

the reader has an interest in Middle East Jewish history, they can expect a heavy but satisfying meal. A good read!

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Kaganoff, Nathan. *Judaica Americana: An Annotated Bibliography of Publications from 1960 to 1990*. Preface by Jonathan Sarna. Brooklyn, New York: Carlson Publishing, 1995. 2 volumes, xii + 917 pp.

The late Nathan Kaganoff, for many years librarian of the American Jewish Historical Society, painstakingly compiled bibliographies of publications relevant to American Jewish studies entitled "Judaica Americana" which were published in that society's journal. The present volumes represent a cumulation of his work and thus stand to serve as an important tool for those engaged in North American Jewish studies. The subject and author indices make the work even more useful. Jonathan Sarna's preface gives us an idea of the importance of Kaganoff and his contribution to the field.

It is clear that Kaganoff's primary focus was the Jewish community of the United States. However a perusal of the subject index will reveal that there are many items of Judaica Canadiana included in this important reference work.

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Whitman, Ruth, editor and translator. *Anthology of Modern Yiddish Poetry*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1995. 209 pp.

This is both a limited book and one of great scope. Included is the cream of Yiddish literature. There are, however, glaring omissions such as the work of Soviet poet Perets Markish,

among others. Often, as Ms. Whitman herself admits, the selection is not adequate. This is certainly the case with the miniscule representation of Melekh Ravitch. However, having said all that, the book is a marvellous handbook from which the reader can derive an overall view of the field. Especially in the case of North American Yiddish literature, Ms. Whitman leaves the reader with a clear notion of who may be worthwhile reading, which is what a good anthology should do.

God, man and nature are important themes, represented especially in the selections from the poetry of Jacob Glatstein and Abraham Sutzkever. The former, in his poems “Mozart” and “Goodnight World” is clearly involved in a debate with a God who causes him much sorrow. As a member of the *insichist* school of Yiddish poetry, he takes his themes from his internal life struggle. This is opposed to the poetry of Sutzkever, a member of the *Yung Vilne* school and a partisan in the Vilna Ghetto whose poetry sweeps *ben kodesh l'chol*, from the holy to the profane.

The book is thematically and structurally rich. Another important poet is the midrashically allusive Itsik Manger whose seeming playfulness is a show of disbelief and a poetic brava-do of the highest sort. He is a heretic who does not fight with God; he plays with Him and challenges the entire Hebrew Bible. He, like many of the others is not well represented here.

All in all, the anthology is a taste and an introduction to a world of life and movement, a world of excitement that breathes and lives on.

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