebrew, as well as a reference work that is absolutely complete. His concordance cites every single word in the Bible, in the same form in which it appears there.

The concordance enters atah (you) and ve-atah (and you) separately. Verbs are not listed under their roots, but exactly as they appear in the text. Esmaḥ (I will rejoice), for example, appears under the letter aleph, tismaḥ (you will rejoice) is found under the letter tav, and yismaḥ (he will rejoice) under the letter yod.

In Even-Shoshan's concordance, in contrast, verbs are all listed under their roots. In the case of nouns, Even-Shoshan unites various forms. For example, under even (stone) he lists ha-even (the stone), ba-even (in the stone), la-even (to the stone), and avanim (stones), while Wachsman lists each variant under its initial letter.

Like Even-Shoshan (and Mandelkern), Wachsman cites the phrase in which the word appears and the Biblical reference for each word. Clearly, there is a certain advantage to Wachsman's method, but in order to find a group of citations dealing with a particular concept, such as 'joy' or 'stones,' Even-Shoshan's concordance is a necessary tool.

III. Bibliographies


These bibliographies on Judaica will be helpful to readers whose mother tongue is Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese, respectively.

The first, which covers Judaica in Italian, has a subject arrangement and an author index. The second was published by Spain's Ministry of Culture, to mark the Thirteenth Jerusalem International Book Fair, and covers Spanish Judaica.

The third continues Marcos Margulies' bibliography of the same name, which was published in Rio de Janeiro in 1974.

Schlesinger covers books, articles, and theses relating to Judaism that were published in Brazil in the subsequent decade.

IV. Manuscripts


The fact that 200,000 fragments, some of them detached sections of the same original manuscript, were brought from Cairo to a number of different institutions, makes research on Genizah documents extremely difficult. This bibliography of published research on the 140,000 Genizah fragments in the Cambridge University Library is a boon to researchers. An early effort at Genizah bibliography was Shaul Shaked's A Tentative Bibliography of Geniza Documents. (Paris: Mouton, 1964. 335 p.). It listed books and articles concerning Genizah texts found in 33 libraries and private collections throughout the world.


Following the death in 1934 of Jack Mosseri, a prominent Egyptian Jew, scholars were unable to locate his collection of several thousand Genizah fragments. Finally, in 1970, the collection was located and microfilmed by the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts of the Jewish National and University Library.

This catalog, which lists and identifies the fragments, will benefit scholars doing research on Genizah material. It is fully indexed, by author, title, place, date, language, incipit, copyist, and more.

*12. The Collective Catalogue of Hebrew Manuscripts from the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts and the Department of Manuscripts of the Jewish National
The card catalogs of the Manuscript Department and of the Institute for Microfilmed Manuscripts at the Jewish National and University Library have been reproduced on microfiche by Chadwyck-Healey, France. They comprise the most complete inventory of Hebrew manuscripts available anywhere. The wealth of information found in them is now available to the entire scholarly community. The microfiche set costs 3,400 Pounds.

The User's Guide explains the structure of the card catalogs and presents sample cards. It includes a list of the libraries and collections whose manuscripts have been microfilmed by the Institute.


The author of this book is the assistant director of the Institute for Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts at the Jewish National and University Library. He has been tracking down, deciphering, and cataloging Hebrew manuscripts for 25 years.

This book provides an excellent overview of the field of Hebrew manuscripts. It includes color facsimiles of illuminated manuscripts and samples of over 50 different Hebrew scripts. Richler makes it clear why Hebrew manuscripts are important to scholarship today.

V. Hebrew Printing


Collections of Hebrew incunabula assembled by Jewish private collectors have been acquired by public institutions during the past one hundred years. This census lists Hebrew incunabula located in more than 150 libraries throughout the world.

Among them are Jewish institutions, such as the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, as well as non-Jewish institutions, such as the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the University Library in Cambridge.

The entry for each incunabulum includes title in Hebrew, in transliteration, and in translation; locations; and bibliographical references. A variety of indexes add to the usefulness of this work.


This book includes descriptions of Hebrew incunabula found in three of the largest libraries of the U.S.S.R.: the Lenin State Library in Moscow, the M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library in Leningrad, and the library of the Leningrad branch of the U.S.S.R. Institute of the Academy of Sciences. lakerson's earlier catalog of the Hebrew incunabula in the latter library (Leningrad, 1985) is superseded by this publication.

The catalog lists 43 titles in 111 copies and fragments. The majority were received by the libraries from three book collectors: Moses Friedland (1826-1899), Daniel Chwolson (1819-1911), and David Günzburg (1857-1910).

This reference work features full bibliographical descriptions in Hebrew and Latin characters, annotations in Russian, bibliographical references and indexes of authors, titles, printers, owners, and more.


A fascinating survey of the history of Hebrew printing in Poland from its beginnings in the 1530s through the 1690s is provided in both Hebrew and English in this catalog of early printed books. Each entry is annotated by the erudite compiler, with pertinent information about the author, printer, and/or the book's contents.


This is the first comprehensive bibliographical study of Hebrew printing in Morocco. Marciano lists more than 1,000 items, among them responsa, novellae in Bible and Talmud, sermons, and liturgical poetry. The entries are arranged by place of printing: Fez, Tangier, Rabat, Casablanca, and others. Most of the entries are annotated. Author and title indexes refer to entry numbers.

About half the works documented consist of single leaves. Some of them are amulets, and some are handbills which supply important biographical information on communal personalities and important historical information about Moroccan communities. A twenty-page introduction surveys the history of Hebrew printing in Morocco.

VI. Dictionaries


The Yiddish words in this dictionary are given in both Hebrew characters and in
transliteration. For example: abandon = farlozen, oilgeben; abbreviate = farkirten; abroad = in oisland. The compiler's Transliterated Yiddish-English Dictionary was published in 1987.


Almost 6,000 new Hebrew words coined by Abraham Shlonsky (1900-1973) are listed in this dictionary. Among them are dapas (printer), dardekal (childish), din- den (rang), and dirben (urged).


Jewish Palestinian Aramaic was the language spoken and written by the Jews of the land of Israel during the Talmudic and post-Talmudic periods (3rd to 8th centuries B.C.E.).

This Aramaic-English dictionary is the most comprehensive dictionary for the language since Jastrow's was published in 1903, and it is superior to the latter in that Sokoloff makes use of the manuscript sources discovered during the last hundred years in European libraries and in the Cairo Genizah. This reference book is intended for scholars working in the fields of Aramaic and Semitic linguistics and rabbinic literature.


VII. Hebrew Literature

*23. [From Mendele to Now; A List of Articles about Hebrew Authors from "Index of Articles on Jewish Studies" (Rambi), volumes 1-29.] Compiled by Hillel Yofe. For Internal Use. Jerusalem: Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Mount Scopus, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1991. 3*, [12], 331 p. NIS 85 (about $45).

When the Index of Articles on Jewish Studies (known by its Hebrew acronym, Rambi) began publication in 1969, it was heralded as an unprecedented tool for Jewish studies research. Today, however, the researcher must go through 29 volumes in order to find the material he needs.

This cumulation of articles on Hebrew literature was prepared to make it easier for students of Hebrew literature at the Hebrew University to find the articles in that field that have been indexed in Rambi. There is more good news concerning the cumulation of articles listed in Rambi: a project is underway at the Central Library of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Beersheba) to cumulate all the existing volumes of Rambi.

In addition, because Rambi has been prepared by computer since volume 30 (1988), cumulations from that volume on are more simple matter. The Aleph system is being used for input of the data, and eventually Rambi will be available online to all libraries in the Aleph network.

VIII. Jewish Law


The first volume of this concordance was published in 1950, and the tenth volume, which covered the letter mem, was published in 1990 by the Maimonides Research Institute (P.O.B. 9049) in Haifa. This microfiche edition makes an important halakhic finding aid available to many.

The same publisher has published another important concordance on microfiche: the 42-volume work by Chaim Joshua Kasowsky, Otsar Leshon Ha-Talmud = Thesaurus Talmudicus (Concordance to the Babylonian Talmud), and has made the monumental Torah Shelema by Menachem Kasher available on microfiche.


The bulk of the material in the 30 periodicals and collections of articles indexed here is in Hebrew. A separate English section includes articles from Dine Israel, Israel Law Review, Tel-Aviv Studies in Law, Sefer Bar-Niv, Israel Reports to the International Conference of Comparative Law, and the Israel Yearbook of Human Rights.

The articles are arranged under such categories as: agunot, adoption, autospies, Chief Rabbinates, converts, religious courts, wages – Jewish Law, civil law – Jewish law, and "Who is a Jew."


Over 200 books in the categories rishonim, aharonim, responsa, commentaries, kabbalah, ethics, philosophy, and Hasidism were examined for this bibliography.

The entries are arranged under broad categories such as the commandment to live in the Land of Israel, the holiness of the Land, the Jewish nation and the Land, and the Torah and the Land. These categories are broken down into detailed topics. Each entry for a specific topic refers to the books in which the topic is discussed, with exact page references.

The author's Index to Commentaries on Maimonides' Mishneh Torah (the computer-readable version of which was reviewed in JL v.5 no. 1, p. 93) is now available in hard copy: Jerusalem: Makhon Le-Halakhah Berurah U-Ve'ur Halakhah (Yeshivat Merkaz Harav Kook, Revoh Ben Dor 12), 1991. 838, 31p. About $40.


The subject of Jewish law (mishpat ivri) covers a diverse range of topics, which reflects the fact that Jewish law encom-
passes all that is of human concern. Among the subjects covered in this bibliography are ecology, abortion, euthanasia, human rights, Clemency for criminals, war and the military. Over 15,000 books, articles, and doctoral dissertations in languages other than Hebrew are listed, and there are detailed indexes to facilitate use of the bibliography.

The section entitled "Biographies of the Sages," which is arranged by their names, lists scholarly articles about outstanding sages (halakhic authorities). An index refers to the bibliographic entries from alternate forms of the sages' names.


Evidence of the growing interest in Jewish law is the recent publication of a similar bibliography in the United States:


Like Rakover's, it is arranged by subject, with author and subject indexes. However, the subject breakdown of the American publication is more specific, and if an item is pertinent to more than one subject heading, the bibliographic data are repeated in their entirety under each subject. The second volume of Otzar Ha-mishpat is arranged by subjects. The first is arranged by titles of books; the second by the names of sages. The third, a subject index, consists of two alphabetical sections. The first is arranged by towns in the Sharon area: Herzliya, Hod Hasharon, Raanana, Kfar Saba, and others. Persons who have made significant contributions in government, science, industry, education, and other fields are listed. Each entry includes detailed information about the person, as well as a photograph.

Communal institutions and important industries are also described for each town. A general name index and an institutional index complete the book.

*28. [Gematrikon: a Dictionary of Gematria]. Jerusalem: Shalom-Tzviyyon (25 Sorotzkin St.), 1990. 649 p. In Hebrew. NIS 32 (about $18). Gematria is the calculation of the numerical value of Hebrew letters in a specific word or phrase. This book gives the calculations; the user has only to decide what number he wants to use. It is arranged by number, from one to one thousand. Under each number there is a list of words, phrases, and verses whose numerical value equals that number. Among the 40 entries under the number 17, for example, are tov (good), av ohevet (loving father) and ba dawid (David comes). This is a useful source for composing greetings and for indicating dates in the form of chronograms on Hebrew title-pages.

IX. Biological


The Sharon Plain, which extends north of Tel-Aviv, is one of Israel's foremost farming areas. This biographical dictionary is arranged by towns in the Sharon area: Herzliya, Hod Hasharon, Raanana, Kfar Saba, and others. Persons who have made significant contributions in government, science, industry, education, and other fields are listed. Each entry includes detailed information about the person, as well as a photograph.

Communal institutions and important industries are also described for each town. A general name index and an institutional index complete the book.


Transylvania was a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire up to the end of World War I, and has since then been part of Romania. A survey of the history of the Jews of Transylvania, and especially of their Torah literature, comprises the first section of this work.

In the second, biographical section, entitled Transylvanian Sages and Their Writings, about 800 persons who served as rabbis or religious functionaries before the Holocaust are listed alphabetically. Only scholars who wrote in Hebrew (as opposed to Hungarian or German) are included.

The author, formerly head of the Hebrew Cataloging Department at the JNUL, has published bibliographical studies on Transylvanian Jewry in Kiryat Sefer, Aresheth, and Hama'ayan.


About 400 men and women who have made a contribution in a particular field of endeavor or in Jewish life are listed here. The format follows that of Lipsitz' earlier work, Canadian Jewish Women of Today: Who's Who of Canadian Jewish Women. (Downsview, Ont.: J.E.S.L. Educational Products, 1983). The first section of the book is made up of articles about Canadian Jewry, and there is an index by professions.


This publication represents an effort to list every sage in Tunisia known from literary sources. In order to distinguish among those with the same acronym, the author consulted elders of the community for orally transmitted traditions. First published in his book Sefer Refa'el Hamal'akh (Nahariya, 1982), which is now out of print, "Sefer Anshe Hashem" consists of two alphabetical sections.

The first is arranged by titles of books; the second by the names of sages. The length of the biographical entries depends on the amount of information available to the author. The longer entries include lists of the subject's writings, his communal positions, teachers, students, and so on.


This multilingual bibliography on the history of the Jews in Italy is indexed by persons, places, and subjects. Among the subjects are assimilation, biography, ghetto, Hebrew printing, theater and Zionism.


The relationship between the various local Jewish communities of the Netherlands and the Dutch government from 1814 to 1870 is documented in this bibliography. During the first part of this period, the government's interference in internal Jewish matters was marked. Later, following the events of 1848, the government gradually withdrew from interference in religious affairs, and by 1870, the Jewish communities were self-governing.

The bibliography is arranged under such categories as the Portuguese community, the Ashkenazi community, Jews in the Dutch West Indies, education, institutions for the needy, and biographies. The work includes indexes of persons and places.


The latest bibliography in the series is arranged by subject, with author indexes. Among the subject headings are Rabbinical Literature, Kabalah, Prayers and Liturgical Poems, Folklore, Language and Grammar, History, Yemenite Jews in Israel, and Medicine.

An offprint may be ordered from the Jewish National and University Library (P.O.B. 503, Jerusalem) for $5.00. An
offprint of parts 1-3 is priced at $10.00.


Close to 3,000 books and articles on Bavarian Jewry are listed in this bibliography under categories such as the rabbinate, synagogues, converts, names, biographies, Hebrew printing, local history, Jewish language, and Jewish literature. Most of the entries are in German, but there is some English material. The entries are indexed by author.

XII. Israel-Bibliography


These publications reproduce the cataloging information distributed by the Center for Public Libraries to Israeli public libraries from 1948 through 1988. The catalog cards are arranged by author or other main entry, with a title index.

With over 44,000 entries (26,638 entries in the volumes for 1948-1978, and 17,893 entries in the volume for 1979-1988), this is in effect a comprehensive, cumulated bibliography of Israeli publications, including Judaica.

A volume listing the cards for 1948-1978 was first published in 1981, but it contained only brief cataloging information. This edition gives full cataloging data, including tracings for added authors, Dewey numbers, and card numbers, for ordering purposes.

The volumes are computer-produced, and the cataloging information is available in machine-readable form to libraries which have computerized catalogs. Other libraries may use these volumes to copy the cataloging information or to order sets of cards.

Current cataloging information, from 1988 onward, is distributed on microfiche, which are cumulated regularly.


Continuing Assia Neuberg's bibliography, Mediat Nysra (The State of Israel), volume 1, 1948-1968 and volume 2, 1969-1975, this multilingual volume brings the series up to the fortieth anniversary of the state.

The bibliography lists 9,555 monographs and completed series in all languages. Among the categories listed are the struggle for independence, the Arab-Israeli conflict, family, educational institutes, ethnic groups, Israel and the Christian world, laws and judgments, and religion. The subject arrangement is complemented by a name index containing both Hebrew and Latin characters.


Over 200 entries are listed under subjects such as State of Israel, Israeli society, anti-Zionism, and biographies. Translations of Israeli literature into French are also represented in this bibliography, which is indexed by author.

XIII. Israeli Newspaper Indexes


This excellent product filled a long-felt need for an events index to the Israeli daily press, as existing indexes cover articles only. (See JL, v. 1, no. 2 (1984) p. 108, and JL, v. 4, no. 2 (1988/89), p. 195.) This publication is arranged chronologically, with each entry containing a summary of a news story. A detailed subject index refers the user to entry numbers. The news pages were sent out once a month, and a cumulated index was distributed every third month. Printouts on specific subjects were available.

Israel Events ceased publication with the first issue of 1990. The reason for this may be that the Jerusalem Post began producing its full-text database in January, 1989.

The Jerusalem Post is now widely available online, and will shortly appear on CD-ROM. The address for information about its online service is P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem or fax 972-2-389527.

The Jerusalem Post and several bibliographic databases on CD-ROM are produced in Israel by CDI-Compact Disc International Ltd. (P.O.B. 6, Karmiel. Fax 972-4-983124). Their annual subscription prices to libraries are as follows:


Index to Hebrew Periodicals (Haifa University Library) $700.

Current Research in Social Sciences (Szold Institute) $600.

Research on Computers in Education (Szold Institute) $200.
XIV. Cults in Israel


The bibliography appended to this dissertation lists mainly Hebrew publications about the influence of cults in Israel.

*50. Israel. [Inter-Departmental Committee to Examine the Subject of Cults in Israel.] Report, presented by the Chairperson of the Committee, Miriam Glazer-Taasa [to the Minister of Education]. Jerusalem: 1987. 37, 343, 31, 19, 18, 74 p. In Hebrew. NIS 60 (about $30).

Appendix A, which covers 343 pages, and which constitutes the bulk of this report, details the ideologies, aims, and activities in Israel of cults such as Scientology, the Unification Church ("Moonies"), the Hare Krishna movement, Divine Light Mission, EST (Erhard Seminars Training). Emin (which originated in England), Transcendental Meditation (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi), Ananda Marga, and Bhagwan Rajneesh.

The 74-page bibliography includes Hebrew publications as well as many items in other languages, primarily English.

XV. Israeli Publishers


Publishers' names, addresses, and ISBN [International Standard Book Number] designations are given in Hebrew and English. There is also an index by ISBN prefix leading to name of publisher. 965 is the code for Israel, which precedes each publisher prefix.

XVI. Geography of Israel


(Reeg's book, which has introductions in Hebrew and English, lists 674 places. Each entry provides variant spellings, sources in rabbinic literature (primarily Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, and Midrash), and bibliographic references. Both Biblical and rabbinic names are given, including such variant names as Panyas for Dan, and Raqqaat for Teveriyah (Tiberias).

Appendix A, which covers 343 pages, and which constitutes the bulk of this report, details the ideologies, aims, and activities in Israel of cults such as Scientology, the Unification Church ("Moonies"), the Hare Krishna movement, Divine Light Mission, EST (Erhard Seminars Training). Emin (which originated in England), Transcendental Meditation (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi), Ananda Marga, and Bhagwan Rajneesh.

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XVI. Geography of Israel

The word sefer is ignored in the Hebrew sequence only.

An Annotated Bibliography of the Peshitta of the Old Testament 1

Asia-Pacific Survival Guide for the Jewish Traveller 34

Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Juden in Bayern 43

Bibliography of Yiddish and Hebrew Books and Periodicals published in South Africa, by South Africans, or about South Africa 35

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Judaica 2, 1987-8/5748: Catalogo dei Libri d'Argomento Ebraico in Lingua Italiana 7

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The Yemenite Jews, Literature and Studies: Bibliography, 1982-1987 41
Libby Kahane is Head of the Reference Service at the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem.

Edited by Jack Fischel and Sanford Pinsker

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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