Once again, the indefatigable Robert Singerman has placed the community of Judaica scholars and librarians in his debt. After producing extensive monograph-length bibliographies on the Jews in Spain and Portugal (1975), Jewish and Hebrew onomastics (1977), and antisemitic propaganda in the English language (1982), Singerman has now brought his considerable bibliographic skills to bear on the subject of the Jewish press of the world. As noted in its subtitle and clarified in the compiler's introduction, the bibliography covers only secondary sources dealing with the Jewish press and does not constitute an attempt to list all of the Jewish serials of the world published since 1675. Singerman's primary objective in compiling his bibliography was “the identification of pertinent source materials for writing a world history of the Jewish press.” And indeed, anyone wishing to assume this task will find Singerman's bibliography indispensable. But the potential historian of Jewish journalism is not the only one who can benefit from this bibliography. Anyone interested in any aspect of the Jewish press, or in Jewish cultural and intellectual life during the last three hundred years will find this book invaluable. Reference librarians and catalogers alike will also find this bibliography to be a very useful tool for their work. The former can use it to guide readers to pertinent secondary literature on any aspect of the Jewish press. For the latter, the book can function as an aid in cataloging specific journals, since it will lead them to relevant lists of journals and newspapers and to articles and books about them.

Description

The organization of the book is quite straightforward, moving from the general to the specific. The first chapter lists library catalogs and union lists of Jewish serials, encyclopedia articles on the Jewish press, bibliographies of a multinational or multilingual nature, and exhibitions and serials devoted to the Jewish press and journalism. The second chapter lists books and articles dealing with the history of the Jewish press in general, and the next three chapters list material on Hebrew, Judezmo (Ladino), and Yiddish serials respectively. The compiler’s use of the term “multinational” in these chapter headings is somewhat misleading, since the material cited does not deal with journals or serials which are themselves multinational in nature, but rather lists or discusses serials in a particular language regardless of where they were published. Therefore, headings such as “General Works on Hebrew Serials” for these chapters would have been more appropriate.

The rest of the bibliography is divided geographically by continent and by country. Within each country, the compiler lists general studies on the press of that country, then works on serials in a particular language, and finally, works on individual serials in that language.

The bibliography is complemented by author and subject indexes. The former also lists titles in cases where no authors are mentioned, and so should more accurately have been called Main Entry Index. The subject index lists names of periodicals and editors as well as selected generic topics, e.g., “Bundist serials,” “Humorous serials.” It is unfortunate that more topical subjects were not included in the index or that a separate topical subject index was not provided. This would not have required much additional effort, and would have facilitated access to articles and books which analyze specific themes dealt with in the Jewish press. Scholars wishing to check whether a specific topic has been dealt with in the scholarly literature, or Ph.D. candidates looking for dissertation topics would certainly have benefited from such an index. Some of the topics that might have been included are: the 1929 riots in Palestine, as covered in two Communist Yiddish periodicals, Emanus (Moscow) and Freyhayt (New York) (1466); the question of immigration to Palestine or to America in the Russian Hebrew Journals Ha-Melits and Ha-Yom (1231); reactions to World War I in the American Yiddish Press (2643,2644); American Yiddish daily press reactions to the rise of Nazism (2575); and the coverage of the Holocaust in the Hebrew Press of Palestine in 1941–42 (1582).

Evaluation

In general, the bibliographic information provided by the compiler is of the highest quality. The citations are usually complete and accurate, and the brief annotations are very helpful in clarifying the relevance of the work cited to the topic at hand. I was especially impressed by the thoroughness of the compiler’s coverage of literature which would not seem at first glance to be pertinent to the topic of the Jewish press. Singerman must have a highly developed bibliographic “sixth sense” for ferreting out this sort of material, combined with the patience and determination to plow through a tremendous amount of irrelevant material. We are indeed fortunate to share the fruits of these labors.

No work of such a broad scope, dealing with material in at least a dozen languages, can be expected to be free from error. The large number of errors found is surprising, however. Some concern bibliographic citation, others are typographical, but the vast majority are errors in romanization, especially and primarily in the romanization of Hebrew. By his own admission, the compiler is not an expert in Hebrew grammar and Romanization, and this in no way detracts from his stature as a bibliographer. He should, however, have consulted with experts in these matters in order to ensure accuracy in the bibliographic references.

The following is a list of some of the more serious errors, especially those affecting the names of authors and the comprehensibility of the text. Some corrections and comments of a bibliographic and stylistic nature conclude this section.

Corrigenda

303 The author of this article, which is given as "M., V." is Vladimir Medem. Cf. Leksikon fun der nayer Yidisher literatur, vol. 5, col. 64 (bibliography).

560 The author's name is Boas Shahevitch, not Boaz Shekhvits. Cf. his Yeterot metohamim (1982).
The title should read "Razsvyet be-gerush", not "Razsvyet bi-gerush." (Not "Razsvyet for a penny", but "Razsvyet in exile.")


The Library of Congress heading for the author entered as Varshvik, Yehudah is Warszawski, Jehuda. Cf. NUC (pre-1956) under this name.

Page numbers should be corrected to 1299, not 1260.

The review referred to is signed M., not M.M. Singerman is probably correct in his identification of the reviewer as Moshe Mishkinsky, but the index entry should be corrected. (Incidentally, this review is also incorrectly indexed in Rashi:

The title of the journal is "Tsiltsele shama', " not "Tsiltsele shema'."

The initials stand for Eliyahu zar Gal'ed. Cf. the t.p. verso of his A.D. Shafir. The initials are treatment in a monograph and is cited in monograph format. Cf. entry 223 where it is cited as a journal.

The title of the article is: "Byalik bi-Keneset Odesah," not "Byalik be-Keneset." It should also be noted that the article is signed Natan Grinblat.


The title should read "Mikhtavim el ha-orekh," not "al ha-orekh." The title of this work should be Sebarheret 'tonait, not Sebarheret 'tonait (Juran, 1976).

The author's name is Elazar Giled, not Elazar Galed. Cf. the t.p. verso of his Hultsatekh shani (1975). Also, the title of the article should read "E.D. Shapir, . . . " not A.D. Shafir. The initial stand for Eliyahu David. Cf. entry 1976.


The first word of the title should be Revah, not Ruah.

The journal title quoted in these entries (and probably in 2568 as well)—Annual of the American Branch of the Yiddish Scientific Institute—should have been given in romanized Yiddish as Yor-bukh fun Amooteyt, since the articles are entirely in Yiddish.

Another title which is primarily in Yiddish, but which Singerman cites consistently in English is Bulletin of the Bund Archives (see e.g., entries 2709, 2822). The correct title of this item is Bulletin fun Bund-Arkiv. The English title used by Singerman first appears on issue no. 20 (February, 1965). (This and subsequent issues also include English summaries of the articles.)

2715 The author is probably Jacob Sholem Hertz, the historian of the Bundist movement. A.B. is one of his many pseudonyms. Cf. the end of his entry in Leksikon fun der nayer Yidisher literatur and now B. Kagan (1986), s.v. "A.B."

2995 The first issue of this journal (Israel) appeared in March 1917, and it seems to still be active. See Bibliografya tematika 2:xi (cit. the presses in the Sovieta, no. 2). In any case, it is not clear how the thirty-fifth anniversary issue could have appeared in 1941.

Many inconsistencies in the format of bibliographic citations, especially with regard to articles in periodicals, were found throughout the work. The compiler seems to use two different formats interchangeably, with no logical justification. For example, see items 220 and 1313, in each of which two reviews are cited, each one in a different format. These inconsistencies have no bearing on the accuracy of the information given, but still, one expects more attention to detail from an experienced bibliographer. If the compiler has consistently followed some style manual of which I am unaware, my apologies, but it would have helped to have mentioned this in the introduction.

Deciding what is and what is not a periodical is often not an easy matter, as any serials cataloger can confirm, and the borderline cases abound. One criterion for deciding should be frequency of appearance of an item. In the case of the title Katsir (see, e.g., 1322), the case for periodical treatment, which the compiler has chosen, is rather weak. This work, whose subtitle reads: Kovets le-korot ha-ten'ah ha-Tsiyonit be-Rusyah (a collection containing the Zionist movement in Russia) appeared twice, in the years 5724 and 5732. The second volume is devoted almost entirely to the Zionist press in Russia. It would have made more sense to have had a main entry with a full description of this item among the general works on the press in the Soviet Union, and then to have analyzed each article separately, with each analyzed item referring back to the main entry. This reviewer had a fair bit of trouble tracking down the full bibliographic data for Katsir.

Another point should be made concerning books which consist of collections of articles, each of which the compiler has analyzed. Singerman has chosen to give full bibliographic information for the book in each article cited (see, e.g., item 1463). In general, this is a very good practice to follow; however, in cases where the same information is repeated some fifty times, it would not be inconvenient if the user too much to have each analyzed item refer to the main entry for the book for complete bibliographic data.

Singerman states that he generally chose the form of heading for personal authors in accordance with Library of Congress usage prior to 1981. This makes sense when citing books published prior to 1981 which a reader might wish to trace, but this criterion should not apply to authors of articles in cases where better forms are available. One example is in item 0717. The author is cited as Molko, Yizbak Raphael, which is indeed the way his name was established by the Library of Congress. His preferred usage, however, was Molko, Isaac R. (see the added t.p.'s in Otzar Yehude Sefarad, a journal which he edited), and this form should have been used here as well.

In cases where the heading used for an author differs from the name used by him in a work cited, this should have been indicated in a note, and a reference made in the author index. For example, Singerman uses the heading Goren, Nathan (the Library of Congress form of his name) although in all the articles cited, the author's name appears as Natan Grinblit. This is never indicated, and no reference is made in the index.

Finally, one last comment on romanization. Singerman states in his introduction (p. xx) that he has cited source material written in Hebrew or Cyrillic in transliteration "for greater economy, for ease in preparing this manuscript and in the interest of sharing the data with the greatest number of librarians and researchers, whether in the field of Jewish studies or not." One certainly cannot argue with the first two points; however, the utility of romanized citations for researchers who do not understand the original text, especially when translations of the article titles are not provided is questionable. As shown above, romanization, especially from a non-vocalic script such as Hebrew, is done at one's peril. Now, with computer technology rapidly acquiring the capability to handle several scripts with relative ease, the arguments for romanization are becoming weaker. In the case of this book, the compiler would have obviated a great many errors had he cited the Hebrew and Yiddish items in their original scripts. Ideally, in order to reach the widest audience, citations
should be given in the vernacular, followed by an English translation. But if reasons of economy prevent such an arrangement, citations in the vernacular alone should be preferred (cf. Abramowicz, 1983, p. 15; Shmeruk, 1984, p. 66).

Addenda

Although this reviewer can claim no special expertise in the area of the Jewish press, a few items were encountered in the course of preparing this review which the compiler might wish to include in a future edition of his work.


See pp. 73–77 re Amud ha-Yir'a (1668).


Conclusion

In conclusion, although this bibliography could certainly have benefited from more careful editing and proofreading, one should not allow this deficiency to obscure the compiler's achievement. This work will be a basic reference tool for the study of the Jewish press as well as Jewish history and literature for many years to come, and one wishes Robert Singerman much success in his future bibliographical endeavors. It would be wonderful if he could be persuaded to produce the checklist of Jewish periodicals of the world which he stresses that this book is not. Such a list would be a tremendous boon to both librarians and scholars in Jewish studies. Or perhaps his work will inspire another enthusiastic and energetic bibliographer to take up the challenge.

References

(Superscripts refer to corresponding Hebrew bibliographic data.)


Gilad, Elazar. Hultsatekh shani. Tel-Aviv: ha-Kibuts Yedid, 1956.6

Haley, Shoshanna. Siife Yerushalayim ha-rishonim. Jerusalem: Mekehan Ben-Tsevi, 1975.4


Kiryat sefer: Jerusalem: Jewish National and University Library, 1924–. 14 vols.


Reshimat ma'amonim be-madate ha-Yehudut. Jerusalem: Jewish National and University Library, 1969.—

Shachra, Avraham Yalakov. Rabbi Akiva Yosef Shlizinger. Jerusalem: Mosad ha-Rav Kuk, 1941/2. 7


(Continued on p. 33, column 1)
Yiddish Names

In the previous issue of Judaica Librarianship (v. 2: no. 1–2, 1985, p. 16–17), this column presented a proposal regarding romanization of Yiddish names, submitted by Dr. Barry Walfish of the University of Toronto. The proposal elicited several reactions which are reproduced here for consideration.

26 September, 1986

Dear Pearl and Sharona,

I read with interest your article on p. 15–20 of JL (Spring ’85), and would like to make some comments on the proposed statement to Library of Congress concerning its policy on the establishment of Yiddish personal names derived from Hebrew:

I fully endorse the statement on p. 16. However, I differ with regard to the form the proposed Hebrew-derived, Romanized, Yiddish personal names should take. My suggestions...constitute a compromise between Weinreich’s transliteration and LC’s practice with regard to Hebrew Romanization. I propose that we retain the Hebrew consonant equivalents, particularly “ח” (for “heye”) wherever possible. In this way the Hebrew derivation is suggested. By the same token, Soviet Yiddish orthography will be suggested when present. Thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew</th>
<th>Yiddish</th>
<th>Soviet Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moshe</td>
<td>Myshe</td>
<td>Myshe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Names in Weinreich]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walfish (LC)</th>
<th>Sigal</th>
<th>Walfish (LC)</th>
<th>Sigal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avrom</td>
<td>Avrohm</td>
<td>Shimen</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elyahu/Eye</td>
<td>Elyohu</td>
<td>Simbeh</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Sore</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hane</td>
<td>Haneh</td>
<td>Soreh</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yehude</td>
<td>Yehudeh</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosef</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankev</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yitsbok</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeshae</td>
<td>Yeshaye</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yiisroel</td>
<td>Yiisroel</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leye</td>
<td>Leyeh</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meyer</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mordkhe</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyshe</td>
<td>Moyshe</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivke</td>
<td>Rivkeh</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothi</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shloyme</td>
<td>Shloyme</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shmuel</td>
<td>Shmuel</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Other common names]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elbonen</th>
<th>Osher</th>
<th>Binyomen</th>
<th>Binyomin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sincerely,

Goldie Sigal, Judaica Cataloguer and Bibliographer
McLennan Library, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

P.S. Shanah tova, and congratulations to Bella and all concerned with another outstanding (double) issue of Judaica Librarianship!

Dr. Barry Walfish is Hebraica and Judaica Cataloguer and Bibliographer at the University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Canada.

Judaica Librarianship Vol. 3 No. 1–2 1986–1987