

Reviews of Books

PLAUT, W. GUNTHER. *The Growth of Reform Judaism*. New York: World Union for Progressive Judaism. 1966. xxxii, 383 pp. \$7.50

This useful "source book" is the continuation of Dr. W. Gunther Plaut's 1963 volume, *The Rise of Reform Judaism*, and carries the selection of source materials up to 1948. Whereas the first volume confined itself to the European setting within which Reform Judaism originated, this second volume takes the whole world for its province and shows thereby the international dimensions of the Reform Jewish movement. It need, however, hardly be pointed out that, in this new volume, American Reform Judaism occupies a very prominent place.

The arrangement of this volume is topical, rather than chronological; and even though each selection is preceded by a brief introductory paragraph, the volume remains a "source book" and does not take the place of a *history* of Reform Judaism. The book can, therefore, be advantageously used to supplement one's reading of the standard histories by David Philipson and Caesar Seligmann; but it is no substitute for those treatments of the historical development of Reform Judaism in Europe and in America. That Plaut is capable of tracing historical developments he has demonstrated in his "Epilogue," in which he briefly describes the situation between 1948 and 1966. One might wish that Plaut had introduced more of that type of historical description within the main body of his work. As it stands, the reader is confronted by a plethora of selections and authors — without clearly understanding how the whole thing fits together organically, who influenced whom, and what the stages of Reform Jewish evolution are against which given pronouncements have to be seen. Yet it may not be fair to criticize the author for not writing a history, when all that he attempted to produce was a "source book."

And a fascinating "source book" it is which he has produced, one that shows the whole range of Reform Jewish concerns and the whole gamut of possible Reform Jewish positions. In this connection, it should be noted that Plaut adopted no narrow criteria to govern the inclusion of an author in this volume. Mordecai M. Kaplan and the late Milton Steinberg, Simeon Singer (editor of the Orthodox *Authorised Daily Prayer Book*), and even Franz Rosenzweig hardly qualify, in any narrow technical sense, as "Reform Jews." But Plaut knows better. He realizes that the strength and impact of Reform Judaism transcend by far the mere statistics of our membership lists. To the extent, therefore, to which a Jewish thinker,

whatever his "denominational" affiliation, reflects the impact of Reform Judaism, or even, as in the case of Kaplan, is himself an influence upon broad segments of Reform Judaism, to that extent he merits inclusion in this "source book." This catholicity shows, on the one hand, that Reform Judaism has its being within the total Jewish community, but it also underlines, on the other hand, just how difficult it would be to assay a definition of Reform Judaism which would satisfy Aristotle's requirement of *per genus et differentiam*.

The predominant impression to be gotten from this volume is one of life and vivacity. Reform Judaism is a living thing. Its emphases and nuances change in response to changing cultural and political environments. Reform Judaism does not stand still. It keeps wrestling with social problems and with eternal theological questions. It creates its own dialectic between faithfulness to Tradition and responsiveness to the demands of the hour, and between particularism and universalism. It also invests a great deal of energy in the furtherance of its own organizational structure. (The volume under discussion, for example, brings the relevant source material concerning the founding of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Hebrew Union College, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the World Union for Progressive Judaism.)

The English selections are well chosen, and the translations from foreign language materials are excellent and eminently readable. Altogether, this volume, just like its predecessor, is a "must" on the shelves of any concerned Reform Jew who has no immediate access to the voluminous literature, in English and in foreign languages, through which Plaut had to work in order to produce this useful anthology.

Cincinnati, Ohio

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STEMBER, CHARLES HERBERT, and Others. *Jews In the Mind of America*.

New York, London: Basic Books, Inc. Published in Collaboration with the Institute of Human Relations Press. 1966. xiv, 413 pp. \$12.50

Whether American Jews — one, two, or three generations beyond their immigrant beginnings — have caught up with Bible-inspired Yankees or whether Yankees and other American descendants of immigrating Gentiles

have fallen in step with modern American Jews, it is difficult to say. But if one accepts the overriding conclusions of *Jews In The Mind Of America*, anti-Semitism in America appears at the point of rigor mortis, even though funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Students of the Jewish adjustment to the United States and this nation's accommodation of Jews have available here a most comprehensive survey. Opinion polls of 1938 to 1962 have been carefully reexamined; a score of social scientists and members of the staff of the American Jewish Committee have exchanged reactions to the findings in an exceptional confrontation; and eight papers by highly competent sociologists, historians, and social psychologists have rounded out the encyclopedic compilation.

We are far removed from the shocking days when the penetration of Adolf Hitler's propaganda cut so deeply that three out of five Americans polled objected to a proposal to bring here from Germany 10,000 refugee children — most of them Jewish — to be taken care of in American homes. Gone are the dark times when a public opinion polltaker could offer fictitious names in a sounding on spy suspects and find the supposedly Jewish names much more suspect. We may move next door to Christians with impunity now; executive suite corporations are scouting youthful Jewish managerial talent; a Jewish senator may be mentioned as a potential candidate for vice-president without putting an arch in an eyebrow; college quotas are racing ethnic quotas to oblivion; and intermarriage may continue casting gloom in many a Jewish home, but it seems to cause scarcely a ripple in Christian households.

The purpose of the study, conducted by Charles H. Stember and a number of colleagues, has been to ascertain the *what*, rather than the *why*, of anti-Semitism. In 1944, when the American Jewish Committee arranged an earlier dissection of anti-Semitism, that phenomenon was defined primarily as "the function of a certain type of character structure marked by strong projective, if not paranoid, tendencies, which seek a 'scapegoat' for guilt and frustration." The 1944 emphasis was on the psychology of anti-Semitism, a term apparently then in use for only seventy years. Twenty years later, the investigators had in mind not so much the personality structure of anti-Semites as the social forces affecting Jewish-Gentile relationships.

In considering the efficacy of societal safeguards against discrimination, the polls of a quarter century here become an important measuring rod in the preparation of this valuable volume. But the strength of such a reed is questioned by at least two of the participants in the study — Ben Halpern, of Brandeis University, and Thomas F. O'Dea, of Columbia

University. Indeed, Stember himself demurs somewhat, noting that "the existence of such over-all attitudes [as revealed by the polls] is a mere hypothesis, not a proven fact." Matthew Arnold, born far too soon for polling, expressed this doubt succinctly:

Beneath the stream, shallow and light, of what we say we are;
 Beneath the stream, as light, of what we think we are,
 There flows, with noiseless current, obscure and deep,
 The central stream of what we are indeed.

Is our subject then perhaps "Jews in the eyes of America" rather than "Jews in the mind of America"?

Few will disagree with the thesis that the benign weight of social influences have effectively thwarted the hate operations of Americans like Gerald Winrod, Merwin Hart, Elizabeth Dilling, and George Lincoln Rockwell. The strengthening of the American tradition of cultural pluralism, emphasized by Morton Keller, of Brandeis; the marked compatibility of Jewish and American values, as stressed by John Higham, of the University of Michigan; and the operation of the American political system in a way to secure equality of opportunity — all these help blunt the edge of ethnic venom. Moreover, the fast-moving years have brought new scapegoats: Communism, the Cold War, urban crises, the moral infection spreading from Vietnam to Washington and back again.

In one of the book's most valuable sections, Thomas F. Pettigrew, of Harvard, shares the view that the institutionalization of safeguards to protect minority rights and opportunities is producing a change in American behavior, a change benefiting Negroes as well as Jews. But Pettigrew goes on to stress the distinction between anti-Jewish and anti-Negro attitudes in America. Many recognize now that the American Negro is, in a poignant sense, what Europe's Jew was. James Baldwin, a brilliant commentator not represented in this study, might profitably have been included with his observation that the Negro condemns the American Jew for having become an American white man, for "having become, in effect, a Christian." He adds: "For it is not here, and not now, that the Jew is being slaughtered, and he is never despised here, as the Negro is, *because* he is an American. The Jewish travail occurred across the sea and America rescued him from the house of bondage. But America *is* the house of bondage for the Negro, and no country can rescue him."

Professor Halpern, who raises the historian's warning flag against our rejoicing prematurely in ethnic liberalism, recommends a far-ranging look at the crucial issues under discussion. Tracing Jew-hatred through the

ages as the "universal response to the monotheistic faith of a defeated and alien people," he acknowledges the new toleration in America, but — wisely — goes on to opine that "the acceptance of Judaism as an American faith, when voiced by Christians, frequently implies a degree of confidence that Judaism is progressing toward submergence." Hence, regardless of what polls promise or psychologists and demographers project, the concern of American Jews should be not so much what others think of Jews, but what Jews think of Judaism and of their precious and unique peoplehood.

Boston, Mass.

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NEW LOAN EXHIBITS

The American Jewish Archives is pleased to announce the availability of sixty-one new loan exhibit items. The material will be sent free of charge for a two week period to any institution in the United States and Canada. The only expense involved is the cost of return expressage. The items deal, for the most part, with the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Twenty to thirty of them make an adequate exhibit.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the American Jewish Archives, Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

Brief Notices

ADAMS, JOEY, with HENRY TOBIAS. *The Borscht Belt*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill. 1966. 224 pp. \$5.00

An "inside history" of the Catskill-Adirondack resort country where so many American entertainers — Danny Kaye, Eddie Cantor, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, *et al.* — began their careers. *The Borscht Belt* is funny, illustrated, and indexed, too.

BEN GURION, DAVID, Conceived and Edited by. *The Jews in Their Land*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Co. 1966. 392 pp. \$17.50

The dust jacket aptly describes this book as a "lavish volume." It is a richly illustrated account of Jewish life in Palestine from Canaanite times to the present day. Handsome maps, a useful glossary, and an index are included.

BERGER, GRAENUM. *Graenum Berger Speaks on the Jewish Community Center*. New York: Jewish Education Committee Press. 1966. 343 pp.

Group workers in particular will be interested in this collection of speeches by the Consultant on Jewish Centers, Camps, and Education of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

BERKOWITZ, WILLIAM, Edited by. *Ten Vital Jewish Issues*. New York: Thomas Yoseloff. 1964. 268 pp. \$4.75

The dialogues offered in Rabbi Berkowitz' volume deal with the American Jewish future, Zionism, intermarriage, conversion to Judaism, group relations, American Jewish communal unity, Jewish education, and Soviet Jewry.

BLAU, JOSEPH L. *Modern Varieties of Judaism*. New York: Columbia University Press. 1966. ix, 217 pp. \$6.00

The author, Professor of Religion at Columbia University, delivered the six lectures which make up this book under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies. His thesis is that "all the movements in the Judaism of the last two centuries are . . . responses to the modern world, attempts to bring about radical change without destroying the sense of continuity with an age-old past." The volume is well documented and indexed.

BRAY, STANLEY R., Edited by. *Telling Tales out of School*. Cincinnati: H.U.C. - J.I.R. Alumni Association. 1965. x, 184 pp.

This volume, appropriately subtitled "Seminary Memories of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion," includes reminiscences of and about both faculty members and students. Among the personalities to become *redivivi* in these pages are Isaac M. Wise, Stephen S. Wise, Gotthard Deutsch, David Philipson, Adolph S. Oko, Jacob Z. Lauterbach, Leo Baeck, Julius Lewy, and Chaim Tchernowitz.

BURSTEIN, SAMUEL M. *Rabbi with Wings*. New York: Herzl Press. 1965. 134 pp. \$2.50

How an American rabbi and United States Army chaplain became an Israeli Air Force flight officer is the theme of this engaging autobiography.

CAHN, LEONORE L., Edited by. *Confronting Injustice: The Edmond Cahn Reader*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1966. xxiv, 428 pp. \$8.95

In his foreword to *Confronting Injustice*, United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black speaks of the late Professor Cahn as "a great legal philosopher." The essays which Mrs. Cahn and Professor Norman Redlich have brought together in this volume would sustain that assessment. Included is also a bibliography of Edmond Cahn's writings.

EISENBERG, AZRIEL. *Fill A Blank Page: A Biography of Solomon Schechter*. New York: United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education. 1965. x, 114 pp. \$2.95

Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, former executive vice president of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, offers here, for young readers, an attractive portrait of a great builder of American Judaism.

—————. *Feeding the World: A Biography of David Lubin*. New York: Abelard-Schuman. 1965. 191 pp. \$3.75

David Lubin's contribution to food conservation and distribution is presented in an appealing form for young readers. The book has been illustrated by Laszlo Matulay.

EISENBERG, HATTIE. *Bar Mitzvah with Ease*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Co. 1966. 96 pp. \$2.95

Mrs. Hattie Eisenberg considers this guide a "contribution to Jewish Motherhood," but it is really a guide to the sociology of the mid-twentieth-century American Jew.

EPPSTEIN, MELECH. *Profiles of Eleven*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. 1965. 380 pp. \$8.95

The author (his autobiography appeared in the November, 1962, *American Jewish Archives*) portrays "eleven men who guided the destiny of an immigrant society and stimulated social consciousness among the American people" — Morris Winchevsky, Abraham Cahan, Joseph Barondess, Jacob Gordin, Meyer London, Morris Hillquit, Benjamin Schlesinger, Isaac A. Hourwich, Sidney Hillman, Chaim Zhitlowsky, and Baruch Charney Vladeck.

GAY, RUTH. *Jews in America: A Short History*. New York: Basic Books. 1965. 198 pp. \$4.95

Mrs. Ruth Gay's emphasis in this volume is on the waves of immigration which brought an American Jewry into existence. Her book, while no work of critical scholarship, is very readable.

GILBERT, ARTHUR. *A Jew in Christian America*. New York: Sheed and Ward. 1966. xvii, 235 pp. \$4.95

Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, the director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's National Department of Interreligious Curriculum Research, has collected here ten of his more popular essays on Jewish-Christian relations.

GINZBERG, ELI. *Agenda for American Jews*. New York: Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation. 1964. xii, 90 pp.

Professor Eli Ginzberg first published this essay in 1949. It appears here with a new foreword, but with its original objective: "to identify strategic problem areas with which American Jews are or should be concerned; and . . . to make explicit the boundaries within which solutions must be found."

_____. *Keeper of the Law: Louis Ginzberg*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society. 1966. x, 348 pp. \$6.00

The author's memoir about his father, perhaps the most eminent Jewish scholar ever to make a home and a career in America, sets a very high standard for its genre. As Professor Ginzberg says, he has used "a broad brush to reveal the essential and the significant without concern for detail"; it is an amazingly clear and altogether unforgettable portrait which emerges.

GITTELSON, ROLAND B. *Consecrated Unto Me: A Jewish View of Love and Marriage*. New York: U.A.H.C. 1965. xii, 232 pp. \$3.50

What Dr. Roland B. Gittelsohn, rabbi of Boston's Temple Israel, has undertaken is to combine the insights of science with those of the Jewish heritage on love, marriage, and sex. His book certainly meets a need, and adolescents as well as young adults will find it an exceptional source of guidance.

GLANZ, RUDOLF. *Jew and Irish: Historic Group Relations and Immigration*. New York: Waldon Press. 1966. 159 pp.

It is a pity that Dr. Rudolf Glanz's analysis of the relations between Irish and Jewish immigrants to America lacks an index; his book's twelve well-documented chapters would have been much enhanced in value.

GLATZER, NAHUM N., Edited by. *In The Judaic Tradition*. Boston: Beacon Press. 1961-1965. 3 vols. xiv, 271 pp.; xx, 235 pp.; xi, 320 pp. \$17.00

Dr. Nahum N. Glatzer affords the reader easy access to a wide variety of texts and source documents covering the entire range of postbiblical Jewish history. Vol. I (*The Rest Is Commentary*) is "a source book of Judaic antiquity"; Vol. II (*Faith and Knowledge*) portrays "The Jew in the Medieval World"; and Vol. III (*The Dynamics of Emancipation*) addresses itself to "The Jew in the Modern Age." The third volume, which "reflects the major events and concerns in modern, and especially English-speaking, Jewry," contains a substantial amount of American material, including writings by Samuel Belkin, Isaac M. Wise, Alexander Kohut, Mordecai M. Kaplan, Louis Finkelstein, Abraham J. Heschel, Judah L. Magnes, Henry P. Mendes, Karl Shapiro, Louis D. Brandeis, Louis Marshall, Waldo Frank, Ludwig Lewisohn, Salo W. Baron, Elmer Berger, Abram L. Sachar, Arthur A. Cohen, and Joachim Prinz. Each volume is well indexed.

GLAZER, NATHAN; JOSEPH L. BLAU; HERMAN D. STEIN; and OSCAR and MARY HANDLIN. *The Characteristics of American Jews*. New York: Jewish Education Committee Press. 1965. 290 pp.

The four monographs comprising this book — Glazer's "Social Characteristics of American Jews," Blau's "Spiritual Life of American Jewry," Stein's "Jewish Social Work in the United States," and the Handlins' "Acquisition of Political and Social Rights by the Jews in the United States" — originally appeared during the mid-1950's in the *American Jewish Year Book*.

GLOCK, CHARLES Y., and RODNEY STARK. *Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism*. New York: Harper & Row. 1966. xxi, 266, 24 pp. \$8.50

Based on the University of California Five-Year Study of Anti-Semitism in the United States, conducted by the Survey Research Center under a grant from the

B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, this book probes "the role played by contemporary Christian teachings in shaping attitudes toward the Jews." Religion, the authors find, "actually operates to produce anti-Semitism," and "the majority of American church members are rather prejudiced against Jews." A copy of the questionnaire used in their research is also supplied by Drs. Glock and Stark.

GOLDEN, HARRY. *So What Else Is New?* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1964. 312 pp. \$4.95

———. *Ess, Ess, Mein Kindt.* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1966. 320 pp. \$5.95

These two volumes continue the tradition which their author established in 1958 with his *Only in America*.

———. *A Little Girl Is Dead.* Cleveland: World Publishing Company. 1965. xv, 363 pp. \$5.00

Harry Golden vividly recreates the Leo M. Frank Case of 1913-1915, "a crucial moment in American history . . . a moment when the industrialization and urbanization of [the South,] the last great farm region in America [,] was beginning and was filling men with fear and hatred, fear of the stranger, hatred of the unfamiliar." The book includes a number of appendices and a selected bibliography.

GREENSPUN, HANK, with ALEX PELLE. *Where I Stand: The Record of a Reckless Man.* New York: David McKay. 1966. xv, 304 pp. \$5.50

The author is editor-publisher of the Las Vegas (Nev.) *Sun*. In his autobiography, he sets forth in some detail the story of a life "filled," as Alex Pelle observes, "with excitement, adventure, and risk." Of particular interest is Greenspun's account of his involvement in the Israeli War of Independence and of his vehement opposition to Senators Joseph R. McCarthy and Pat McCarran.

GRUNWALD, KURT. *Türkenhirsch: A Study of Baron Maurice de Hirsch, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist.* Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translations. 1966. xviii, 139 pp.

This portrait of a truly outstanding nineteenth-century European Jew does not overlook the Baron de Hirsch Fund of New York, the Baron de Hirsch Institute of Montreal, or the Jewish Colonization Association (I. C. A.) to which de Hirsch gave some £10,000,000 for the establishment of Jewish colonies in Argentina.

GUMBINER, JOSEPH H. *Leaders of Our People: Book II.* New York: U. A. H. C. 1965. viii, 261 pp. \$3.50

This book for Jewish children contains material about some two dozen individuals, among them Americans like Haym Salomon, Judah Touro, David Einhorn, Isaac M. Wise, Henrietta Szold, Stephen S. Wise, Judah L. Magnes, and Louis D. Brandeis.

HARRISON, GILBERT A., Edited by. *Gertrude Stein's America.* Washington, D. C.: Robert B. Luce. 1965. 103 pp. \$3.95

Miss Stein, says the editor, "returned to the United States only once, yet she never lost her ardor for America, her American manner and accent." Mr. Harrison has brought together in this volume excerpts from her writings to demonstrate how American she remained in her expatriation.

KABAKOFF, JACOB. *Halutze Ha-Sifrut Ha-Ivrit Ba-Amerika*. Tel-Aviv: Yavneh. 1966. 324 pp. [Hebrew]

Dr. Jacob Kabakoff presents the fruits of his research on five "pioneers of American Hebrew literature" — James H. (Yaakov Zevi) Soble, Henry (Zevi) Gersoni, Wolf (Zev) Schur, Gerson Rosenzweig, and Isaac Rabinowitz. An index enhances the book's value.

KAPLAN, MORDECAI M. *Not So Random Thoughts*. New York: Reconstructionist Press. 1966. 296 pp. \$4.50

Octogenarian Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, probably the foremost philosopher of Judaism in twentieth-century America, thinks that Judaism and Jewish life must be seen systematically and coherently, but concedes "a place for 'random' thinking within systematic thinking." These "random" thoughts of his are "not so random" in their thrust and sparkle; e. g.: "Many a Conservative Jew becomes a Reform Jew at the drop of a hat" — or: "Orthodoxy can't always be wrong. Even a clock which has stopped registers correct time twice a day."

KENNEDY, JOHN F. *John F. Kennedy on Israel, Zionism, and Jewish Issues*. New York: Herzl Press - Zionist Organization of America. 1965. 69 pp.

This handsome volume, compiled by Ernest E. Barbarash, is intended as a tribute to the late President, whose "writings and addresses dealing with the Middle East in relation to Israel and with the ideals of the Jewish community in general and the Zionist movement in particular," says Z. O. A. President Max Nussbaum, attest "in but a small measure to his compassion, his humanitarian approach and his high sense of justice."

KURLAND, PHILIP B., Edited by. *Of Law and Life & Other Things That Matter*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 1965. viii, 257 pp. \$5.95

Subtitled "Papers and Addresses of Felix Frankfurter, 1956-1963," this collection of fugitive pieces by the late United States Supreme Court Justice includes, *inter alia*, observations on Jonas S. Friedenwald, Louis D. Brandeis, Jerome N. Frank, Maurice Finkelstein, Morris R. Cohen, Felix S. Cohen, Benjamin N. Cardozo, Monte M. Lemann, Harold Laski, David Ben-Gurion, and the State of Israel.

LEHMAN, EMIL. *Israel: Idea and Reality*. New York: United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education. 1965. xi, 244 pp.

An attractive book, designed for use in Jewish schools, this work includes material about American Zionism.

MERRILL, ROBERT, with SANDFORD DODY. *Once More From the Beginning*. New York: Macmillan. 1965. 286 pp. \$5.95

Robert Merrill, *né* Moïse Miller, is one of the great baritones of the century. His autobiography is supplemented with photographs and an index.

ROTHSCHILD, JANICE O. *As But A Day: The First Hundred Years, 1867-1967*. Atlanta: Hebrew Benevolent Congregation. 1967. xiii, 148 pp.

Mrs. Janice O. Rothschild prepared this handsomely published volume for the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation's centennial observance. In addition to its five chapters, it includes a foreword by her husband, Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild, and a number of useful appendices.