

Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 1988

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This column lists selected reference materials that appeared in 1988. Works from 1986 and 1987 are included if deemed significant. The purpose of this list is to recommend current Judaica reference books basic to research, both general and specialized. It is intended to serve as a guide to new tools for scholarly research as well as to more popular, but reliable works. The annotations describe the scope and use of each work. Prices are listed when available.

Hebrew reference works are starred, and corresponding Hebrew bibliographic data appears at the end of the list.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

Antisemitism
Bible
Christian-Jewish relations
Conservative Judaism
Dictionaries
Festschriften
History
History—Ethiopia
History—United States
Israel
Lehmann Manuscript Library—Catalogs
Philanthropy—Israel
Press—United States
Printing—History
Rabbinic literature
Vatican Library—Exhibitions

Antisemitism

1. **Antisemitism: An Annotated Bibliography.** Edited by Susan Sarah Cohen. New York: Garland, 1987. 392 p.

This bibliography is the first in a series of biennial bibliographic publications to be published by the Hebrew University's Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism. It is a multi-lingual annotated bibliography of books, articles, doctoral dissertations, and masters' theses published in 1984–1985 about antisemitism. The largest section of the book deals with antisemitism throughout the ages. This section is organized chronologically and subdivided geographically. Materials pertaining to antisemitism in literature and in the arts, as well as bibliographies

and reference works, are also included in this section. Antisemitic publications, newspaper articles, reviews, and works of fiction are excluded. A listing of antisemitic periodicals is found in Appendix I. Includes author and subject indexes.

Bible

*2. **Sole, Moshe Ze'ev.** *Madrikh Bibliyografi le-Khitve ha-Kodesh.* Jerusalem: Sifre Mabat, 1988. 368 p.

A listing of literary and scholarly works published about the various books of the Bible. The work is arranged according to the books of the Bible, and the citations within each category are arranged by author. In addition, the author treats related subjects such as exegesis and translations. The titles of citations in languages other than Hebrew are translated into Hebrew and are listed in a section accompanying each chapter. Annotations, as well as title and subject indexes, would have enhanced the value of this work.

*3. **Torah Shelemah; A Talmudic-Midrashic Encyclopedia of the Five Books of Moses.** Author-editor Menahem M. Kasher. Volume 40: Numbers. Jerusalem: The Torah Shelemah Institute, 1988.

The latest volume in the anthology of excerpts from the Talmud and Midrash relating to specific Biblical passages, along with selections from the major commentaries on the Bible.

Christian-Jewish Relations

4. **Shermis, Michael.** *Jewish-Christian Relations: an Annotated Bibliography and Resource Guide.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988. 291 p. ISBN 0253331536. \$27.00.

This is the largest known published list of materials dealing with Christian-Jewish concerns, in many different formats, including: books, pamphlets, important articles, journals, congresses, media, and syllabi. The over 500 books cited are classified under eighteen subject categories. The guide contains a directory of organizations and speakers, as well as subject, name, title, and media indexes.

Conservative Judaism

5. **Nadell, Pamela S.** *Conservative Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook.* New York: Greenwood Press, 1988. 409 p. ISBN 0313242054.

A biographical dictionary of some 130 Conservative and Reconstructionist leaders. Each biographical sketch evaluates the figure's "most important contribution to the development of American Conservatism, its institutions, guiding policies, ideology, and/or literature." Each sketch also includes the biographee's major writings, the works he edited or translated, and references about him. A listing of the major Conservative and Reconstructionist institutions and their respective officers appears in the appendices. The dictionary also includes a glossary and a thematically arranged bibliography covering memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, collections of sermons, and synagogue histories. Indexed.

Dictionaries

6. **Klein, Ernest.** *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language For Readers of English.* New York: Macmillan, 1987. 721 p. ISBN 002974317.

Included in this dictionary are detailed etymologies of some 30,000 words and word forms. Each term is identified by the part of speech or linguistic stratum from which it comes, and is defined in a concise and clear manner. The various meanings of the entry term are listed and numbered consecutively. The etymological information for each entry is set off in brackets for easy identification. The derivatives, most of which appear as separate entries in the book, then follow. The author includes transliteration charts for Hebrew, Arabic, and Greek, as well as a bibliography of reference sources used in compiling the dictionary.

Festschriften

7. **Miller, Philip E.** "A Bibliography of Festschriften Relating to Jewish Studies, 1971–1986." In *Jewish Book Annual*,

Volume 46. New York: Jewish Book Council, 1988, pp. 118–142.

Supplements the book-length bibliography of this form compiled by Charles Berlin in 1971 as well as Jacob R. Marcus' *Index to Jewish Festschriften* issued in 1937.

History

8. **Edelheit, Abraham J.; Edelheit, Hershel.** *The Jewish World in Modern Times: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1988. 569 p. ISBN 0813305721. \$65.00.

A selective, annotated bibliography of books, pamphlets and articles in English, covering modern Jewish history. Part I, which treats the Jewish world as a whole, is divided into 9 chapters: Surveys; Social history; Emancipation; Religious trends; Cultural trends; Antisemitism; Public affairs; Holocaust; and Zionism. Part II deals with individual Jewish communities, arranged geographically in 9 chapters: Central Europe; Eastern Europe; USSR; Western Europe; The Americas; USA and Canada; Middle East; Israel; Africa and Asia. The volume includes an introduction, "An Outline of Modern Jewish History," which briefly describes the key events, personalities, and movements. The book concludes with a bibliography of bibliographies, a glossary, and author, title, and subject indexes.

History—Ethiopia

*9. **Yehude Etiopyah: Bibliyografyah Mu'eret.** Edited by Stephen Kaplan and Shoshanah Ben-Dor. Jerusalem: Ben-Zvi Institute, 1988. 163 p. ISBN 9652350249.

A comprehensive bibliography, enumerating 1,461 books and articles pertaining to Ethiopian Jewry. References to citations in earlier bibliographies by A. Z. Aescoly and Wolf Leslau are given. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author, or title in the case of articles in encyclopedias and anonymous works. Items in Hebrew and Yiddish are listed in separate alphabets, and precede items in European languages. The annotations are brief and written in Hebrew. The work is enhanced by the inclusion of a subject index and an index of travelers' accounts.

History—United States

10. **Karkhanis, Sharad.** *Jewish Heritage in America: An Annotated Bibliography.* New York: Garland, 1988. 456 p. ISBN 0824075382. \$55.00.

"Intended for the use of students, scholars and general readers . . . this fully annotated bibliography includes 1,100 selected sources (323 books and 777 articles from 88 popular and scholarly journals dating from 1925 through 1987) and presents the whole panorama of the Jewish heritage in America, portraying the historic beginnings, social conditions, cultural life, the Holocaust years, antisemitism, intellectual and literary contributions, religious traditions, political activism, dilemmas of assimilation and identity, and relations with Christians and blacks." (Introd.) Includes author, title, and subject indexes.

Israel

11. **Books On Israel.** Edited by Ian S. Lustick. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 1988. 111 p. ISBN 088706776x. \$29.50.

The first volume in the Israel Studies Association's projected series of review essays dealing with recent scholarship on Israeli society: ethnic relations, religious life, cultural trends, history, politics, and literature.

12. **Goell, Yohai.** "Eretz-Israel Reference Topics: A Bibliographic Survey." In *Jewish Book Annual, Volume 46.* New York: Jewish Book Council, 1988, pp. 44–61.

This guide to reference works on Israel concludes with alphabetically arranged lists of Hebrew and English sources.

Lehmann Manuscript Library—Catalogs

*13. **Ohel Hayim; Katalog Kitve ha-Yad ha-'Ivriyim be-Sifriyat Mispaḥat Menasheh Refa'el ve-Sarah Lehman.** Prepared by Moshe Halamish with the participation of Elazar Hurvitz. New York: Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation, 1988. 314 p. \$125.

The first of a projected series of catalogs that will list and fully describe the manuscripts in the Lehmann Manuscript Library. The present volume describes 135 manuscripts of Kabbalistic works. Each item described is accompanied by a facsimile reproduction of a page from the manuscript, to enable the user to gain a better understanding of the text that is described. The work concludes with numerous indexes, including title, author, geographic, and former owner indexes.

Philanthropy—Israel

14. **Jaffe, Eliezer D.** *Giving Wisely: the Israel Guide to Non-profit and Volunteer Social Services.* Jerusalem: Koren Publishers, 1982. 656 p. \$18.00.

An alphabetical guide to some 300 non-profit volunteer organizations in Israel active in the fields of health, education, and welfare. For each organization, detailed and objective information is provided about its history, goals, services and activities, officers, finances, membership, and funding needs. Includes a bibliography, and an alphabetical index of organizations.

Press—United States

15. **Selavan, Ida C.** "Jews." In *The Immigrant Labor Press In North America, 1840s–1970s; An Annotated Bibliography, Volume 2.* (Migrants From Eastern and Southeastern Europe). New York: Greenwood Press, 1988, pp. 542–725.

An annotated bibliography of the Yiddish and Hebrew newspapers published in the United States. The author provides full bibliographic information regarding each publication, lists sources for further reading, and notes some depositories that house the publication. A bibliography of secondary sources with particular emphasis on the Jewish press in the United States accompanies the publication. Indexed.

Printing—History

16. **A Sign and a Witness; 2,000 Years of Hebrew Books and Illuminated Manuscripts.** Edited with an introduction by Leonard Singer Gold. New York: New York Public Library, 1988. 223 p. ISBN 0871044099.

A collection of twelve scholarly essays published in conjunction with the exhibition of Hebrew manuscripts and books at the New York Public Library. The essays deal with such topics as the making of Hebrew manuscripts and their decoration, Hebrew manuscripts as a resource for scholarship, the history of Hebrew book printing, issues relating to Hebrew book publishing, Christian involvement with the Hebrew book, and the role of the Hebrew book in the transmission of culture. "A Selected Bibliography of the Hebrew Book," by Sharon Lieberman Mintz, a checklist of the exhibition, and many facsimile reproductions (in both color and black-and-white) of the items on display, enhance the value of this important work.

Rabbinic Literature

*17. **Dienstag, Israel Jacob.** "Moreh Nevukhim leha-Rambam; Bibliografyah Shel Perushim ve-He'arot." In *Gevurot ha-Romah . . . le-Moshe Hayim Vailor*. Jerusalem: Mesharim, 1987, pp. 207-237.

This article within a festschrift is a bibliography of commentaries on the *Guide for the Perplexed* of Maimonides.

*18. **Eidensohn, Daniel.** *Yad Moshe: Matteah kelali le-sh. u-t. Igrot Moshe shel Moshe Fainshtein*. Brooklyn, NY: D. Eidensohn (3109 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210) 1988, 185 p.

An index to the contents of over 1,700 responsa letters collected in seven volumes, written by the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, this generation's leading Orthodox halakhic authority.

According to the compiler, "This index was not written to allow decisions in Jewish law to be decided . . . Reb Moshe published these letters to enable mature talmudic scholars to learn his reasoning and attitude on a wide range of subjects." An English edition was published in 1987. (See *JL*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 189.)

19. **Mishnah.** *The Mishnah; A New Translation*. Edited by Jacob Neusner. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988. 1120 p. \$44.00.

While the goal of earlier translations was to render the Hebrew of the Mishnah into fluent English, this work is as close to a literal translation of the Hebrew as possible. This translation can be used for ready reference, serving as a handbook both for students of Mishnaic Hebrew and for those who merely wish to peruse a given passage.

Vatican Library—Exhibitions

20. **A Visual Testimony: Judaica From The Vatican Library.** Edited by Philip Hiat. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1987. 104 p.

A richly illustrated checklist of the exhibition of Judaica books and manuscripts from the Vatican Library. The checklist includes the following brief introductory essays: "The Hebrew Collections of the Vatican Library," by Leonard E. Boyle; "Texts in Context: Hebraica in the Vatican Library as a Resource for Jewish-Christian Relations," by Michael A. Singer; "Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts in the Vatican Library," by Joseph Gutmann.

Hebrew Bibliographic Data

2. סולה, משה זאב. **מדריך ביבליוגרפיה לכתבי הקודש.** ירושלים, תשמ"ח.

3. **תורה שלמה, והוא התורה שבכתב עם באור "תורה שבעל פה".** חלק ארבעים (במדבר). ירושלים, תשמ"ח.

9. **יהודי אתיופיה: ביבליוגרפיה מוערת.** ירושלים, תשמ"ח.

13. **אהל חיים: קטלוג כתבי היד העבריים בספריית משפחת מנשה רפאל ושרה ליהמן.** כרך א: כתבי יד בקבלה. ניו-יורק, תשמ"ח.

17. **"מורה נבוכים להרמב"ם, ביבליוגרפיה של פירושים... גבורות הרמ"ח... למשה חיים ויילר.** ירושלים, תשמ"ז.

18. **אידנסון, דניאל. יד משה: מפתח כללי לשו"ת אגרות משה של... משה פיינשטיין.** ברוקלין, ניו-יורק, תשמ"ח.

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GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

Shimeon Brisman, Editor, APPROBATIONS

Book reviews are expected to include descriptions, evaluations, and critical comments (preferably in this order).

The descriptive part should acquaint the reader sufficiently with both the purpose and contents of the work. Data about the author, or additional information about the work (part of a series, illustrations, etc), may be included in this part.

The evaluation of the material should consist of an objective examination of the contents, a spot-checking of sources, and summarization of findings (whether the work meets the stated objectives of the author, whether the work meets scholarly standards, etc.). Critical comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the work (arrangement of material, order of chapters, bibliography, etc.) may be included in this section.

Basic criticism, including the reviewer's opinions and final judgment of the work, should be relegated to the end of the review.

Note to publishers: Reference books for review should be sent to Charles Cutter or Micha Oppenheim.

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