

Brief Notices

BARNARD, HARRY. *The Forging of an American Jew: The Life and Times of Judge Julian W. Mack*. New York: Herzl Press, 1974. xxi, 346 pp. \$7.95

Julian W. Mack (1866-1943), in his day a major figure on the American Jewish scene, combined in his career the aspirations of "German" Reform Jews and "Russian" Zionists: He was a founder of the American Jewish Committee, president of the first American Jewish Congress, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and chairman of the Committee of Jewish Delegations at the Versailles peace conference. As Horace M. Kallen put it, Mack was, "with Louis Brandeis, Nathan Straus, Felix Frankfurter, Stephen Wise, . . . the dynamic center of the American Zionist enterprise." He was also a distinguished jurist and a champion of social welfare. Mr. Barnard's admirable biographical study includes a bibliography, a listing of the sources and individuals consulted in the course of his research, and an index.

BROOKS, JUANITA. *History of the Jews in Utah and Idaho*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1973. x, 252 pp. \$7.95

Mrs. Brooks discusses the development of Jewish life in the neighboring states of Utah and Idaho from its mid-nineteenth-century beginnings up to 1971. She includes accounts of Jewish-Christian relations and of notable personalities like Utah Governor Simon Bamberger and Idaho Governor Moses Alexander. The book contains useful appendices and an index as well as a number of photographs.

CHAPMAN, ABRAHAM, Edited by. *Jewish-American Literature: An Anthology of Fiction, Poetry, Autobiography, and Criticism*. New York: New American Library, 1974. lxiii, 727 pp. \$2.25 [Paperback]

The editor attempts—and rather successfully—"to suggest the variety and diversity of the rich body of literature created by Jewish-American writers." Among fictionists represented are Abraham Cahan, Dorothy Parker, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Paul Goodman, Bruce Jay Friedman, Hugh Nissenson, and Philip Roth; the memoirists include, *inter alios*, Ludwig Lewisohn, Alfred Kazin, Groucho (Julius) Marx, and Herbert Gold; some of the poets included are Bret Harte, Emma Lazarus, Charles Reznikoff, David Ignatow, Adrienne Rich, John Hollander, and Marcia Falk; the critics are represented, among others, by Abraham J. Heschel, Maurice Samuel, Leslie Fiedler, Theodore Solotaroff, and Norman Podhoretz.

CHAZAN, ROBERT, and MARC LEE RAPHAEL, Edited by. *Modern Jewish History: A Source Reader*. New York: Schocken Books, 1974. xiv, 381 pp. \$7.95 [Paperback]

This volume reflects the fact that "during the past few centuries, old centers of Jewish life have declined or disappeared," while "new Jewries have come to the fore, particularly [in] the United States and the State of Israel. The distribution of world Jewish population has undergone radical transformation." Among the Americana in-

cluded by the editors are writings by Mary Antin, Abraham Cahan, Stephen S. Wise, Marshall Sklare, and Joseph Greenblum. Also included are a bibliography and an index.

COHEN, MARTIN A., Edited by. *The Jewish Experience in Latin America: Selected Studies from the Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society*. Waltham, Mass., and New York: American Jewish Historical Society and Ktav Publishing House, 1971. Two Volumes. lxxxiii, 497 pp.; vi, 374 pp. \$29.50

"For anyone interested in Latin American Jewry," writes Dr. Cohen, "there is no better starting point than the pages of the *Publications* and *Quarterly* of the American Jewish Historical Society." Since its founding in the 1890's, "the Society has consistently encouraged research on Latin American Jewish themes, and its harvest of studies across the years has been impressively rewarding." In addition to work by himself, the editor has selected essays by George Alexander Kohut, Arnold Wiznitzer, G. R. G. Conway, Cyrus Adler, David Fergusson, Elkan Nathan Adler, Richard J. H. Gottheil, Martin Zielonka, H. L. Bloom, Moritz Kayserling, and Leo Shpall.

—. *The Martyr: The Story of a Secret Jew and the Mexican Inquisition in the Sixteenth Century*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1973. xv. 373 pp. \$7.95.

Luis de Carvajal the Younger was regarded by a contemporary writer as "the most . . . exciting personage in New Spain." Dr. Cohen's book "is the saga of a man who wanted to live for an ideal but found himself compelled to die for it." The narrative is exhaustively documented, supplemented by a sizable bibliography, and indexed.

COHEN, NAOMI W. *Not Free to Desist: The American Jewish Committee, 1906-1966*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1972. xiii, 652 pp. \$9.00

In his introduction to this work, Professor Salo W. Baron says: "If in her general analysis Professor Cohen proves to be quite sympathetic to the [American Jewish] Committee's outlook and functions, she is actually less partial to it than are most biographers (of the nondebunking school) describing the lives and works of individuals long dead." The book is very well documented and indexed.

—. *American Jews and the Zionist Idea*. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1975. xvi, 172 pp. \$7.50.

Dr. Cohen does not intend here a history of the American Zionist movement, but rather an interpretation of "the historical significance of Zionism within the American Jewish community from 1897 to 1967." She "emphasizes what Zionism has meant to American Jews, how it interacted with government policy and American social moods, and, above all, how Zionism was Americanized." The book's interest is enhanced by its documentation and index.

DAVIS, ALLEN F., and MARK H. HALLER, Edited by. *The Peoples of Philadelphia: A History of Ethnic Groups and Lower-Class Life, 1790-1940*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1973. ix, 301 pp. \$9.95

This volume, reflecting the focus on "mass behavior and social process . . . the subject of the new urban history," contains, *inter alia*, Caroline Golab's essay "The

Immigrant and the City: Poles, Italians, and Jews in Philadelphia, 1870-1920" and Maxwell Whiteman's study "Philadelphia's Jewish Neighborhoods." The book is well documented and indexed.

DAVIS, MOSHE, Edited by. *The Yom Kippur War: Israel and the Jewish People*. New York: Arno Press & Herzl Press, 1974. xviii, 362 pp.

At the end of 1973, a Seminar on World Jewry and the Yom Kippur War was held in Jerusalem; that seminar is the basis of the present volume, edited by the Stephen S. Wise Professor in American Jewish History and Institutions at the Hebrew University. Western Hemisphere Jewish reactions to the Yom Kippur War were contributed by Daniel J. Elazar, Alfred Gottschalk, Norman Lamm, Mordecai Waxman, Marie Syrkin, Saul Hayes, Irwin Cotler, Emil L. Fackenheim, Natan Lerner, Haim Avni, Charlotte Jacobson, Edith R. Kepes, Alan Rose, Thomas Mauskopf, Yaakov Tsur, José Yehuda Moskovits, and Haim Finkelstein, as well as by Professor Davis himself.

ELOVITZ, MARK H. *A Century of Jewish Life in Dixie: The Birmingham Experience*. University, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 1974. viii, 258 pp. \$10.00

It is Rabbi Elovitz' hope that his "history of the Jews in Birmingham [will] assist in the evolution of a more fully developed picture of the Jewish experience in America." He writes about Jewish life in Birmingham from the city's founding in 1871 up to the early 1970's. Included are a glossary, extensive documentation, appendices listing community notables, a bibliography, and an index.

EPSTEIN, MELECH. *Pages from a Colorful Life: An Autobiographical Sketch*. Miami Beach: I. Block Publishing Co., 1971. 168 pp. \$5.95 [Paperback]

The author, born in Russia in 1889, emigrated to the United States in 1913 and subsequently became a founder of the Communist Party's Yiddish *Morgen Freiheit*. The Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 was "the ultimate cause of [his] break with Communism." but the "process of doubts and disillusionment" had begun "during the Great Depression." Epstein has little to say of himself personally, limiting himself "to a political and social sketch." Part of his autobiography—it was entitled "Pages from My Stormy Life"—appeared in the November, 1962, issue of *American Jewish Archives*.

EZEKIEL, MOSES JACOB. *Memoirs from the Baths of Diocletian*. Edited by Joseph Gutmann and Stanley F. Chyet. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1975. 509 pp. \$25.00

Virginia-born Ezekiel (1844-1917), the first American Jew to become notable as a sculptor, fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War, but spent most of his life in Rome, where his memoirs—"rather a random affair," say the editors—were dictated to a typist "with scant attention to coherence and chronology." The editors have reorganized the memoirs "without risking bowdlerization," have annotated them somewhat, and have supplied in their introduction a critical evaluation of Ezekiel's work. The memoirs themselves, in addition to picturing Ezekiel's own Southern childhood and youth, reflect "the contemporary European struggle between liberalism and reaction, between modernity and feudalism, between the democratic and the hierarchical." They are also replete with gossip about Ezekiel's many friends and acquaint-

tances: Franz Liszt, Gabriele d'Annunzio, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, William Howard Taft, Queen Margherita of Savoy, Kaiser Wilhelm II, Isaac M. Wise, *et al.* The volume includes some seventy plates, a listing of Ezekiel's sculptures and their whereabouts, a biographical index, a bibliography, and a general index.

FEINGOLD, HENRY L. *Zion in America: The Jewish Experience from Colonial Times to the Present*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1974. 357 pp. \$12.95

Part of Twayne's "Immigrant Heritage of America Series," Dr. Feingold's volume owes much to his idea of "American Jewish exceptionalism." He "mean[s] not only that American Jewry produces an elite group of achievers who have had . . . a formidable impact on the nation," but "also that within the framework of American ethnic history and world Jewish history, American Jewry is a unique group." The work includes documentation, a selected bibliography, and an index.

GINSBERG, ALLEN. *Allen Verbatim: Lectures on Poetry, Politics, Consciousness*. Edited by Gordon Ball. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1974. xv, 269 pp. \$8.95

Based on tape-recordings of "informal lectures and conversation," Gordon Ball's anthology presents Ginsberg addressing himself—not "entirely 'verbatim,' as much was edited . . . to reduce repetition"—to Zen Buddhism, drug addiction, Jack Kerouac, Ezra Pound, and Vietnam, *inter alia*. The editor has included appendices and an index.

GROSS, THEODORE L., Edited by. *The Literature of American Jews*. New York: Free Press, 1973. xi, 510 pp. \$12.95

In a preface, Dr. Gross says of the American Jewish writers represented in his anthology that "the brilliance of their achievement lies in an ability to draw upon their Jewishness in varying intensities, as one aspect of complex American lives," but that "for the past thirty years these writers did bring a special angle of vision to bear on American society. . . ." Elie Wiesel adds in a foreword that "without [these writers], American literature would not be what it aspires to be: the humanizing element in the course of history." The writers included range from nineteenth-century figures like Isaac M. Wise and Emma Lazarus to major twentieth-century personalities like Ludwig Lewisohn, Waldo Frank, Ben Hecht, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Paul Goodman, Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer, Philip Roth, Karl Shapiro, Muriel Rukeyser, Lionel Trilling, Alfred Kazin, and Leslie Fiedler, among others. The editor has not confined his selections to fiction, but has included memoirs, poetry, and literary criticism. The book also contains a bibliography and an index.

HIGHAM, JOHN. *Send These to Me: Jews and Other Immigrants in Urban America*. New York: Atheneum, 1975. ix, 259 pp. \$4.95 [Paperback]

The author does not claim that this collection of essays represents the development of "a theory or conceptual scheme that encompasses the immigrant experience and fixes its place in the larger story of America," though he has "looked for the underlying significance of several parts of that story." The essays—mostly revisions of previously published essays—"deal . . . with broad relations between immigration and other aspects of American history; . . . with the vicissitudes of social scientists and other intellectuals who have tried to formulate a general theory of American ethnic

relations; [and] with the particular case of the Jews, surely one of the most complex and fascinating of American ethnic groups." The volume includes documentation and an index.

JARRETTE, ALFRED Q. *Julius Rosenwald: Son of a Jewish Immigrant, A Builder of Sears, Roebuck and Company, Benefactor of Mankind*. Greenville, S. C.: Southeastern University Press, 1975. 143 pp. [Paperback]

The author does not intend his work to be "a total biography"; he intends it instead as "a compilation of documented facts concerning [Rosenwald's] deep interest in elevating the status of Negro Americans."

JOSELOFF, SAMUEL HART, Edited by. *A Time to Seek: An Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poets*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1975. xxi, 218 pp. \$3.95 [Paperback]

A Jew, writes the editor, "is torn between the complexities and confusions of modern life and the certainties that have guided his people for thousands of years. This anthology illustrates some of the varying responses by poets to such an experience." Dividing the selections into units like "Fathers and Sons," "Israel and America," and "Our God is One," Dr. Joseloff includes poems by, *inter alios*, Leonard Cohen, Stanley Cooperman, Irving Feldman, Jacob Glatstein, David Ignatow, Stanley Kunitz, Denise Levertov, Robert Mezey, Howard Nemerov, Charles Reznikoff, Muriel Rukeyser, and Karl Shapiro. The volume includes brief biographies of the poets, and photographs by Anna K. Moon.

KAHANE, MEIR. *Our Challenge: The Chosen Land*. Radnor, Pa.: Chilton Book Company, 1974. 181 pp. \$7.95

Although, writes Rabbi Kahane, the ideas set forth in *Our Challenge* are his own, "clearly they represent much of the thinking of the Jewish Defense League in Israel. It would be logical to assume that the program of the League in the Jewish state will be based upon many" of Kahane's ideas as expressed in this book. He offers here what he terms a "spiritual defense" of Jews and the Jewish state.

_____. *The Story of the Jewish Defense League*. Radnor, Pa.: Chilton Book Company, 1975. x, 338 pp. \$7.95

Rabbi Kahane in this volume addresses himself to the Jewish Defense League's involvement in the Soviet Jewish question, the League's conflicts with the American Jewish "Establishment," its program for immigration to Israel, and other controversial JDL concerns. The book includes an index.

KNOPP, JOSEPHINE ZADOVSKY. *The Trial of Judaism in Contemporary Jewish Writing*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975. 164 pp. \$7.95

The author's central theme here is, as Dan Vogel put it, "the American Jewish novel cannot escape putting the authority of Judaism on trial." It is from this perspective that she examines the fiction of American writers like Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, and Philip Roth, as well as writers of European experience like Franz Kafka, Mendele Mocher Seforim, Isaac Loeb Peretz, Nelly Sachs, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and Elie Wiesel. The volume is documented and provided with an index.

LEARSI, RUFUS. *The Jews in America: A History*. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1972. xiv, 422 pp. \$5.95

First published in 1954, Lears's book has been updated in the form of a forty-page epilogue, "American Jewry 1954-1971," by Abraham J. Karp. The book includes a bibliographical note and an index.

LEVIN, MEYER. *In Search: An Autobiography*. New York: Pocket Books, 1973. 547 pp. \$1.95 [Paperback]

First published in 1950, this "book about being a Jew" by a notable American novelist documents its author's attempt at "following out the sometimes conflicting elements of the Jewish question within" himself. It ranks among the best of American Jewish autobiographies.

LIEBMAN, CHARLES S. *The Ambivalent American Jew: Politics, Religion, and Family in American Jewish Life*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1973. ix, 215 pp. \$5.95

Professor Liebman's "thesis . . . is that the behavior of the American Jew is best understood as his unconscious effort to restructure his environment and reorient his own self-definition and perception of reality" in order to "reduce the tension" between what the author takes to be "incompatible" sets of values—"those of integration and acceptance into American society and those of Jewish group survival."

MALAMUD, BERNARD. *Rembrandt's Hat*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1973. 204 pp. \$6.95

The collection offers eight stories by one of America's major fictionists of Jewish background. "Man in the Drawer" is probably the first story by a distinguished American writer on problems relating to Soviet Jewry.

MANNERS, ANDE. *Poor Cousins*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1972. 318 pp. \$8.95

"To be *tsitterdik*," Mrs. Manners explains, "was to be uneasy, wary, nervous. . . . [For] American Jews, *tsitterdik* signified edginess about any Jew's behavior which might . . . reflect badly on the position of all American Jews. Thus, when 2,000,000 indigent, unenlightened East European Jews . . . began their entry into the United States, American Jews viewed them as a serious threat to their hard-won status, and *tsitterdik* manifestations appeared in one American Jewish community after another." Her account of the "Germans" vs. the "Russians" includes a bibliography, an index, and a number of photographs.

MAYNARD, FREDELLE BRUSER. *Raisins and Almonds*. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1972. 189 pp. \$5.95

The author offers here an attractively written memoir of her childhood in Saskatchewan and Manitoba during the 1920's and 1930's.

MEIR, GOLDA. *My Life*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1975. 480 pp. \$12.50

The former Israeli premier "never kept diaries . . . and . . . never expected to write the story of [her] life." She does so here, however, "in the hope that perhaps those

who read this book will learn and understand a little more about Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people." Of course, she includes an account of her girlhood in the United States. The book is indexed.

MEYER, LEOPOLD L. *The Days of My Years*. Houston, Tex.: Newell E. France, 1975. xii, 356 pp. \$10.00

Mr. Meyer in these autobiographical reflections focusses less on personalia than on his involvement in a number of Texan philanthropies and civic endeavors, among them Houston's Community Chest, the Child Guidance Clinic, the Center for Retarded Children, the University of Houston Library, and the Texas Medical Center. He does include a family tree and a number of photographs.

ROSKOLENKO, HARRY. *The Time That Was Then*. New York: Dial Press, 1971. 218 pp. \$8.95

Subtitled "The Lower East Side: 1900-1914—An Intimate Chronicle," Mr. Roskolenko's memoir recalls that in his childhood "New York was the natural Mecca for the [East European] immigrants coming to the New World." He discusses—and with considerable charm—a variety of Lower East Side features: boarders, sweatshops, garment workers' strikes, and the Yiddish press and theater.

ROSSKAM, EDWIN. *Roosevelt, New Jersey: Big Dreams in a Small Town & What Time Did to Them*. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1972. 148 pp. \$7.95

The author, a painter, photographer, and novelist, offers a nostalgic account of a cooperative village founded in the mid-1930's by immigrant Jewish settlers who "weren't yet very comfortable in English and [were] removed from the [East European] *stetl* and the pogrom only by their sojourn in the tenements of Williamsburg and the Bronx." The settlers, needle trade workers, intended to become part-time farmers in the new community. Subsequently the artist Ben Shahn joined them.

ROTH, PHILIP. *Reading Myself and Others*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1975. xiii, 270 pp. \$8.95

In these twenty-three "pieces . . . written sporadically over the last fifteen years," Roth finds "a continuing preoccupation with the relationship between the written and the unwritten world." He divides them into two categories: interviews "in which I describe what I think has generated my work," and a selection of articles and essays which constitute "a record of what's been on my mind while most of my energy went into writing fiction." Roth on Roth is sometimes as provocative as Roth on anyone or anything else.

ROTHKOFF, AARON. *Bernard Revel: Builder of American Jewish Orthodoxy*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1972. xiv, 378 pp. \$6.00

The author undertook this biographical study of Bernard Revel (1885-1940)—originally as a doctoral dissertation at Yeshiva University—since, apart from its being known that Revel "molded the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary into a major institution and also founded the Yeshiva College [now University] . . . only scant details of his life were available and deplorably little had been published about him since . . . his death." The work, well documented and illustrated, contains a

number of appendices as well as a bibliography (including one of Revel's writings) and an index.

RUBIN, ISRAEL. *Satmar: An Island in the City*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1972. x, 272 pp. \$8.95

Dr. Rubin's purpose is "to investigate one core group which is the recognized dominant force in Hasidic Williamsburg [Brooklyn, N. Y.] . . . the Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar," whose leader, Reb Yoel Teitelbaum—the Satmarer Rebbe—is best known probably for his determination to reinforce the ultra-orthodoxy and militant anti-Zionism characteristic of Satmar life. Among the topics discussed by Dr. Rubin are the Satmar community's historical background, its belief system and social structure, its views on family life and education, and its economic behavior and political orientation. The study is documented, and contains a useful index.

RUKEYSER, MURIEL. *The Life of Poetry*. New York: William Morrow & Company, 1974. 232 pp. \$2.95 [Paperback]

First published in 1949, this work by a major American poet attempts "to suggest a dynamics of poetry": "The relations of poetry are . . . very close to the relations of science. . . . The work that a poem does is a transfer of human energy, and . . . human energy may be defined as consciousness, the capacity to make change in existing conditions." She deals with the fear inspired by poetry, cultural conflicts, "uses" of poetry, "the poem seen as a system," and much else in "the life of poetry."

SHAPIRO, HARVEY. *This World: Poems*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1971. 79 pp. \$2.00 [Paperback]

Among the poems on Jewish themes by this genuinely notable poet of Jewish background are "From Martin Buber," "The Synagogue on Kane Street," "Kabbalah," "A Message from Rabbi Nachman," "On Some Words of Ben Azzai," and "Sayings of the Fathers."

SHAPIRO, JUDAH J. *The Friendly Society: A History of the Workmen's Circle*. New York: Media Judaica, 1970. 251 pp. \$6.95

Dr. Shapiro's purpose is to present the Workmen's Circle (the East European immigrant mutual-aid *Arbeitering* dating back to 1892 and organized as a national order eight years later) in terms of "its enrichment of the total picture of American Jewish life. It brought aid and friendship to Jewish immigrants at a time, and in a society, when they were without resources and even without sympathy." He lays stress on the *Arbeitering's* role within the labor movement and its involvement "in every effort for social reform and for extending the public good. It has made a unique contribution in redefining the Jewish heritage and making it relevant to contemporary circumstances." The volume includes illustrations, bibliographic notes, and an index.