

Catalogs of Israeli Book Exporters

THE CHOSEN BOOK

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Identifying what has been published in the field of Judaica in every country poses a formidable challenge to the librarian; however, there is one country where the task is easier. In Israel, book exporters publish lists, and, in aggregate, cover the majority of current Israeli publications. While there are other sources of information concerning such publications (see our *Building a Judaica Library*, Libraries Unlimited, 1983), the book exporters' catalogs comprise a prime resource.

The dealers' catalogs filled the void that was left when the PL-480 program was suspended. At the time of its existence (1964-1973) libraries could receive a monthly Accessions List from the Library of Congress which included all or almost all of Israeli publications. This list was extremely useful to acquisition librarians. Once the *Accessions List* was no longer available, various dealers attempted to provide libraries outside of Israel with current lists of materials available to them.

The catalogs of the dealers vary in purpose and format. Some strive for comprehensiveness while others attempt to cover a more narrowly defined area. Some arrange the lists topically, others alphabetically.

The "big three" in this area are Pinat Hasefer, Robinson and Weinberg. Each publishes a monthly list which attempts to include all publications of Jewish interest. This is interpreted very broadly and therefore includes anything related to Judaica. Ben Arza specializes in Rabbinic works, Ludwig Mayer in scholarly works in all languages, and Jerusalem Books in English publications.

It should be noted that the catalogs do not necessarily reflect the services offered by a dealer. The dealer may provide other works not included on the list. For example, one could purchase *The Canterbury Tales* in Hebrew from Robinson, but he does not list this type of material since it is not Judaica. Similarly, Hanan Rivkin of Jerusalem Books will provide any book or periodical published in Israel, even though his catalog lists only English works.

Not all the dealers will consent to put anyone on their mailing list. Some will provide a list only to regular customers; others might charge for the service.

Prices vary from dealer to dealer. Some seem to be consistently higher or lower than others, while in many cases the prices charged by the dealers vary from book to book — one will charge more than the others for one title and less than others for another.

Judaica acquisition librarians will find these lists extremely helpful. Some librarians might find one list sufficient for their needs; others will be interested in receiving more than one.

Table 1 analyzes six catalogs of Israeli book exporters in terms of coverage and arrangement. All prices are in dollars. (See p. 24.)

Meir Lubetski is Associate Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature, Baruch College, City University of New York. Edith Lubetski is Assistant Professor of Library Administration and Head Librarian, Hedi Steinberg Library, Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University. They have just published Building a Judaica Library Collection: A Resource Guide. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1983.

Recently Published Acquisition Tools

This section will list new and recently published materials that could be useful as acquisition tools. If you are aware of anything that falls into this category, kindly send it to me:

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

Jewish Book World, 1982— . New York: JWB Jewish Book Council, 1982— . Quarterly. Free. (15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010).

A newsletter providing short descriptive annotations of approximately fifty books of Jewish interest, ranging from scholarly to juvenile. Items from the list are selected from those received at the JWB Jewish Book Council office.

Combined Jewish Book Catalog, 1982— . New York: Association of Jewish Book Publishers, 1982— . Annual. Free. (838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021).

Arranged by publisher, the list includes new and old works. Most entries are annotated. The books range in level from scholarly to juvenile. Each entry includes price but no date of publication.

Israel Book News, 1983— . Tel Aviv: Book and Printing Center of the Israel Export Institute, 1983— . Quarterly. \$5.00. (29 Hamered Street, P.O. Box 5084, Tel Aviv, Israel).

This is a continuation of both the *Israel Book World* which was published in the 1970's and the literary supplement to the *Jerusalem Post International Edition* of the 1980's. One of the major features of this quarterly is the section "Publishers' Showcase" devoted to short notices of new Israeli books. Various articles and columns providing information about Israeli publishing and printing are also included.

TABLE I. CATALOGS OF ISRAELI BOOK EXPORTERS

<i>Dealer & Address:</i>	Ch. Ben Arza P.O.B. 894 143 El-Wad Rd. The Old City Jerusalem
<i>Title:</i>	_____
<i>Frequency:</i>	<i>Irregular</i>
<i>Languages of coverage:</i>	Hebrew
<i>Bibliographic data:</i>	Author, title, publisher, date, pagination
<i>Arrangement:</i>	Detailed subject headings
<i>Forms/media:</i>	Books
<i>Scope:</i>	Rabbinic and scholarly
<i>Comments:</i>	Exclusively Judaica - primarily Bible, Talmudic and Rabbinic works. Some general Judaica, such as Jewish and Israeli history, also included. The catalog is a computer printout on looseleaf paper. Each subject is on a separate page. Each printout can be integrated with previous printouts. Ben Arza originally published an extensive catalog and later issued supplements. The computer printouts constitute an additional supplement.

<i>Dealer & Address:</i>	Pinat Hasefer P.O.B. 3427 Haifa 31033
<i>Title:</i>	<i>A Selection of New Publications</i>
<i>Frequency:</i>	Monthly
<i>Languages of coverage:</i>	Hebrew (plus transliteration); a limited number of materials in other languages
<i>Bibliographic data:</i>	Author, title, place, publisher, date
<i>Arrangement:</i>	Detailed subject headings
<i>Forms/media:</i>	Books, doctoral dissertations, periodicals and serials, textbooks, media, out-of-print and rare books, pamphlets
<i>Scope:</i>	Popular and scholarly, belles-lettres, juveniles
<i>Comments:</i>	The topical arrangement is useful for identifying the subject of items that are not apparent from the title alone. It also obviates searching a complete catalog when not everything is of interest. The categorization, however, could be improved. There is no heading "Bible"—biblical books are included under "Judaism." Materials are listed more than once under various subject headings. Publication lists of organizations, institutions and presses are distributed with the catalog.

TABLE 1. CATALOGS OF ISRAELI BOOK EXPORTERS

Jerusalem Books
P.O.B. 18189
Jerusalem 91181

Ludwig Mayer, Ltd.
P.O.B. 1174
4 Shlomzion Hamalka Street
Jerusalem 91000

Selected List of English Books Recently Published in Israel

Books: Export List

Irregular

Irregular (several times a year)

English

Hebrew (in transliteration); English and European languages

Author, title, publisher, date

Author, title, place, date, pagination, language of publication, subject

Broad subject headings

Alphabetically by author; separate sections for periodicals

Books

Books and periodicals

Popular and scholarly

Scholarly

Includes materials published in the last two years and even earlier. The only catalog that lists English Judaica exclusively.

Few or no "seforim," Talmudic studies or Rabbinics. There is no heading "Bible—biblical studies are found under "Literature."

J. Robinson & Co., Booksellers
P.O.B. 4308
31 Nachlat Benjamin Street
Tel Aviv 65162

A.I. Weinberg
3/1 Kiryat Moshe (9 ben Dor Street)
Jerusalem 96103

Monthly

New books

Monthly

Hebrew; a limited number of materials in other languages

Hebrew (plus translation or transliteration); some English

Author, title, place, publisher and date

Author, title, publisher, date, pagination, list price, discount price

Alphabetically by title

Broad subject categories

Books, out-of-print and rare Judaica and Hebraica

Books, periodicals, dissertations

Scholarly and popular, textbooks, belles-lettres, Rabbinics

Popular and scholarly, belles-lettres, juveniles

Exclusively Judaica, interpreted to include anything of Jewish and related interest in any language.

Represents a cross-section of general as well as Judaica Israeli publications.