

Brief Notices

ADLER, MORRIS. *May I Have A Word With You?* New York: Crown Publishers, 1967. xiv, 239 pp. \$4.95

The late Rabbi Adler, of Detroit, writes Lily Edelman in an introduction to this volume, "devoted most of his effort to teaching Jews the nature of their Jewish difference and how to give it a human meaning." Mrs. Adler and Mrs. Edelman have compiled a number of his fugitive essays and addresses, including four pieces on American Jewish life.

ANGLE, PAUL M., Edited by, with the assistance of RICHARD G. CASE. *A Portrait of Abraham Lincoln in Letters by His Oldest Son.* Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 1968. xiii, 92 pp. \$6.95

This handsome volume offers some eighty letters written by Robert Todd Lincoln to the New York journalist and cotton broker Isaac Markens between 1903 and 1926. Markens, whose book *The Hebrews in America* (1888) pioneered American Jewish historiography, was eager for information on President Lincoln's life and constantly turned to Robert Todd Lincoln. An index is included.

BERKOWITZ, DAVID SANDLER. *Bibliotheca Bibliographica Britannica: or, Bibliographies in British History.* Waltham, Mass.: Privately Published, 1967-1968. Mimeo-graph. 2 vols. 400 pp.; 356 pp.

In these two volumes, Dr. Berkowitz, of Brandeis University, continues the bibliographical undertaking first noted in Vol. XV (1963) of *American Jewish Archives*. Material on "The Former American Colonies" and "Other Areas in the American Hemisphere" is included.

———. *In Remembrance of Creation: Evolution of Art and Scholarship in the Medieval and Renaissance Bible.* Waltham, Mass.: Brandeis University Press, 1968. xviii, 211 pp.

It was Dr. Berkowitz, Professor of History at Brandeis University, who conceived and organized the superb exhibit of medieval and Renaissance biblical manuscripts, books, and decorations in the University's Rapaport Treasure Hall as a salute to the University on its twentieth anniversary in 1968. Dr. Berkowitz also produced the current volume as the catalogue of the anniversary exhibit. The beauty of the exhibit is strikingly reflected in its catalogue.

BIRMINGHAM, STEPHEN. *"Our Crowd": The Great Jewish Families of New York.* New York: Harper & Row, 1967. xi, 404 pp. \$8.95

Stephen Birmingham's best-seller focusses appealingly, and sometimes fancifully (or at any rate folkloristically), on the upper-class German Jews of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century New York City — the Lehmans, Lewisohns, Schiffs, Loebns, Warburgs, Guggenheims, Seligmans, Strauses, *et al.* — behind whose "marble façades" he suspected and found "people with as much capacity for folly, and grandeur, as human beings everywhere," but also "the closest thing to Aristocracy — Aristocracy in the best sense — that the city, and perhaps the country, had seen." Photographs and an index are included.

BISKIN, MIRIAM. *Pattern for a Heroine*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1967. 121 pp. \$3.50

Mrs. Biskin, of Troy, N. Y., has written for young readers a fictionalized biography of Rebecca Gratz. The book's charm is enhanced by Bruno Frost's illustrations.

BISNO, ABRAHAM. *Abraham Bisno, Union Pioneer*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1967. xvii, 244 pp. \$6.50

Russian-born Abraham Bisno (1866-1929) served in 1890 as first president of the Chicago Cloak Makers' Union and later as chief clerk of the Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in New York. In the mid-1920's, he dictated an account of his early life and his involvement in trade unionism. It appears here with a foreword by Joel Seidman. Regrettably, this interesting work lacks an index.

BOROWITZ, EUGENE B. *A New Jewish Theology in the Making*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1968. 220 pp. \$6.50

The author, a member of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion faculty in New York, considers himself part of "that group who, having stamped from Jewish tradition into general culture, now find it a higher wisdom to reclaim our stake in our traditional faith. . . . We obviously do not believe as much as our grandfathers did, but we have discovered painfully that we believe far more than our society does. We are searching for a way to explain the truth we are trying to live. . . ."

CUTLER, DONALD R., Edited by. *The Religious Situation: 1968*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968. xlvii, 986 pp. \$15.00

The first in a projected series of annual volumes, *The Religious Situation: 1968* includes material by Richard L. Rubenstein, Milton Himmelfarb, Zalman M. Schachter, Arthur A. Cohen, Irving Greenberg, Emil L. Fackenheim, Leo Pfeffer, and Norman Birnbaum — in addition to many other writers commenting on matters of non-Jewish interest. A comprehensive index is included.

DUNNER, JOSEPH, Edited by. *Handbook of World History: Concepts and Issues*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1967. 1,011 pp. \$20.00

Among the subjects treated in this bulky volume are anti-Semitism, civil liberties, civil rights, Judaism, Marranism, racism, trade unionism, and Zionism.

ECKARDT, A. ROY. *Elder and Younger Brothers: The Encounter of Jews and Christians*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967. xx, 188 pp. \$4.95

"The present work," writes Prof. Eckardt, of Lehigh University, "is a modest effort at theological-ethical exposition, criticism, and reconstruction"; its "ultimate aim" is "to help in the breaking down of barriers between Christians and Jews and in the advancing of brotherly thinking and action on the part of Christians in the presence of the Jewish people." Dr. Eckardt sees Judaism as the religion of "the elder brother," Christianity as that of "the younger brother." Together with his wife, he has added an appendix on the Six-Day War of June, 1967. Included in the book are photographs, a bibliography, and an index.

EISNER, J. MICHAEL. *William Morris Leiserson: A Biography*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1967. 144 pp. \$6.75

The distinguished labor mediator and arbitrator Leiserson (1883-1957) was "a

pragmatic reform economist who was concerned with individuals and their problems and not with economic theory." As Dr. Eisner, of Roosevelt University, puts it, Leiserson wanted to reduce problems to their "human essentials." Dr. Eisner's well-written, well-documented account includes illustrations, a comprehensive bibliography of Leiserson's writings, and an index.

FRIEDMANN, GEORGES. *The End of the Jewish People?* Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1967. 307 pp. \$5.95

The Parisian-born author, his "marginal" Jewishness and sense of identification with France notwithstanding, suffered as a Jew under the Vichy regime, but his visit to Israel in 1963 proved "infinitely more disturbing than the [Vichy] shock of October, 1940." The Jewish State, Friedmann found, "raises questions, forces him ["any Jew"] to see where he stands . . . one has a sense of interdependence . . . with the fate of all who are known as Jews. . . ." The book contains a number of comments on American Jewry, including a section entitled "The American-Jewish Conscience."

GILBERT, ARTHUR. *The Vatican Council and the Jews.* Cleveland: World Publishing Company, 1968. xiv, 322 pp. \$6.95

Rabbi Gilbert's book examines "the events of the Vatican Council [1962-1965] at all of its four sessions, focussing particularly on issues that concern Jewish-Christian relations," which he characterizes as "a complex of many factors" and "complicated . . . under the best of circumstances." Rabbi Gilbert, Dean of the newly founded Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, believes that Vatican II did "set in motion a will for change that has already enabled the American Church, particularly, to develop a new relationship with the Jewish community." His book contains a number of appendices and an index.

GOLD, HERBERT. *Fathers.* Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett Publications, 1968. 207 pp. 75¢ [Paperback]

Ohio-born novelist Herbert Gold offers here "a novel in the form of a memoir." With poignancy and humor, Gold reconstructs the experience — and meaning — of an East European Jewish immigrant in America.

GORDON, ALBERT I. *The Nature of Conversion.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1967. xii, 333 pp. \$5.95

Subtitled "A Study of Forty-Five Men and Women Who Changed Their Religion," this book attempts "to understand the factors responsible for formal conversion." Since the late Rabbi Gordon looked upon "interfaith conversion as a *process* that varies only in minor details, whether the convert be Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or of any other religion," he did not feel that his findings had been distorted by the fact that thirty of the forty-five individuals studied were Jews.

GRAZIANI, BERNICE. *Where There's A Woman.* New York: McCall Corporation, 1967. 128 pp.

Dore Schary has supplied an introduction and Ken Heyman has furnished photographs for this handsome publication chronicling "75 years of history as lived by the National Council of Jewish Women."

GROLLMAN, EARL A., Edited by. *Explaining Death to Children.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1967. xv, 296 pp. \$4.95

"Here for perhaps the very first time under a single cover," observes Louise Bates

Ames, of the Gesell Institute, in an introduction, are offered "in condensed and highly readable form thoughts on death of nearly a dozen different professional people most especially interested in the subject" — clergymen, psychologists, *et al.* The contributors include, in addition to Rabbi Grollman, Robert Fulton, Gregory Rochlin, Robert Kastenbaum, Martin Diskin, Hans Guggenheim, Claiborne S. Jones, Hella Moller, Edgar N. Jackson, Thomas J. Riley, and Eulalie S. Ross. Notes, references, and bibliographies are also supplied.

Institute of Contemporary Jewry. *Ha-hug lidiat am yisrael bi-tefutsot be-vet n'si ha-medimah* [Diaspora Jewry study group held at the home of the President of Israel]. Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 1966. 4 vols. 32 pp.; 39 pp.; 40 pp.; 70 pp. [Hebrew]

The four essays making up this series include one by Prof. R. Baki on world Jewish demography, one by Prof. Benjamin Aktsin on the political status of Diaspora Jewries, one by Dr. Yaakov Rabinson on the Nazi Holocaust, and one by Prof. Nathan Rotenstreich on the Diaspora concept in American Jewish thought. Prof. Moshe Davis, director of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry and editor of this series, has written a brief introduction to each essay.

Jewish Book Annual: Volume 26: 5729 — 1968-1969. New York: Jewish Book Council of America — National Jewish Welfare Board, 1968. v, 252 pp. \$4.00

This volume features, in addition to material on the Nazi Holocaust and Hebrew literature, Charles Berlin's "The Judaica Collection at Harvard" and memorial essays on Samuel Kalman Mirsky, by Zebulun Ravid, and on Leo W. Schwartz, by A. Alan Steinbach. There is also an essay on Isaac M. Wise, by Allan Tarshish.

KAPLAN, BENJAMIN. *The Jew and His Family.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967. xv, 205 pp. \$6.50

The author, Professor of Sociology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, offers here what he calls "a sociological theme with an autobiographical base." It is a very personal, yet professional view of the complexities of Jewish *Familienguefuehl*.

KATZ, IRVING. *August Belmont: A Political Biography.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1968. xiv, 296 pp. \$10.00

After Grover Cleveland's election to the Presidency in 1884, Maryland Senator Arthur Gorman declared that "no man living has rendered to his party so much service as" had former Democratic National Committee chairman August Belmont (1813-1890). Prof. Katz, of Indiana University, considers Sen. Gorman's statement "not one of ceremonial rhetoric but an accurate evaluation." His account of the Rhenish-born banker-politician is enhanced by pictorial material, a selected bibliography, and an index.

KAUFMANN, MYRON S. *Thy Daughter's Nakedness.* Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1968. 698 pp. \$8.95

Remember Me to God, Mr. Kaufmann's first novel (1957), a study in *juedischer Selbsthass*, was greeted by Alfred Kazin as worthy of inclusion among "the most solid and most genuinely created novels on Jewish life in America." This new novel, the author's second, is hardly less controversial in its forthright treatment of the highly problematic relationships between a New England rabbi, his children, and his congregation.

KREUTZBERGER, MAX, Edited by. *Studies of the Leo Baeck Institute*. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Company, 1967. x, 318 pp. \$6.50

These essays, mainly on German Jewish history, were originally given as lectures at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. The essayists, all notable scholars, are Fritz Bamberger, Erich Kahler, Hans J. Morgenthau, Jacob Katz, George L. Mosse, Gerson D. Cohen, Oscar Handlin, Jacob B. Agus, and Ellis Rivkin.

KUPER, JACK. *Child of the Holocaust*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1968. 278 pp. \$4.95

The author, a Canadian of Polish birth, has written what appears to be a somewhat fictionalized memoir, which deserves to be regarded as a contribution of some importance to the literature of the Nazi Holocaust.

LEVITAN, TINA. *Ba-olam he-hadash* [In the New World]. New York: Jewish Education Committee of New York, 1968. 2 vols. 52 pp.; 46 pp. \$1.00 each [Hebrew, Paperback]

This attractive two-volume work, part of the Lador Junior Hebrew Library Series, tells the story of American Jewry by means of vignettes from the time of Columbus to the time of Jacob H. Schiff. Illustrations by Siegmund Forst supplement the text, which is pointed.

LIEBMAN, SEYMOUR B., Translated and Edited by. *The Enlightened: The Writings of Luis de Carvajal, El Mozo*. Coral Gables, Fla.: University of Miami Press, 1967. 157 pp. \$6.95

In his preface to this volume, Allan Nevins says of the Mexican pioneer Carvajal, executed as a judaizer in 1596, that he was "a thinker and poet of merit" and that his writings "belong to the most noteworthy documents extant from sixteenth-century Mexico." Mr. Liebman has devotedly translated and annotated Carvajal's memoirs, letters, and will, has supplied an illuminating introduction, and has assembled a bibliography. The book is handsomely illustrated and contains an index.

MADISON, CHARLES A. *Yiddish Literature: Its Scope and Major Writers*. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Company, 1968. xii, 540 pp. \$10.00

A sizeable portion of Mr. Madison's study is devoted to Yiddish writers in America: Morris Rosenfeld, Solomon Bloomgarten (Yehoash), David Pinski, Abraham Reisen, Sholem Asch, Peretz Hirschbein, Joseph Opatoshu, Leivick Halper (H. Leivick), and the Singer brothers, Israel Joseph and Isaac Bashevis. There are also two summary chapters, "Yiddish Goes to America" and "The Efflorescence of Yiddish in America." Mr. Madison deals with Yiddish literature in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Israel as well. He includes in his book a listing of Yiddish writings in English translation, a bibliography of source materials, and an index.

MALAMUD, BERNARD. *A Malamud Reader*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1967. xiv, 528 pp. \$6.95

As Philip Rahv says in his introduction, Malamud, "one of the very few writers of stature to emerge on our [American] literary scene since the last war [World War II, presumably]," is a writer who "fills his 'Jewishness' with a positive content," so that it is "one of the principal sources of value in his work." That would seem to be borne out by the selections in this volume — excerpts from Malamud's novels *The Natural*, *A New Life*, and *The Fixer*, *The Assistant* in its entirety, and ten of his short stories, among them "Idiots First," "The Jewbird," and "The Magic Barrel."

MARCUS, MARTIN. *Yiddish for Yankees; or, Funny, You Don't Look Gentile*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1968. 48 pp. \$1.95

"At long last," *chortles* Chicago advertising executive Marcus, "Yiddish humor is 'in,' not just for Jews but for everybody." You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy, and even (should you be able to "clear your throat" with sufficient expressiveness) to use, this little lexicon.

MEYER, MICHAEL A. *The Origins of the Modern Jew*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1967. 249 pp. \$8.50

Although Dr. Meyer's book is not directly related to the American Jewish experience — he has subtitled it "Jewish Identity and European Culture in Germany, 1749-1824" and has concentrated on personalities like Moses Mendelssohn, David Friedlaender, and Leopold Zunz — anyone who recognizes how "segmental and hence problematic" Jewish identity has become in the modern world, and not least in America, will turn to this study with great profit. The author is a member of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion faculty in Cincinnati.

NEMEROV, HOWARD. *The Blue Swallows*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967. ix, 105 pp. \$4.50

The fourth collection of Nemerov's poems to be published by the University of Chicago Press, *The Blue Swallows* will undoubtedly keep the poet's reputation well-furbished, but the Jewish overtones to be found in earlier volumes are absent here.

PHILIPSON, DAVID. *The Reform Movement in Judaism*. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1967. xxi, 503 pp. \$12.50

Ktav has reissued the "new and revised edition" (1930) of a classic study which first appeared in 1907. Solomon B. Freehof has contributed an introduction in which he deals with the fact that "the world atmosphere in which Reform was born," and in which Philipson lived and wrote, "belongs to a vanished past."

POPKIN, ZELDA. *Herman Had Two Daughters*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1968. 382 pp. \$6.95

Mrs. Popkin's novel is representative of the family saga genre and offers a portrait of American Jewish experience from World War I to the contemporary scene. As she puts it in a caveat, "the characters and plot episodes . . . are fictitious: the background of certain twentieth-century events and attitudes is, unfortunately, all too true."

POTOK, CHAIM. *The Chosen*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1967. 284 pp. \$4.95

Dr. Potok's novel, a best-seller which since its hard-cover edition has gone into paperback as well, recaptures the life of Brooklyn's Williamsburg section during the years of World War II. The conflict between fathers and sons and between Hasidim and Mitnagdim in the intensely Jewish *mise-en-scène* of Williamsburg is set forth in richly evocative terms.

RUNES, DAGOBERT D. *The War Against the Jew*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1968. xxiv, 192 pp. \$6.00

What Dr. Runes offers here is a lexicon of Christian judeophobia: "everything Hitler did to the Jews . . . had already been done to the smitten people before by the Christian churches. . . ."

WEINBERG, ARTHUR and LILA, Edited by. *Passport to Utopia*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1968. xiii, 329 pp. \$7.95

In their introduction to this book, subtitled "Great Panaceas in American History," the Weinbergs have written: "To start a search for utopia, there must be a dream — and not only a lack of faith in the present but a kind of adoring faith in the future." Among the panaceists recalled in this book are Mordecai M. Noah, of "Ararat" fame, and Simon W. Straus, founder-president of the American Society for Thrift. Another panaceist to appear in these pages is the Detroit "radio priest" Charles E. Coughlin, with his National Union for Social Justice. In addition to attractively written introductions to each of the utopian schemes presented, the Weinbergs have supplied a detailed bibliography.

WEIZMANN, CHAIM. *The Letters and Papers of Chaim Weizmann: Series A Letters: Volume I, Summer 1885-29 October 1902*. London: Oxford University Press, 1968. xlii, 447 pp. \$8.75

Edited by Leonard Stein in collaboration with Gedalia Yogev, this volume, the first of a larger series under the general editorship of Meyer W. Weisgal, illuminates the formative years in Russia, Germany, and Switzerland of a titan — not a few would say, *the* titan — of post-Herzlian Zionism. In a general foreword, Mr. Weisgal outlines the history and goals of the project whose first fruits are represented by this volume; a general introduction focusses on the criteria by which the editors guided themselves and provides a concise chronology of Weizmann's life. In all, 320 letters are reproduced. A number of photographs are included, as well as a biographical index and a general index to the text. To the historian and the common reader alike, this collection cannot be too highly recommended.

WINTER, NATHAN H. *Jewish Education in a Pluralist Society*. New York: New York University Press, 1966. xvi, 262 pp. \$6.50

Dr. Winter presents a study of the philosophy and work of Samson Benderly (1874-1944), whom he calls, and most aptly, "the foremost pioneer in American Jewish education." As the book's title suggests, this is more than a biography and evaluation of Dr. Benderly; it is a history of Jewish education in America. In addition to a number of useful appendices, a bibliography and an index are supplied.

WISEMAN, THOMAS. *Journey of a Man*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1967. 329 pp. \$4.95

The author shares with his protagonist in this novel the experience of flight from Nazi-annexed Austria. *Journey of a Man* reflects the scars which the *Anschluss* left on its victims.

Zionist Year Book: 5729: 1968-1969. London: Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1968. 508 pp. 25s

Edited by Shaindy Mason, this publication — Vol. 18 of its series — contains articles on the Israeli and British scenes, Zionist day schools in England, and the rescue of Danish Jewry. In addition, it includes a directory of Zionist societies, not only in Britain, but in the Western Hemisphere as well (Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela). Jewish communal organizations and institutions in the Western Hemisphere are also listed.