SERIALLY SPEAKING

New Judaic and Hebraic Journals, 1990–1993

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This column features brief notices of new Judaic and Hebraic journals. The prior column appeared in volume 5, no. 1 of this journal. Contributions from readers and publishers are welcome. (For address, see Editor's Note at end of column.)


As the editors point out in their introduction to the first issue of this scholarly journal, "the psychology of religion [is not] a recent specialization . . . it is one of the first fields to which the new psychology . . . was applied at the end of the 19th century." Sample articles from vol. 1, no. 4 include "The Body in the Psychology of Religion," "Religious and Gender Prototypes," and "The Psychology of Religion in Poland." Each issue is divided into the following sections: invited essay and commentary, research reports, perspective, and book reviews. Recommended for theological collections.


A joint publication of the Orthodox Union and Yeshivat Ohr Yerushalayim in Israel, Jewish Thought focuses on the fields of Jewish philosophy and Bible study from a traditional viewpoint. The purpose of the journal is to make scholarship being produced in Israel in Hebrew available to the English-speaking Orthodox communities in Israel and the United States. Articles in the issues examined deal with the Rosh ha-Shanah liturgy, the Book of Koheleth, and the halakhic and philosophical teachings of Maimonides, among other topics. Recommended for libraries with traditional rabbinics collections.


The aim of this journal is "to provide an international forum for Jewish thought, philosophy and intellectual history. The historical range will not be limited to any given period, nor will there be any religious or political orientation determining the acceptance of articles." The range and scholarship of the charter issue is impressive. A sampling of articles includes "The Holy One Sits and Roars: Mythopoesis and the Midrashic Imaginatin," by Michael Fishbane; "Perceptions of Kabalah in the Second Half of the 18th Century," by Moshe Idel; and "Rabbinic Text Process Theology," by Peter Ochs. Highly recommended for academic collections in Jewish studies.


The editor sees this journal as filling a gap in the area where religious studies and information science meet, focusing on "why and how information with a religious content is produced, stored and used." Of the seven articles in the first issue, more than half contain useful information for all theological librarians. These include "Information Technology and the Theological Librarian," "Use and User Studies: An Application to Theological Libraries," "Providing Access to a Special Theological Collection," and "The Computer as Biblical Exegete." The last two articles cited are particularly relevant to Hebraica/Judaica librarians. Highly recommended.


Interesting and informative, this well-edited newsletter fills a gap in the realm of Jewish art publications. Everything a connoisseur or artist needs to know about the world of Jewish art is included in each issue—news and events, new publications, major shows, auctions, etc. There is an extensive listing of exhibits, lectures, classes, and tours in the New York metropolitan area, as well as exhibits in other parts of the United States and Canada. In addition to the newsletter, subscribers receive a separate annual publication entitled Judaica News Directory: A Guide to Galleries, Shops, Dealers, Booksellers, Catalogs and Groups. An excellent addition to collections in the areas of Jewish art and culture.


A merger of Kibbutz Currents and Kibbutz Studies, this English-language publication is aimed at both kibbutz researchers and
kibbutz members. Articles, whose authors for the most part fall into the latter category, cover all aspects of kibbutz life. There are interviews with prominent "kibbutznikim"—the first issue includes an interview with Amos Oz. Each issue features original fiction and/or poetry by kibbutz members. A worthwhile addition to collections dealing with contemporary life in Israel.


A 1990s-style rabbinical publication which seeks to serve rabbinical students. A staple of each issue is a symposium on a Talmudic sugya, or unit; two topics examined thus far are rodef (pursuer or assailant) and prozbul (a Rabbinic enactment allowing for loans to be collected after the Sabbatical Year). Contributors to the January 1993 issue include an Orthodox rabbi writing on the problems of kashrut supervision in bakeries, in an article entitled "The Way the Cookie Crumbles"; a Conservative rabbi: "Where the Rabbi is a Teacher"; and an accountant: "The Limits of Parsonage." The descriptions of each of these serials begins with a systematic Romanization of the Hebrew title in brackets, followed by a Romanization or translation of the title as given in the periodical.


Bearing the same title, format, and editor as the periodical published by the Israeli army until 1977, and like its predecessor, this new *Mahanayim* seeks to study Jewish thought and culture. According to the editor’s introduction, contributors will come from the worlds of Torah, academia, literature, and art. Each issue is devoted to a single topic; the first examines the relationship between Judaism and Islam. Twenty-three articles provide a comprehensive treatment of the subject. The approach is multifaceted; aspects covered include the treatment of Islam in the works of Maimonides, a comparison of Jewish and Islamic law, and the Islamic influence on Jewish music. Highly recommended for academic collections in Jewish studies.

Each issue of this quarterly for educators will be devoted to one topic examined from theoretical and practical viewpoints. The first issue focuses on "Drama and Education." Theater, cinema, and television are explored as techniques for furthering educational goals. Future issues will look at computers, mathematics, sports, and other areas as they relate to education. An English table of contents is included. Recommended for Hebrew-language collections in the areas of Israel and/or education.


Events in present-day Israel move at such a rapid pace that it is easy to get caught up in current crises to the exclusion of past events. The editors of *Iyunim Biltkumat*
Israel have chosen to focus on the history of the Yishuv and the early days of the State. Given the fact that the publisher is the Ben-Gurion Research Center, and that about half the articles were written and researched under the aegis of the Center, it is not surprising that a number of articles in vol. 1 examine David Ben-Gurion’s role in Israeli history. Other topics explored in volumes one and two are foreign policy and security, aliyah and absorption, Zionist thought, and relations between Israel and Jews in the Diaspora. Both volumes include selections from the archives of the Center. Highly recommended for collections dealing with Israeli history.


Espousing an eclectic approach to criticism, the editor of this periodical points out that the tools of one discipline can be used to better understand the products of another. In the issue examined, for example, a genre of Israeli cinema, the hidden camera movie, is looked at from a sociological/political point of view. Other articles in the issue include analyses of the Second Aliya idylls of David Shimonovitz and the works of Amalia Kahana-Carmon; an essay on the art of criticism in Israel; and a translation from the German, of part of Theodor Adorno’s work on aesthetic theory. Recommended for comprehensive Hebrew collections.

Rita Lifton is a cataloger at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Ms. Lifton wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Esther Greenberg, Periodicals Librarian, Jewish Theological Seminary of America.
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