
BOOK NOTES/CRITIQUES BRÈVES

Benazon, Michael. *The Wandering Josephs: A Biographical Family History*. Sherbrooke: Self-published, 1996. 200pp.

This book will have a limited interest beyond the immediate Joseph family. In the main part of the book, the author gives extensive anecdotal biographies of the many descendants of Isaac Joseph and Ellen Lazarus, married in London on May 29, 1839. I found the introductory chapters on the background of Jewish life in London from the 1790s to the 1880s most informative, evidence of the author's extensive research into Jewish historical literature. The book includes a bibliography and an index.

Joan Sichel
Moncton

Feingold, Henry L., ed. *The Jewish People in America*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1992. 5 vols., comprising:

Faber, Eli. *A Time for Planting: The First Migration, 1654-1820*.

Diner, Hasia R. *A Time for Gathering: The Second Migration, 1820-1880*.

Sorin, Gerald. *A Time for Building: The Third Migration, 1880-1920*.

Feingold, Henry L. *A Time for Searching: Entering the Mainstream, 1920-1945*.

Shapiro, Edward S. *A Time for Healing: American Jewry since World War II*.

In a five volume series, under the general editorship of Henry Feingold, the American Jewish Historical Society has published a comprehensive history of the Jewish People in America. This

publication marks an epoch in the study of American Jewry and sets a standard to which all later historians will aspire.

From the point of view of Canadian Jewish studies, however, the series is seriously flawed. Simply put, Canadian Jewry is next to invisible in the series. It is certainly understood that the “America” referred to in the series title means the United States. However the fact that the authors rarely stray north of the border in search of information means that they are depriving their readers of an important comparative perspective.

Faber’s book, on the first colonial settlements of the Jews in America, thus has no references in the index to the community of Montreal, though Montreal was certainly one of the precious few Jewish settlements in British North America. Diner, likewise, has no Canadian reference in her coverage of the years 1820-1880. Sorin, covering the years 1880-1920, mentions Canada three times: once as another destination for Jewish immigrants, once as a source for immigrants to the United States, and once as a destination for Jews aided by the Industrial Removal Office. It is only the last, fleeting reference which might give a clue to the reader that, in the view of many American Jews, Canada was a part of their thought and planning. Feingold, writing about the years 1920-1945 has no Canadian reference. Shapiro, in dealing with the post World War II period mentions Canadian Jews as undergoing the same shift to middle class status as in the United States and, curiously, when speaking of the fact that a *Forbes* survey had indicated that 30% of American billionaires were Jews, named none of them but then stated:

The same phenomenon was found in Canada, where the three most prominent business families were all Jewish—the Belzbergs of Vancouver, the Bronfmans of Montreal and the Reichmanns of Toronto. (p. 117)

The rich Canadians constitute the single substantive comment on Canadian Jewry in all five volumes.

It is commonplace to assert that Canadians know all about the United States but that people in the United States know next to nothing about Canada. It is unfortunate that this series, however admirable in other respects, remains true to the cliché.

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Orkin, Sarah F. *Roots and Recollections*. London: Sarah F. Orkin, 1995. v + 213pp.

Roots and Recollections is the reminiscence of Sarah Orkin, a Canadian-born resident of London, and scion of the hart, Joseph and de Sola families. Her work mixes snippets of her family's life with stories of her ancestors, the pioneers of the Canadian Jewish community. Included too are genealogies and pictures of the family. It would be easy to dismiss this book. From the standpoint of scholarship the book has very little to offer those interested in the study of Canadian Jewry. Accounts of her ancestors mostly take place in the United Kingdom. Missing also is a grounding of her story in broader historical trends. Orkin lived through some of the most important events of the twentieth century, yet we don not get the sense of how these affected her, or those around her. But this is not an academic work, and when telling her own story Orkin is often