

Brief Notices

ANGOFF, CHARLES. *Memoranda for Tomorrow: A Book of Poems*. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1968. 217 pp. \$6.00

Angoff, one of American Jewry's most notable novelists (his multivolume "Polonsky Saga" deserves to be ranked as a landmark in American Jewish letters), is also a poet of genuine distinction. *Memoranda for Tomorrow* represents his first major collection of poems. One hopes it will not be his last. The book includes a listing of the periodicals in which the collection's previously published poems first appeared.

AUCHINCLOSS, LOUIS. *A World of Profit*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968. 265 pp. \$5.95

New York attorney Auchincloss is a leading American novelist, though — and in the 1960's this needs to be stated explicitly — not a Jew. Auchincloss is a "Wasp," but that does not prevent him from creating and writing with sympathy of a Jewish character. Jay Livingston, *né* Levermore, the "hero" of this novel, is not much of a Jew, to be sure. Still, his Jewish antecedents impart a special nimbus to his maneuverings among the rather decadent "Old New York" Anglo-Saxons of Wall Street.

BELLOW, SAUL. *Mosby's Memoirs and Other Stories*. New York: Viking Press, 1968. 184 pp. \$5.00

Canadian-born, Chicago-raised Bellow has made major contributions to American (and American Jewish) letters. In this volume, he offers his myriad aficionados a collection of six superb stories, three of them — "Looking for Mr. Green," "The Gonzaga Manuscripts," and "A Father-to-Be" — previously published in *Seize the Day* (1956).

CHESNOFF, RICHARD Z.; EDWARD KLEIN; and ROBERT LITTELL. *If Israel Lost the War*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1969. 253 pp. \$5.95.

Three young *Newsweek* staffers have written a novel — and *Gott sei dank* it is only a novel — of what might have ensued had Israel lost the Six-Day War of June, 1967. Clearly gifted not only with Gothic imaginations but with some knowledge of both the Israeli and the American scenes, the authors incorporate into their narrative a number of historical personalities, Levi Eshkol, Moshe Dayan, Lyndon B. Johnson, Walt W. Rostow, Joachim Prinz, Jacques Torczyner, Abe Fortas, and Elmer Berger *inter alios*. They have been skillful enough to give the book an air of chilling historical truth.

CHRISTOPHER, MILBOURNE. *Houdini: The Untold Story*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1969. 281 pp. \$6.95

"More than forty years after his last performance in 1926," writes the author, himself a magician, "Houdini is still the world's best-known mystifier. . . . He was, and is, a symbol for man himself — the ingenious creature who overcomes seemingly impossible obstacles by sheer force of willpower." Born Erik Weisz, the son of a rabbi in Budapest, Hungary, Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was brought to the United States as an infant. It is a celebrated but not a very happy life that Christopher recalls in this attractively written book. The text has been supplemented with illustrations, bibliographies, and an index.

COGAN, SARA G., Compiled by. *Pioneer Jews of the California Mother Lode, 1849-1880: An Annotated Bibliography*. Berkeley, Calif.: Western Jewish History Center-Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, 1968. x, 54 pp.

The compiler has assembled 188 items illuminating California Jewry during the Gold Rush era. An index enhances the value of this work which, as Moses Rischin says in a foreword, "should . . . provide clues . . . to a profounder appreciation by all Americans of the western experience."

COHEN, HENRY. *Justice, Justice: A Jewish View of the Negro Revolt*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1968. xi, 156 pp. [Paperback]

Rabbi Cohen's book, he tells us in his preface, has a dual purpose: "to summarize some of the most significant findings of the social sciences in the area of race relations and . . . to view those findings in the light of the values expressed in the theology, history, and tradition of Judaism." In six chapters (one of them on Negro anti-Semitism) and as many appendices, he offers us an opportunity of "learning to see with our minds and with our hearts." His book is well-documented and includes a bibliography.

COHEN, LEONARD. *Selected Poems, 1956-1968*. New York: Viking Press, 1968. x, 245 pp. \$1.95 [Paperback]

From the very first page of this collection, Leonard Cohen — who is a novelist and a musician as well as a poet — shows himself to be as Jewish as his name. One understands on the basis of poems like "Prayer of My Wild Grandfather," "Isaiah," "Lines from My Grandfather's Journal," "I Wanted to Be a Doctor," "Hitler the Brain-Mole," and "Winter Bulletin," not only why Cohen should be regarded in the first rank of Canadian and North American Jewish poets, but also something very telling about the acid quality of contemporary Jewish life.

COHEN, NAOMI W. *A Dual Heritage: The Public Career of Oscar S. Straus*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1969. xi, 394 pp. \$6.50

Oscar Solomon Straus (1850-1926), the first Jew to hold a Presidential cabinet post, that of Secretary of Commerce and Labor in the Theodore Roosevelt administration, took as much interest in his Jewishness as in his Americanism. As Dr. Cohen, of the Hunter College faculty, puts it, Straus "wove his religious heritage inextricably into his secular activities." His biographer has written a fully competent, exceedingly well researched and well reasoned account of a career which, she observes, was "a symbol of America's age of innocence." A comprehensive bibliography and an index augment the usefulness of this book.

DAVID, JAY, Edited by. *Letters from Israel: The Making of a Nation, 1948-1968*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1968. 186 pp. \$4.95

"These letters," observes Leon Uris in his introduction, "speak . . . of hope" and reflect "the aspirations of ordinary people gathered from the spectrum of society." Some of the letter writers are Americans, and they, too, give voice to "the hardships, the humor, the dream, the courage, and, ultimately, the greatness of man" as these unfolded in the Jewish State during its first two decades.

DAVIS, NUEL PHARR. *Lawrence and Oppenheimer*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1968. 384 pp. \$7.50

Ernest Orlando Lawrence (1901-1958), an Episcopalian of South Dakotan birth, and Julius Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967), a Jew of New York birth, are the

subjects of this book. Lawrence was an experimental physicist; Oppenheimer, a theoretical physicist. "The quarter century of their association," writes Dr. Davis, "was an age of personality in physics. . . . Theirs were the two strongest personalities." Initially, they were friends, but their divergent ambitions and values led them into an enmity which, even posthumously, may yet prove fateful for America. Dr. Davis has supplied a glossary, a bibliography, and an index, all of them substantially increasing the value of his important and eminently readable text.

EBAN, ABBA. *My People: The Story of the Jews*. New York: Behrman House and Random House, 1968. 534 pp. \$17.50

Israeli Foreign Minister Eban is well-known to Americans and well-acquainted with American life. During the 1950's, he was Israel's Ambassador to the United States and her Permanent Delegate to the United Nations. "The Jewish career remains an unpenetrated mystery," he writes in this beautifully published volume. "The mark of interrogation is written everywhere. The problems can be illuminated but never solved." Even so, Eban declares himself "passionately committed to the strange destiny which he is trying to elucidate," and that commitment is omnipresent throughout his book. Western Hemisphere Jewry is by no means overlooked in Eban's reconstruction of Jewish history. Chapter 22 is devoted entirely to "American Jewry in the Twentieth Century." American Jewry's "growing strength . . . ranks with Israel's statehood among the two most formative events in twentieth-century Jewish history." The text of *My People* has been supplemented with an index of names and one of subjects.

EISENBERG, AZRIEL. *Modern Jewish Life in Literature: Book II*. New York: United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education, 1968. xiv, 269 pp.

Dr. Eisenberg, Director of the World Council on Jewish Education, intends this anthology to give students "an insight into the trials, vicissitudes and experiences of our people." The book is divided into four sections: "Holocaust and Resistance," "Israel," "America," and "Jews in the U.S.S.R." The section on America includes material by Elias Lieberman, Chaim Nachman Bialik, Curt Leviant, Len Giovanitti, Chaim Greenberg, Maurice Samuel, and the *Time* magazine editorial staff. American writers represented in other sections include Albert Einstein, Leon W. Wells, and Ben-Zion Goldberg. The book contains also biographical sketches of the authors and suggested additional readings.

FERMI, LAURA. *Illustrious Immigrants: The Intellectual Migration from Europe, 1930-41*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968. xi, 440 pp. \$7.95

"The wave of intellectuals from continental Europe arriving in the thirties and early forties, driven here by the forces of intolerance and oppression, was so large and of such high quality that it constituted a new phenomenon in the history of immigration." Mrs. Fermi sets out "to examine this wave, the circumstances under which it came and was received, and its performance in this country." A great many Jews were, of course, among these "illustrious immigrants" — to mention only a few, Hannah Arendt, Max Ascoli, Hans Albrecht Bethe, Hermann Broch, Albert Einstein, Lion Feuchtwanger, Erich Fromm, Kurt Goldstein, Henry A. Kissinger, Wanda Landowska, Paul Lazarsfeld, Herbert Marcuse, Erich Mendelsohn, Hans Morgenthau, Erwin Panofsky, Leo Strauss, Leo Szilard, Edward Teller, Franz Werfel, and Eugene P. Wigner. The book includes photographs, reference notes, and an index of persons.

FOSTER, JOSEPH K. *Raphael Soyer: Drawings and Watercolors*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1968. 26 pp., 124 plates. \$10.00

Russian-born Raphael Soyer came to the United States in 1912 at the age of thirteen and went on to become one of America's most important artists. "He owns more prizes and medals than most of his contemporaries," says his friend Joseph K. Foster, but fame and fortune have not altered "his pattern of professional existence . . . by as much as a hair. He seeks good light, good space, workable plumbing and very little else." The present volume, though not a catalogue raisonné of Soyer's work, reproduces fifty-two water colors and seventy-two black-and-white drawings. Among them are self-portraits and portraits of members of his family.

FREDMAN, J. GEORGE, and LOUIS A. FALK. *Jews in American Wars*. Washington, D. C.: Jewish War Veterans, 1963. xi, 276 pp.

This volume is the sixth edition, enlarged and revised, of a work which first appeared in 1942. The authors, both World War I veterans, hope that their book will "foster . . . the respect and esteem which . . . outstanding contributions to the defense and security of the United States merit." The book includes an index of names.

FREEDMAN, MAX, Annotated by. *Roosevelt and Frankfurter: Their Correspondence, 1928-1945*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967. xv, 772 pp. \$17.50

Topics of Jewish concern — anti-Semitism, Zionism, etc. — are not absent from this remarkable collection of correspondence between two key figures of twentieth-century American history, Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945) and Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965). The letters between them constitute "a record of friendship, a chronicle of the New Deal, a manual on the high art of political leadership, and a testament of citizenship. . . . No one else quite filled Frankfurter's role, for he was outside the Administration but always within Roosevelt's confidence." The editor supplies a running commentary, biographical notes, photographs, and an index.

FRIEDLANDER, ALBERT H., Edited by. *Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1968. viii, 536 pp.

His book, writes Rabbi Friedlander, "goes forth, as an act of gratitude, to all those who want to remember, to all those who will not forget." It is a beautiful, terrible book, and its mood has been caught and rendered most admirably by Jacob Landau's illustrations. The concluding section, "Questions After the Storm," is devoted to reflections on the *Shoah* by Americans Hans Jonas, Jack Bemporad, Abraham J. Heschel, and Emil L. Fackenheim.

GOLDMANN, EVA and ZEEV, and HED WIMMER. *A Land that I will Show Thee: The Jewish People Through the Ages*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1968. 162 pp. \$25.00

Originally published in German in 1967, this lavishly illustrated volume telescopes Jewish history from the biblical period to the Six-Day War of 1967. American Jewry is designated "the greatest and most significant diaspora in Jewish history," but otherwise given short shrift. A chronology and an index are included.

MORGAN, RICHARD E. *The Politics of Religious Conflict: Church and State in America*. New York: Pegasus, 1968. 156 pp. \$1.95 [Paperback]

"Politicians working in the areas of education and social welfare," writes Dr. Morgan, cannot avoid involvement in "conflict over the proper relationship between the government and the churches." In this book, he sets out to discuss the conflict "in terms of the organized groups which are the principal combatants," their ideology,

psychology, and structure, the issues and arenas of conflict, and "the potential for future civic conflict inherent in church-state issues." Jewish groups like the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Agudath Israel, and the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs enter the discussion. Dr. Morgan deals also with the unsuccessful 1967 effort to repeal the New York State constitution's church-state separationist "Blaine Amendment." Documentation, bibliography, and an index are included. Dr. Morgan's book is a companion piece to John M. Swomley's *Religion, the State and the Schools*.

MORSE, ARTHUR D. *While Six Million Died: A Chronicle of American Apathy*. New York: Random House, 1968. x, 420 pp. \$6.95

As Hitler moved systematically toward the total annihilation of European Jewry, "the government and the people of the United States remained bystanders. Oblivious to the evidence which poured from official and unofficial sources, Americans went about their business unmoved and unconcerned. . . . Many Jews were as disinterested as their Christian countrymen. The bystanders to cruelty became bystanders to genocide." Arthur D. Morse has come to this painful conclusion on the basis of intensive research. Readers may contest, but they will find it hard to overthrow his verdict. Source notes, a bibliography, and an index enhance the worth of his "chronicle."

ST. JOHN, ROBERT. *Jews, Justice and Judaism*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday and Company, 1969. xvi, 390 pp. \$6.95

This handsome book, subtitled "A Narrative of the Role Played by the Bible People in Shaping American History," is part of Doubleday's "Religion in America Series." In twenty-nine well-written, data-filled chapters, Mr. St. John sets forth his view of American Jewish life and history, with special emphasis on the Jewish involvement in social action. The book lists its sources for each chapter and contains an index.

SWOMLEY, JOHN M., JR. *Religion, the State and the Schools*. New York: Pegasus, 1968. 220 pp. \$1.95 [Paperback]

A distinguished Protestant spokesman is at pains in this volume to discuss "the full dimensions" of the issues involved in the "Church-State controversy in the area of education." A question like public aid to church schools, he suggests, "is not simply a question of educational policy, since it is vitally affected both by Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish interpretations of religious liberty and by the political philosophy of the courts and legislators." The book, which is well-documented and provided with an appendix of United States Supreme Court decisions affecting church-state relations and education, a bibliography, and an index, is a companion piece to Richard E. Morgan's *The Politics of Religious Conflict*.

TELLER, JUDD L. *Strangers and Natives*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1968. x, 308 pp. \$6.95

The "one purpose" of his book, says Dr. Teller, is "to convey the flavor and fever of the years and events since 1921 which transformed the American Jew from stranger into native." He has subtitled the book "The Evolution of the American Jew from 1921 to the Present" — from the days "when the majority spoke Yiddish" to the present "when Jews are among America's ranking authors." Dr. Teller may not be, indeed claims not to be, a professional historian, but his work deserves to be applauded by students of twentieth-century American Jewish history. Its value is increased by notes and an index.

TWERSKY, JACOB. *A Marked House*. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1968. 248 pp. \$4.95
 Set in pre-World War II Poland and America, this novel about the psychic and emotional dislocations to be found in a Hasidic rabbinical household is something of a *tour de force* in irony. The Polish-born author, the son of a rabbi, came to the United States as a youngster and grew up in Brooklyn.

VORSPAN, ALBERT. *Jewish Values and Social Crisis: A Casebook for Social Action*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1968. xi, 306 pp. [Loose Leaf]

As Rabbi Jack D. Spiro puts it in an editorial introduction, the author seeks to engage his readers "in a study of contemporary social issues from the perspective of prophetic Judaism." The issues are summed up in the book's chapter headings: "War, Peace, and Conscience," "Racial Justice," "Poverty," "Civil Disobedience," "Civil Liberties," "Religious Liberty," "Anti-Semitism," "Youth in Rebellion," "The Family, Sex, and Law," "Interfaith Relations," "Israel and Zionism," "Soviet Jewry," "Germany," and "Ethical Wills." Documentation and a listing of resource organizations are supplied in this volume, which is as stimulating as its format is unusual.

VOSS, CARL HERMANN, Selected and Edited by. *Stephen S. Wise: Servant of the People — Selected Letters*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1969. xxi, 332 pp. \$5.50

In 1919, Stephen S. Wise (1874-1949) wrote to his wife that what he "most coveted" was "a day's remembrance by my people." The hundreds of his letters that Dr. Voss has selected for this volume will surely help win him a longer remembrance; written between 1896 and 1949, they show him eminently worthy of more than a day's remembrance. Dr. Voss speaks only the truth when he says in his introduction that the letters "not only reflected a loving interest in people but bespoke his passionate convictions about freedom, justice and equality." If it is possible to single out one American Jew as towering over all the others who have ever lived, Stephen Wise certainly has a strong claim to that dignity. The editor, a Congregational and Unitarian Universalist clergyman who was associated with Rabbi Wise in behalf of Zionism and other causes, has enriched the value and importance of this volume by supplying a chronology, a biographical register, and an index. Justine Wise Polier and James Waterman Wise have contributed a foreword. This is not Dr. Voss's first book on Wise; he is the author also of *Rabbi and Minister — The Friendship of Stephen S. Wise and John Haynes Holmes* (1964).

WOUK, HERMAN. *City Boy: The Adventures of Herbie Bookbinder*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday and Company, 1969. xiii, 317 pp. \$5.95

Herman Wouk's novel about a Bronx boyhood first appeared in 1948 under the title *The City Boy*. It has been retitled for this "Twentieth Anniversary Edition," John P. Marquand's foreword to the 1952 edition has been reprinted, and a new foreword by the author himself has been added. "If I have a favorite creation," writes Mr. Wouk, "to this day, it is the fat little hero, Herbie Bookbinder."

WYMAN, DAVID S. *Paper Walls: America and the Refugee Crisis, 1938-1941*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1968. xiii, 306 pp. \$6.00

"If, in the crucial years from 1938 to 1941, the world had opened its doors to the victims of [Nazi] persecution, the history of Europe's Jews from 1942 to 1945 would have been significantly different. Instead, the barriers held firm and relatively few

refugees found asylum. . . . The total response of the United States, though more liberal than that of most nations, fell tragically short of the need." This is how Dr. Wyman puts it in his preface to a volume which can be seen as a companion piece to Arthur D. Morse's *While Six Million Died* (1968). *Paper Walls* is richly documented and also offers a listing of its sources and an index.

YAFFE, JAMES. *The American Jews*. New York: Random House, 1968. xii, 338 pp. \$7.95

James Yaffe has a number of novels on American Jewish life to his credit. Here he turns away from fiction to *das Ding an sich*. Noting that the contemporary American Jew has been described in what would appear to be contradictory terms — as feeling "entirely at home" in America *and* as "a symbol of the Alienation of Modern Man" — Mr. Yaffe has written his book "to account for this paradox, to show that it arises from certain deep contradictions within the American Jew." The author's conclusions will be seen by many a reader as arguable — for instance, that the Jews' "history of suffering and persecution . . . deprived them of grace and spontaneity" and "kept them from loving nature" — but every reader will find the book a serious presentation. Mr. Yaffe has taken the trouble to supply notes, a bibliography, and an index.

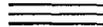
WANTED:

CONGREGATIONAL minute books, board meeting minutes, financial records, cemetery records, charters, constitutional revisions, temple dedication and anniversary booklets, and other data tracing the religious life of American Jewry.

FAMILY correspondence, diaries, memoirs, scrapbooks, photograph albums, naturalization papers, military medals, and personal souvenirs.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONAL minute books and transaction records: fraternal, cultural, social, and philanthropic.

FILES of American Jewish periodicals, magazines, and journals.



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