

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.)

The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion. Vol. 1, no. 1, 1991–Quarterly. \$80/year (Individuals, \$32.50). Book reviews. ISSN 1050-8619. Editors: L. B. Brown, H. Newton Malony. Journal Subscription Department, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., 365 Broadway, Hillsdale, NJ 07642. Issues examined: vol. 1, nos. 1 and 4, 1991.

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.

Jewish Thought: A Journal of Torah Scholarship. Vol. 1, no. 1, Elul 5750/1990– Semi-annual. \$10/year. Editors: Moshe Chaim Sosevsky, Chaim Eisen. Orthodox Union, 36 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10018. Issues examined: vol. 1, no. 1, Elul 5750/1990, and vol. 2, no. 1, Spring/Summer 5752/1992.

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 Journal of Jewish Thought & Philosophy. Vol. 1, no. 1, 1991– Irregular/ two issues per volume. \$106, vol. 1; \$98, vol. 2 (Subscriber incentive plan: \$95.40, vol. 1; \$88.20, vol. 2). ISSN 1053-699X. Editors: Elliot R. Wolfson, Paul Mendes Flohr. Harwood Academic Publishers, c/o STBS, Order Department, P.O. Box 786, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276. Issue examined: vol. 1, no. 1, 1991.

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 Imagination," by Michael Fishbane; "Perceptions of Kabbalah 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.

Journal of Religious & Theological Information. Vol. 1, no. 1, 1993– Semi-annual. \$48/volume (Individuals, \$18). Book reviews. ISSN 1047-7845. Editor: William C. Miller. The Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580. Issue examined: vol. 1, no. 1, 1993.

The editor sees this journal as filling a gap in the area where religious studies and information science meet, by 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.

Judaica News: A Newsletter of Jewish Art & Culture. Vol. 1, no. 1, 1989/90–Quarterly. \$30/year (\$55/2 years). Book reviews. Illustrations. ISSN 1061-0448. Editor: Terry Cohen. Judaica News, P.O. Box 1130, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-8130. Issues examined: vol. 3, no. 1, Winter 1991/92 and vol. 4, no. 1, Winter 1993.

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.

Kibbutz Trends. No. 1, 1991– Quarterly. \$21/year. Book reviews. Illustrations. Editors: Joel Magid, Shimon Mahler. Yad Tabenkin, Efal Seminar Center, Ramat Efal 52960, Israel. Issue examined: no. 1, 1991.

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.

Rabbinics Today: A Monthly Newsletter Dedicated to an Effective, Fulfilled Rabbinate. Vol. 1, no. 1, August 1992—Monthly except July and August. \$65/10 issues. Book reviews. ISSN 1066-0585. Editor: Rabbi Basil Herring. P.O. Box 323, Atlantic Beach, NY 11509. Issues examined: vol. 1, no. 1, August 1992, and vol. 1, no. 6, January 1993.

A 1990s-style rabbinical publication which seeks to serve as a "clearinghouse for ideas . . . wherein subscribers will be able to submit their own material for consideration by their peers." The aim is to be inclusive, with contributions from rabbis representing the major branches of Judaism, as well as from laypeople in related fields. Contributors to the January 1993 issue include an Orthodox rabbi writing about 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." An interesting feature in each issue is "Parshah & Pardes," in which a verse from each week's Sabbath Torah reading is analyzed, followed by a sample sermon based on the verse. Recommended for synagogue libraries and for libraries that serve rabbinical students.

S'vara: A Journal of Philosophy and Religion. Vol. 1, no. 1, Winter 1990—Semi-annual. \$25/year (Individuals, \$15). Editor: George P. Fletcher. Columbia University Law School, 435 West 116 Street, New York, NY 10027. Issues examined: vol. 1, no. 1, Winter 1990, and vol. 2, no. 2, Winter 1991.

Sponsored by the Columbia University School of Law and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, the purpose of *S'vara* is to examine Judaism and Jewish law from diverse viewpoints, but with respect for halakhic sources. As David Weiss Halivni states in his introduction to the premier issue, this scholarly journal was "founded in the spirit of *s'vara*," that which is learned by means of logic, but with respect for *gemara*, that which is learned by

means of tradition. Contributors range from those who identify with the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism, to secularists. Articles include "A Note on Positive Freedom in Jewish Thought," "Theological Transitions in the Torah," and "Maimonides' Parable of Circumcision." A staple of each issue is a symposium on a Talmudic *sugyah*, 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) [definitions are from *The Talmud: The Steinsaltz Edition: A Reference Guide* (1989)—Ed.]. Highly recommended for academic libraries.

Hebrew and Bilingual Serials

1. אפש שתיים: כתב עת לספרות.
2. מחניים: רבעון למחקר, להגות ולתרבות יהודית.
3. נושאים בחינוך: כתב עת.
4. עיונים בתקומת ישראל: מאסף לבעיות הציגות, היישוב ומדינת ישראל.
5. תיאוריה וביקורת: במה ישראלית.

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.

1. [*Efes Shetayim: Ketav 'et le-sifrut*] = *Efes Shetaim: Literary Review*. No. 1, Spring 1992—Semi-annual. \$10/issue. Illustrations. ISBN 965-07-0342X. Editors: Avraham Hos *et al.* Keter Publishing House, P.O. Box 7145, Jerusalem, Israel. Issue examined: no. 1, Spring 1992.

Prose, poetry, and critical essays are included in this publication. Some of the pieces are in the original Hebrew; others have been translated from Russian, Polish, Spanish, German, or Greek. There are excerpts from novels and books of short stories "soon to be published." Yoel Hoffman, T. Carmi, Aharon Appelfeld, Itamar Levy, Ya'akov Churgin, and Paul Celan are the authors whose work is analyzed in the first issue. Recommended for collections in Hebrew literature.

2. [*Mahanayim: riv'on le-mehkar, le-hagut, ule-tarbut Yehudit*] = *Mahanayim: A Quarterly for Studies in Jewish Thought and Culture*. No. 1, December 1991—Quarterly. \$14.50/

issue. Illustrations. Editor: Menachem Hacohen. Sapir Center for Jewish Education and Culture, P.O. Box 979, Jerusalem, Israel. Issue examined: no. 1, December 1991.

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.

3. [*Nos'im be-hinukh*] = *Journal of Educational Topics*. No. 1, March 1992—Quarterly. \$13.65/issue. ISSN 0792-8130. Editors: Moshe Giladi, Yoel Elizenberg, Raya Tillinger. Ach Publishing House, P.O. Box 170, Kiryat Bialik 27000, Israel. Issue examined: no. 1, March 1992.

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.

4. [*Iyunim bi-tekumat Yisra'el: me'asef li-ve'ayot ha-Tsiyonut, ha-Yishuv, u-Medinat Yisra'el*] = *Iyunim Bitkumat Israel: Studies in Zionism, the Yishuv and the State of Israel*. Vol. 1, 1991—Annual. \$38/volume. Book reviews. English abstracts. Editor: Avi Bar'eli. The Ben-Gurion Research Center, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Sede Boqer Campus, P.O. Box 84993, Israel. Issues examined: vol. 1, 1991 and vol. 2, 1992.

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 Bitkumat*

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, aliya 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.

5. [*Te'orayah u-vikoret: bamah Yisre'elit*] = *Theory and Criticism: An Israeli Forum*. No. 1, Summer 1991— Irregular. \$12/issue. English abstracts. Illustrations. Editor: Adi Ofir. Van Leer Institute, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, Israel. Issue examined: no. 2, Summer 1992.

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.

Editor's note: Future columns will be compiled by:

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Announcements and sample issues of Judaica serials in Western languages should be sent to Ms. Vernon; notices of serials in Hebraic languages should be sent to Ms. Gilboa.

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Shimeon Brisman, Editor, APPROBATIONS

Book reviews are expected to include descriptions, evaluations, and critical comments (preferably in this order).

The descriptive part should acquaint the reader sufficiently with both the purpose and contents of the work. Data about the author, or additional information about the work (part of a series, illustrations, etc.), may be included in this part.

The evaluation of the material should consist of an objective examination of the contents, a spot-checking of sources, and summarization of findings (whether the work meets the stated objectives of the author, whether the work meets scholarly standards, etc.). Critical comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the work (arrangement of material, order of chapters, bibliography, etc.) may be included in this section.

Basic criticism, including the reviewer's opinions and final judgment of the work, should be relegated to the end of the review.

Note to publishers: Judaica Librarianship does not publish reviews of monographs, only of reference books and professional tools for librarians. Review copies of the latter should be sent to the Editor. Reference books for review should be sent to:

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