THE CHOSEN BOOK

Recently Published Acquisition Tools

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This column lists new and recently published materials that may be useful as acquisition tools. If you are aware of anything that falls into this category, kindly send a brief notice to:

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Stern College for Women
245 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Antiquarian Material


This is the second issue devoted specifically to Judaica. The first (dated April 18, 1983) met with such an enthusiastic response that the editors plan to make this an annual event.

The main thrust of the pamphlet is antiquarian material, although it does include some material on new and recent books. It is divided into three parts: 1) articles; 2) books for sale; 3) books wanted. The books for sale include a large number of books of Jewish interest, while there are only a few in the “want lists.” A useful feature of this pamphlet is the inclusion of the names and addresses of antiquarian dealers that handle Judaica. The issue affords the librarian an opportunity to become aware of antiquarian dealers specializing in Judaica, as well as of general dealers who have ventured into this field. Further, it provides libraries with a vehicle for publishing their own want ads—for a price.

The articles, which are interesting and illuminating, cover a variety of topics: a survey of recent scholarly Judaica; the history and development of Hebrew calligraphy and typography; the Judaica auction market; parchment used by the Jewish Scribe; and book reviews (new and recent books).

This is an important tool for university and research libraries of Judaica.

Bookstore Catalog

Steimatzky Agency of North America
56 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

Steimatzky bookstore is a name well known in Israel; and now, Steimatzky has come to New York, more specifically, to Greenwich Village. The store sells Hebrew and English books published in Israel on all topics. It issues a catalog of Hebrew titles, as well as a catalog of English materials. The books listed in Hebrew are, for the most part, general in nature, although there is a minority of titles of Jewish interest. There is a great deal of literature in Hebrew for children and young adults. The English material is more of Judaica interest. The store advertises that it has over 1,500 titles in stock. Anything in stock is available immediately; otherwise there is a two-week wait for books, which are shipped from Israel via air mail.

[See a related letter and response from Edith Lubetski in the Commentaries section of this issue - Eds.]

Juvenile Bibliography


This is a bookstore catalog. Ordinarily, we would assume that as such it would be merely a list of titles with descriptive blurbs, but it is much more. Arranged by subject categories, and graded by age, this is a bibliography of in-print books and recordings annotated by a professional storyteller (who is also an Assistant Professor of Speech and Drama at Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University). Each subject section begins with a short introduction. A very useful aid in selecting children’s books for a library.
Media

An annotated list of audio-visual programs, games, and other non-print materials devoted to the subject of Jewish values and tradition. Some entries are not only described, but also evaluated. A list of producers/distributors and their addresses is included.

This is the second publication of this nature by the Centre. The first was: *Teaching Israel*: An Annotated Guide to Educational Media (1980), for which a companion volume of printed materials was published. A similar companion guide of printed materials for *Jewish Values and the Jewish Tradition* is planned.

Public Media Inc.
119 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Public Media Inc. has issued a flyer entitled "Commemorating the Jewish Heritage," which provides an annotated listing of films and videotapes on topics of Jewish interest. The focus is on recent and contemporary events in Jewish history, with an emphasis on the Holocaust. The programs have been selected from the works of NBC, PBS, BBC, and other independent producers. Prices are given for both purchase and rental.

Pamphlets
Leader's Digest: A periodic summary of materials and news from the American Jewish Committee (AJC, Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56 Street, New York, NY 10022).

The American Jewish Committee publishes material of current social and political Jewish interest. It sends out notices of publications as they become available. Librarians generally prefer annotated lists with entries that are at least reminiscent of standard bibliographic form.

The American Jewish Committee has now provided just that. Each entry in this bulletin, which presents readers with a "quick overview of materials produced and distributed by the American Jewish Committee in recent weeks," includes author, title and pagination, but does not, unfortunately, include date.

This is a convenient tool for ordering pamphlet material, albeit from only one organization. We look forward to the day when all pamphlets of Jewish interest will be listed in one source.

Periodicals
Directory of World Jewish Press and Publications
P.O. Box 7699
Jerusalem 91076
Israel

Published in 1984, this is the first edition of the Directory. Future editions are planned. As indicated in the introduction, this "was conceived and compiled to fulfill the need for a current, reliable and comprehensive worldwide listing of Jewish periodicals."

The last time such coverage was attempted was in 1972 when the most recent edition of Joseph Fraenkel's, *The Jewish Press of the World* was published by the World Jewish Congress. The Directory clearly serves a purpose; however, its coverage is far from comprehensive, with only 900 listings, although there are at least a few thousand known Jewish periodicals. While all publications from outside of Israel included in the Directory are of Jewish interest, many Israeli publications listed have little or no Judaic content.

The entries are arranged alphabetically by country; the frequency of items included ranges from dailies to annuals: newspapers, bulletins, and newsletters are covered, along with periodicals and journals. A separate section at the end of the volume is devoted to "Irregular Publications." All titles are given in Latin characters. Each entry provides various descriptive information, and indicates the language of the publication and its subject or principal readership. An alphabetical index of titles is provided. A subject index would have been very useful.

We hail this latest attempt at providing Jewish libraries with a needed reference and acquisitions tool. We look forward to seeing a considerably expanded second edition.


Includes 836 entries for 35 mm. microfilmed Jewish periodicals, newspapers, synagouge bulletins and student publications published in North and South America in English, German, Hebrew, Italian, Judezmo, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Yiddish. The films are available for sale or loan from the American Jewish Periodical Center at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio. The entries are arranged alphabetically by state, city and language for the United States publications; foreign publications, following the entries for the United States, are arranged by country, city and language. Each entry provides information on the language of publication, the microfilm holdings of the Center and the location of negatives for those titles that the Center is not authorized to sell. A Roman and Hebrew alphabet index is provided.

Retrospective Bibliography

This is an annotated list of more than 2000 basic books on Jewish history and thought in various languages, with the predominant number in English and Hebrew. The scope of the bibliography is significantly more comprehensive than the subtitle indicates. The work covers titles from the fields of Jewish philosophy, sociology, economics, and culture—in addition to history and religion.

The purpose of this bibliography is to furnish the librarian with a list of basic books that are of major importance for the study of Jewish history and thought. While extensive in coverage, the bibliography is nonetheless selective. It includes sources, research, anthologies, reference works and journals, and covers each subject internationally from ancient to modern times. Although the most up-to-date research is emphasized, older, standard works are also included. Popular works and highly specialized studies are excluded.

Aside from its value as a reference source, this bibliography will serve as a valuable retrospective acquisition tool.

Edith Lubetski is Assistant Professor of Library Administration and Head Librarian, Hedi Steinberg Library, Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University. She is the author, with her husband, Prof. Meir Lubetski, of *Building a Judaica Library Collection*, which was published by Libraries Unlimited in 1983. Professor Lubetski is also the Vice-President/President-Elect of the Association of Jewish Libraries.