

Jewish Serials of the World: A Research Bibliography of Secondary Sources,
compiled by Robert Singerman; foreword by Zvulun Ravid.
New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. xxii, 377 p.

Reviewed by:
Barry Walfish
University of Toronto

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, *Emes* (Moscow) and *Frayheynt* (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 Holo-

caust 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 Boaz Shahevitch, not Bo'az Shekhvits. Cf. his *Yéarot metohamim* (1982).

- 575 The title should read "Razsvyet be-gerush", not "Razsviet bi-gerush." (Not "Razsviet for a penny," but "Razsviet in exile.")
- 692 H.K., the author of this and other articles cited (see index, s.v. K., H.) is Hilel Kempinski, a Bund archivist. (So I was informed by experts at the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research in New York.)
- 777 The author's name should probably be spelt Raphael Chasman, not Rafael Hsman. Cf. *Who's Who in Israel, 1966-67*.
- 840 The Library of Congress heading for the author entered as Varshviak, Yehudah is Warszawiak, Jehuda. Cf. *NUC* (pre-1956) under this name.
- 965 Page numbers should be corrected to 189-382.
- 1128 The review referred to is signed M____y, 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 *Reshimat ma'amirim be-madate ha-Yahadut*, no. 12 (1976/77), under Y.M.)
- 1260 The first word of the title should be *Darki*, not *Darkhe*.
- 1299 The author's family name is Sreberk, not Srebrek.
- 1331 The first word of the romanized Russian title should be "Piatidesiati," not "Patisdesiati."
- 1378 The journal *Der Pinkes* is treated here as a monograph and is cited in monograph format. Cf. entry 223 where it is cited as a journal.
- 1410 The title of the article is: "Byalik bi-Kheneset Odesah," not "Byalik be-Keneset." It should also be noted that the article is signed Natan Grinblat.
- 1423 The title of the journal is "Tsiltsele shama," not "Tsiltsele shema."
- p. 198 Re no. 1668:
The name of this periodical should be *'Amud ha-yir'ah*, not *'Amud ha-yireh*. Cf. Shachrai (1941/2), pp. 73-77, who calls it *'Amud ha-Torah ve-'Amud ha-yir'ah*. But cf. Halevy (1975), p. 134, no. 327 and 329, who lists it as *'Amud ha-yir'ah* (327) and *'Amud ha-yir'ah ve-'Amud ha-Torah* (329). The first issue seems to have appeared in Tishri, 5639 or September, 1878. The added title quoted by Singerman should also read "Amud Ha-yirah."
- 1683 The title should read "Mikhtavim el ha-'orekh," not "... al ha-'orekh."
- 1840 The title of this work should be *Seharheret 'itona'it*, not *Sehareheret 'itona'im* (Jurman, 1976).
- 1995 The author's name is Elazar Gilad, not El'azar Gal'ed. Cf. the t.p. verso of his *Hul'satekh shani* (1975/6). Also, the title of the article should read "E.D. Shapir . . .," not A.D. Shafir. The initials stand for Eliyahu David. Cf. entry 1997.
- 2038 The author is Zeev Tsuramal, not Ze'ev Tsurenmal. Cf. his *Lask* (1968), English section, p. 1.
- 2300 The first word of the title should be *Revah* not *Ruah*.
- 2705, 2933, 2934 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 *Yorbukh fun Amopteyl*, 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 *Buletin fun 'Bund'-Arkhiy*. 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 be still active. See *Bibliografia tematica* 2:xi (cited below in Addenda, 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-kerot ha-tenu'ah ha-Tsiyonit be-Rusyah* (a collection concerning 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 have inconvenienced 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, Yizhak Raphael, which is indeed the way his name was established by the Library of Congress. His preferred usage, however, was Molho, Isaac R. (see the added t.p.s in *Otsar 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 Grinblat. 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.

1. Borviṭsh, Mekhl. "Ven yet di Yidishe geheyime prese vern dekonspirirt?" *Problemen* (Paris) no. 3-4 (February, 1950): 11-12.² Article signed 'B'. Cf. Kermish, 1:79, for author's identity.
2. *Bibliografía tematica sobre judaismo argentino*. 3 vols. to date. Buenos Aires: Centro de Documentación e Información sobre Judaísmo Argentino "Marc Turkow," 1984-. Vol. 2 analyzes thirteen Spanish-Jewish periodicals published in Argentina and classifies them by subject. See pp. 140-142: "Periodicas y revistas."
3. Kleiner, Alberto, comp. *Bibliografía Argentina sobre tematica judía*. 14 vols. to date. Buenos Aires: Instituto Hebreo de Ciencias, 1984-. Volume 14 is a reprint of a holdings list issued by Yiyo in Argentine, originally published in 1938. See pp. 11-16: "Reshime fun tsaytungen un tsaytschriftn vos zaynen dershinen in Argentine". 169 items.
4. Kleiner, Alberto, ed. *Literatura Idish en la Argentina*. 23 vols. to date. Buenos Aires: Instituto Hebreo de Ciencias, 1985-. Volume 1 is a reprint of item 2973.
5. Kleiner, Alberto, comp. *La prensa judía en Argentina: textos, comentarios y críticas*. 13 vols. to date. Buenos Aires: Instituto Hebreo de Ciencias, 1985-. So far this series has included excerpts from the Spanish periodical *Israel* (Buenos Aires, 1911-1912) and facsimile reproductions of the first eight issues of the Hebrew journal *Atidenu* (Buenos Aires, 1926). More volumes are promised.
6. Moked, Gavri'el. "Akhshtay 'al ha-perek: 'Akhshtay 50: hidush, giyun ve-ekhut." *Akhshtay* 50 (1985): 7-11.¹⁰
7. Navot, Amnon. "ha-Derekh li-temurot." *Akhshtay* 50 (1985): 12-13.¹¹
The above two items concern the literary periodical *Akhshtay* (see 1910).
8. Shachrai, Avraham Ya'akov. *Rabi Akiva Yosef Shlezinger*. Jerusalem: Mosad ha-Rav Kuk, 1941/2. 88 p.¹⁷
See pp. 73-77 re *'Amud ha-yir'ah* (1668).
9. Volfenzon, Avraham. *Kaḥol-lavan-adom: toldot ha-oryentatsyah ha-pro-Sovyetit be-Yisra'el*. Tel-Aviv: 'Am 'oved, Tarbut ve-hinukh, 1983. 141 p.⁵
10. Volfenzon, Avraham. "Meḳomah shel ha-'itonut ha-miflagtit ba-tahalikh ha-politi (hishtakfutan ve-hivatsrutan shel temurot politiyot ve-ide'ologiyot ba-'itonut ha-miflagtit be-Yisra'el)." Dissertation, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (1978?)⁸

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.)

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- Gilad, Elazar. *Huṭsatekh shani*. Tel Aviv: ha-Kibuts ha-me'uhad, 1975/6.⁹
- Halevy, Shoshanna. *Sifre Yerushalayim ha-rishonim*. Jerusalem: Mekhon Ben-Tsevi, 1975.⁴
- Jurman, Pinchas. *Seharṭeret 'itona'it*. Ramat-Gan: Masadah, 1976.⁷
- Kagan, Berl. *Leḳsikḥon fun Yidish-shraybers*. New York: R. Ilman-Kohen, 1986.⁸
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- Kermish, Joseph, ed. *'Itanut ha-maḥteret ha-Yehudit be-Ṿarshah*. 3 vols. to date. Jerusalem: Yad va-shem, 1980-¹⁵
- Kiryat sefer*. Jerusalem: Jewish National and University Library, 1924-¹⁴
- Leḳsikḥon fun der nayer Yidisher literatur*. 8 vols. New York: Alveitḥekher Yidisher Kulturel Kongres, 1956-81.⁹
- [NUC] *National Union Catalog: Pre-1956 Imprints*. 754 vols. London: Mansell, 1968-1981.
- Otsar Yehude Sefarad*. 12 vols. Jerusalem, 1959-1972.¹
- Reshimat ma'amarim be-mada'e ha-Yahadut*. Jerusalem: Jewish National and University Library, 1969-¹⁸
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- Shmeruk, Chone. Review of *A Bibliography of Isaac Bashevis Singer*, by David Neal Miller. *Judaica Librarianship* 1:2 (Spring, 1984): 64-66.

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3. גלעד, אלעזר. חולצתך שני. תל-אביב: הקבוץ המאוחד, תשל"ז.
4. הלוי, שושנה. ספרי ירושלים הראשונים. ירושלים: מכון בן-צבי, 1975.
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6. וולפנון, אברהם. "מקומה של העתונות המפלגתית בתהליך הפוליטי (השתקפותן והווצרותן של תמורות פוליטיות ואידיאולוגיות בעתונות המפלגתית בישראל)." עבודת דוקטור, האוניברסיטה העברית, ירושלים, [1978?]
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11. נבות, אמנון. "הדרך לתמורות." עכשיו 50 (1985): 12-13.
12. צורנמל, זאב, עורך. לאסק. תל-אביב: ארגון יוצאי לאסק בישראל, 1968.

(Continued on p. 33, column 1)

CATALOG DEPARTMENT

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Yiddish Names

Walfish (Continued from p. 27)

13. קציר: קובץ לקורות התנועה הציונית ברוסיה. 2 כר', תל-אביב: מסדה, בשיתוף הועד הציבורי לתולדות התנועה הציונית, תשכ"ד-תשל"ב.
14. קרית ספר. ירושלים: בית הספרים הלאומי והאוניברסיטאי, 1924.
15. קרמיש, יוסף, עורך. עתונות המחתרת היהודית בורשה. 3 כר' עד עכשיו. ירושלים: יר ושם, 1980.
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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 "h" (for "hey") wherever possible. In this way the Hebrew derivation is suggested. By the same token, Soviet Yiddish orthography will be suggested when present. Thus:

משה ← Hebrew: "Mosheh"
Yiddish: "Moysheh"
מויִשע — Yiddish: (Soviet orthography): "Moyshe"

[Names in Weinreich]

Walfish (LC)	Sigal	Walfish (LC)	Sigal
Avrom	Avrohm	Shimen	—
Elyohu/Elye	Eliyohu	Šimḥe	Šimḥeh
Dovid	—	Sore	Šoreh
Ḥane	Ḥaneh	[Other common names]	
Yehude	Yehudeh	Elḥonen	Elḥonon?
Yoysef	—	Osher	—
Yanḳev	—	Binyomen	Binyomin?
Yitshok	—	Doniel	—
Yeshaye	Yeshayeh	Ḥave	Ḥaveh
Yišroel	Yišroyel	Yoyne	Yoyneh
Leye	Leyeh	Yirmiye	Yirmiyeh
Meyer	—	Noyeh	—
Mordkhe	—	Noḥem	—
Moyshe	Moysheh	Neḥemye	Neḥemyeh
Rivke	Rivḳeh	Shoel	—
Rohl	—		
Shloyme	Shloymeh		
Shmuel	Shemuel?		

Sincerely,

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

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

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