

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.

Ira Robinson
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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 do 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

humorous and quite enjoyable. Readers will get the feeling of being seated by Orkin's side listening to her talks, with parenthetical comments by husband Phil adding to this sense. Though she, herself, has not provided the analysis, other researchers of Jewish life in the twentieth century may now utilize her stories to that effect. Clearly, Orkin is an intelligent, articulate and eloquent woman, and she should be thanked for assembling this record.

Jay Eidelman
Yale University

Paris, Erna. *The End of Days: a Story of Tolerance, Tyranny and the Expulsion of the Jews From Spain*. Toronto: Lester Publishing Limited, 1995. 320pp.

Erna Paris' all-encompassing account of the Jews of medieval Spain traces the route from tolerance to intransigence. The process is skilfully described by Ms. Paris in a journalistic and professional manner. The book is diverse enough to satisfy an entire array of readers. Her writing, which I found to be poetic, informed and informal, sizes up the situation in deadly accurate phrases. She has carefully researched this book and has succeeded in conveying a sense of the trauma of the times. It is a trauma not dissimilar to that experienced by many in the twentieth century.

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