

Brief Notices

Dinnerstein, Leonard, and David M. Reimers. *Ethnic Americans: A History of Immigration and Assimilation*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1975. xv, 184 pp. \$4.75 [Paperback]

In this volume, which stresses "the broad themes of [non-Black and non-Amerindian] ethnic history, the problems of the newcomers, their struggles and conflicts, [and] patterns of mobility and assimilation," there is considerable material on Jewish immigrants, including a statistical appendix for the years 1899-1973. There is also an index.

Newman, Katharine D., Edited by. *Ethnic American Short Stories*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1975. 254 pp. \$1.45 [Paperback]

The Jews are represented in this collection by Hugh Nissenson's "The Law," which first appeared in *Commentary* in 1960 and was republished in Nissenson's *A Pile of Stones* in 1965.

Rezneck, Samuel. *Unrecognized Patriots: The Jews in the American Revolution*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. xiv, 299 pp. \$13.95

As Jacob R. Marcus says in a foreword, Professor Rezneck's "book, on the role of the Jews in the American Revolution, attempts to depict in detail what happened in those decades when the world was young with expectation." The book is well documented and equipped with a bibliography and an index.

Shiloh, Ailon, Edited by. *By Myself I'm a Book: An Oral History of the Immigrant Jewish Experience in Pittsburgh*. Waltham, Mass.: American Jewish Historical Society-Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jewish Women, 1972. xxii, 166 pp. \$8.50

Working with Dr. Shiloh, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, and with Ida Cohen Selavan, Research Assistant to the project, the Pittsburgh Section of the National Council of Jewish Women embarked in 1968 on an effort "to collect and synthesize a critical mass of data describing the rich and dramatic immigrant experience as lived, remembered and related by the immigrants themselves in their own words." This fascinating book emerged as a result. It includes an appendix on Pittsburgh Jewish history and a listing of sources.

Shiloh, Ailon, and Ida Cohen Selavan, Edited by. *Ethnic Groups of America: Their Morbidity, Mortality and Behavior Disorders: Volume I—The Jews*. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1973. xix, 425 pp. \$17.50

The purpose of the series, of which this is the initial volume, is "to bring together under one cover current sound, documented, and relevant research articles concerning the morbidity, mortality and behavior disorders of specific ethnic groups of America." The editors have selected research on demography, blood grouping, genetic disorders, carcinoma, morbidity patterns, and behavior disorders. Included are author and subject indices.

Siegel, Richard; Michael Strassfeld; and Sharon Strassfeld, Compiled and Edited by. *The Jewish Catalog: A Do-It-Yourself Kit*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1973. 319 pp. \$5.50 [Paperback]

Funded largely by the Institute for Jewish Life and Boston's Jewish Student Projects, this remarkable "compendium of tools and resources for use in Jewish education and Jewish living"—the editors add, "in the fullest sense of these terms"—is at the very least a visual delight. It is not lacking in intellectual and spiritual riches either. Those who cherish a stuffy view of Judaism and Jewishness will most probably discount it as somehow undignified; everyone else will enjoy it immensely and welcome the editors' suggestion that a *tosefta* (a supplement) might be forthcoming.

Silver, Abba Hillel. *A Word in Its Season: Selected Sermons, Addresses, and Writings of Abba Hillel Silver: Volume Two*. New York: World Publishing Company, 1972. xvii, 422 pp. \$15.00

Edited by Herbert Weiner, this volume is a sequel to *Therefore Choose Life* (1967). "Its emphasis," writes the editor, "is on statements . . . evoked by specific occasions in the cycle of the religious and secular calendar, in the life of a community, in the history of a people or nation." The collection, he adds, testifies to Rabbi Silver's "conviction that the function of the Rabbi was to present not himself but an intellectual and spiritual legacy." Ten photographs are included.

Sklare, Marshall. *Conservative Judaism: An American Religious Movement*. New York: Schocken Books, 1972. 330 pp. \$3.95 [Paperback]

Professor Sklare offers here a "new, augmented edition" of a work which first appeared in the mid-1950's. The book, which remains something of a classic in the sociology of American Jewish life, is very well documented and contains an index.

—. *America's Jews*. New York: Random House, 1971. xiv, 234 pp. [Paperback]

His book, writes Professor Sklare, "seeks to make a contribution to what is in many ways the most underdeveloped area of Jewish scholarship: contemporary Jewish studies." He goes on to say: "In studying America's Jews, we are able to clarify the problem of the ethnic minority in modern society. . . . the Jews . . . best exemplify the condition of being a minority group [because] Judaism is the only significant non-Christian religion encountered in American society." As Peter Rose suggests in a foreword, Dr. Sklare "is sensitive both to the uniqueness of his people and to their concern . . . about how others will interpret Jewish pride in this uniqueness—and Jewish clannishness."

Snetsinger, John. *Truman, the Jewish Vote, and the Creation of Israel*. Stanford, Cal.: Hoover Institution Press-Stanford University, 1974. xv, 208 pp. \$6.95.

Initially the Truman administration was indecisive with respect to the establishment of a Jewish state in what was still British Mandatory Palestine, but, as Dr. Snetsinger says, "by the end of 1948 the State of Israel could rightly count on Truman as a good friend." This book offers "an account of the successful effort on the part of American Jews to win [Truman] to the cause to which they were so deeply committed." The work is documented and provided with a bibliography and an index.

Stearn, Gerald Emanuel, Edited by. *Gompers*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1971. 178 pp. \$5.95

Samuel Gompers (1850-1924), the founder of the American Federation of Labor, is portrayed in this "Great Lives Observed" volume in terms of his own autobiographical reflections, comments by contemporaries like Bernard Mandel, Joseph Cannon, and Lenin, and assessments by historians like Philip Foner and Daniel Bell. Included are a chronology of Gompers' life, a bibliographical note, and an index.

Sukenick, Ronald. *Up: A Novel*. New York: Delta, 1970. 330 pp. \$2.25 [Paperback]

Sukenick's novel first appeared in hardcover in 1968. It is an autobiographical novel, a notable contribution to what one reviewer has called the "American-Jewish-Tragic-Comic-Urban" genre of fiction.

Szajkowski, Zosa. *Jews, Wars, and Communism—Vol. II: The Impact of the 1919-20 Red Scare on American Jewish Life*. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1974. 398 pp. \$20.00

Vol. I of this work was noted in the November, 1973, issue of *American Jewish Archives*. The author concludes that, though during the "Red Scare" years "most American Jewish leaders had the courage to associate themselves with American liberalism," their attitude "was not . . . shared by American Jews as a whole."

Tadrich Le-Shabbat: A Shabbat Manual. New York: Ktav Publishing House for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1972. iii, 104 pp. \$1.50

The manual, writes its editor, Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, is "a major attempt of the Reform rabbinate to deal directly with Reform Halachah [religious law] in specific form, with guidelines responsive to the needs and realities of Diaspora life." Included are discussions of Sabbath observance as well as home services, Sabbath music, selected readings, a guide to the weekly pentateuchal and prophetic readings, and a glossary.

Thomas, Bob. *Selznick*. New York: Pocket Books, 1972. viii, 386 pp. \$1.25 [Paperback]

This biography of David O. Selznick (1902-1965), one of the leading figures of the "Golden Age" of the American motion-picture industry, first appeared in hardcover in 1970. Included are photographs, a listing of films produced by Selznick, and an index.

Urofsky, Melvin I. *American Zionism from Herzl to the Holocaust*. Garden City, N. Y.: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1975. ix, 538 pp. \$12.50

"No other ethnic group in American history has had so extensive an involvement with a foreign nation [as have the Jews with Israel]; no other nation relies upon a body of private individuals . . . neither residents nor citizens . . . to underwrite a major portion of their budget [as does Israel]. American Jews buy Israel bonds, give generously to the United Israel Appeal, lobby their governmental representatives to pursue a pro-Israel policy, travel extensively to Israel . . ., respond immediately to every crisis [there], and yet maintain passionately that they are Americans first and Jews afterward. It is a curious, puzzling, and yet totally logical arrangement. . . ." Professor Urofsky attempts "to explore the beginnings of that relationship in the growth and development of the Zionist movement" in America. The book is well documented and enhanced by a bibliographical essay as well as an index.

—. *A Mind of One Piece: Brandeis and American Reform*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. xiii, 210 pp. \$10.00

The theme of Professor Urofsky's essays on Louis D. Brandeis "is to show how seamless life and thought were in this man, how closely action and philosophy could be related in a single personality"—but the essays "are not meant to be a biography . . ." They are meant "to supplement [Alpheus T. Mason's] standard biography with some thoughts on different aspects of Brandeis's life, and to illuminate the life of one of the most important figures in the history of American [political] reform." The book is well documented, provided with a bibliographical essay and indexed.

Urofsky, Melvin I., and David W. Levy, Edited by. *Letters of Louis D. Brandeis*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1971-1975. Four Volumes. xlii, 609 pp.; xxiv, 750 pp.; xxii, 705 pp.; xxiii, 587 pp. \$20.00 per volume.

"Many of the letters . . . in these volumes," write the editors, "have never been seen by scholars before. . . ." The letters included in this massive undertaking have been chosen from some 14,000 possibilities. Vol. I (1870-1907) focuses on Brandeis as "Urban Reformer"; Vol. II (1907-1912), on Brandeis as "People's Attorney"; Vol. III (1913-1915), on Brandeis as "Progressive and Zionist"; Vol. IV (1916-1921), on "Mr. Justice Brandeis." Each volume is extensively indexed. No future biographer of Brandeis will be anything but immensely indebted to Professors Urofsky and Levy.

Voss, Carl Hermann, Edited by. *A Summons unto Men: An Anthology of the Writings of John Haynes Holmes*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971. 256 pp. \$7.95

Holmes (1879-1964) was in his day among the most important of spokesmen for religious liberalism in America. As James Luther Adams, Dana MacLean Greeley, and Donald S. Harrington say in their preface to Dr. Voss's anthology, Holmes deserves in particular to be remembered by "Jews of every persuasion . . . [for] his unique understanding of Jewish thought and customs, his veneration of Judaism as an historic, living faith, his sensitivity to the religious ideals and values of such secular-minded Jews as Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, and Louis Brandeis, his early, informed espousal of Zionism, and . . . his defense of Jewry during the Hitler nightmare." Dr. Voss also includes considerable material on the friendship between Holmes and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise (1874-1949), a friendship which Holmes once compared to "the love of David and Jonathan."

Walden, Daniel, Edited by. *On Being Jewish: American Jewish Writers from Cahan to Bellow*. Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett Publications, 1974. 480 pp. \$1.75 [Paperback]

"American Jewish writers," remarks the editor in his introduction to this anthology, "have . . . worked usually in an uncaring or hostile framework." They have "had to deal with a [stereotypical] Jewish image brought into existence by gentiles and Jews and then create what had never existed before—an American Jewish literature," one responsive to "some essential aspect of the Jewish experience in America." The selections are grouped under four rubrics: "The Immigrant Experience" (represented by Abraham Cahan, James Oppenheim, Mary Antin, and Anzia Yezierska, *inter alios*); "The American Jews" (including Samuel Ornitz, Ludwig Lewisohn, Henry Roth, Edward Dahlberg, Meyer Levin, *et al.*); "The Holocaust" (Ben Hecht, Maxwell Bodenheim, Edward Lewis Wallant, and William Pillin); and "The American Jews, The Jew-

ish Americans" (among them Jo Sinclair, Arthur Miller, Delmore Schwartz, Karl Shapiro, Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, and Saul Bellow).

Warembud, Norman H., Selected by. *Great Songs of the Yiddish Theater: Arranged for Voice, Piano, and Guitar*. New York: Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., 1975. 256 pp. \$12.50

"In the late twenties," writes Molly Picon in her introduction, "it was not unusual for more than a dozen [Yiddish theatrical] companies to be holding forth in New York, with new productions ranging . . . from full-blown opera . . . to operetta and musical comedy. . . . To the musical theater were attracted a retinue of composers and lyricists whose compositions were not counted by tens, or even by hundreds, but by thousands." This handsome volume offers some fifty of the best-known of these compositions, their lyrics transliterated. Included is an index of composers and lyricists.

When Yesterday Becomes Tomorrow: 125th Anniversary Celebration Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York 1845-1970. New York: Congregation Emanu-El, 1971. xiii, 205 pp.

Included in this anniversary volume are essays by, *inter alios*, Milton Himmelfarb, Bayard Rustin, Marshall Sklare, Abraham Kaplan, Edward Flannery, Eugene Borowitz, Ellis Rivkin, and Daniel J. Silver.

Wiernik, Peter. *History of the Jews in America: From the Period of the Discovery of the New World to the Present Time*. Third edition. New York: Hermon Press, 1972. xxx, 481 pp. \$9.95.

Previously published in 1912 and again in 1931, Wiernik's pioneering book appears in its third edition, which includes Irving J. Sloan's "Survey of Forty Years of Jewish Life in America, 1932-1972." Wiernik (1865-1936) was among the first historians to attempt an account of the East European immigrant Jewish experience. The volume includes an index.

Wood, Robin. *Arthur Penn*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger Inc., 1969. 143 pp. \$4.95

Penn is among America's most eminent motion-picture directors. "Again and again" in his films, writes Robin Wood, "what is felt as most admirable in the characters, their spontaneous-instinctive response to one another . . ., is inextricable from all that is most destructive and disastrous in them. The films very powerfully convey a sense of the tragic impurity of human motivation, of human impulse, of human existence." The volume is very well illustrated and includes a "filmography."

Yaffe, James. *So Sue Me!—The Story of a Community Court*. New York: Saturday Review Press, 1972. viii, 275 pp. \$7.95.

Yaffe is best known for his novels, but in this book—as in *The American Jews* (1968) he turns to nonfiction. *So Sue Me!* is a lively account of the Jewish Conciliation Board "founded in 1920 by Louis Richman, a lawyer, and Samuel Buckler, a rabbi." The Board, he writes, "from the beginning . . . represented a union between the complex principles of American law and the rather different but equally complex

principles of the Jewish rabbinical tradition." Yaffe suggests the Board "has [always] been kept alive by rabbis and lawyers working together."

Yeziarska, Anzia. *Bread Givers: A Novel*. New York: George Braziller, 1975. xviii, 297 pp. \$3.95 [Paperback]

Subtitled "A struggle between a father of the Old World and a daughter of the New," *Bread Givers* was first published in 1925. Alice Kessler Harris, in introducing this Venture Book paperback, declares that none of Anzia Yeziarska's works published in the 1920's and early 1930's are more autobiographical than *Bread Givers*. In this novel, Yeziarska "leads us through the days of her childhood to the impetuous decision to reject her parents' home. Along the way, she lays open the woman's experience of immigration, revealing the ways in which Jewish women encountered the new world and tried to reconcile it with the old."

Yowa (née Nancy McMurray). *The Becoming of Ruth*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1972. 64 pp. \$4.95.

Miss McMurray, born and raised in Zaire (as the Belgian Congo is now called), has retained the Congolese name Yowa as a professional signature. In this remarkable and charming little volume, which she has illustrated as well as written, she tells the autobiographical story of a conversion to Judaism.

Zagat, Samuel. *Jewish Life on New York's Lower East Side, 1912-1962*. New York: Rogers Book Service, 1972. 108 pp. \$15.00.

The Lithuanian-born artist and political cartoonist Zagat (1890-1964) worked for the New York *Wahrheit* until it ceased publication in 1919 and then went to work for the *Forverts* (*Jewish Daily Forward*). Some of his work appeared also in *New Masses* and the *Morgen Zhurnal* (*Jewish Morning Journal*). The present volume, edited by Ida Roji Zagat, includes a "requiem" by J. C. Rich, a poem by Aaron Kramer, and a rich selection of Zagat's work. The selection, notwithstanding the volume's title, is not confined to depictions of Lower East Side Jewry.

Zielonka, David M., and Robert J. Wechman. *The Eager Immigrants*. Champaign, Ill.: Stipes Publishing Company, 1972. iii, 103 pp. [Soft Cover]

Subtitled "A Survey of the Life and Americanization of Jewish immigrants to the United States," the work is divided into chapters on the Sephardic period, the German period, the East European period, and what the authors term the American period, i.e., the post-World War I years during which "the children and grandchildren of [the] immigrants [became] culturally and emotionally American . . ." Rabbi Zielonka and Dr. Wechman have documented their study and added a selected bibliography and an index.