

no doubt by a fair dose of infighting and disillusionment). Occasionally the focus of the story grew blurry, given the great range of material presented.

Allan Levine has made an invaluable contribution to fleshing out the history of the Jewish people of Manitoba by the inclusion of wonderfully original chapters on culture, sports and leisure. In addition to using a wealth of memoir material, he integrates an astounding breadth of oral history, drawing on over 200 interviews. The integration of beautifully laid out full, and even double-paged archival photographs goes a long way to making the history pertinent and immediate, and his thought provoking treatment of the history of the Jewish People of Manitoba makes *Coming of Age* an absolutely essential reference book for any student of Canadian Jewish History.

Eve Lerner

Maoz, Daniel and Gondos, Andrea, eds. *From Antiquity to the Postmodern World: Contemporary Jewish Studies in Canada*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011. xiii + 302 pp.

This volume is a collection of articles that originated as presentations at the annual meetings of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies (CSJS) and the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS). These two learned societies, which exist in a symbiotic relationship, engage respectively in the fields of Jewish Studies (CSJS) and the multidisciplinary study of Jews in Canada (ACJS). In the introduction, the editors go into detail describing this interesting and somewhat complex relationship.

The articles in the volume, thirteen in number, are grouped in four sections: “The Rabbinic Period: Issues of Gender and Status,” “Jewish Mysticism: Approaches to Its Popularization,” “Jewish Texts: Interpretation and Application,” and “Jewish Society, History, and Art.” As one can tell from

the categorization, this is an eclectic volume. The disparate articles are united by their CSJS and ACJS origins, and speak well for the quality of the Canadian conferences at which they were presented and for the health of contemporary Jewish studies in Canada.

Ira Robinson

Concordia University

Margolis, Rebecca. *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil: Yiddish Culture in Montreal, 1905-1945*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press, 2011. xxii + 293pp.

This study is the first to consider the phenomenon of Yiddish in Montreal comprehensively. Margolis sets out to understand how it is both the same as and different from Yiddish cultural activity elsewhere. “On the surface, Yiddish Montreal appeared to be a smaller version of Yiddish New York, separated by a generation gap,” she says (35). But this formulation, she shows, minimizes a central difference. The generation that elapsed between the major immigration of Eastern European Jews to New York and that which saw a large number arrive in Montreal was a crucial period. “Montreal’s Yiddish immigration took place largely after 1905, by which time Yiddish cosmopolitanism had been supplanted by nationalist ideologies” (36). In addition, immigrants to Montreal encountered a uniquely bilingual city in which the contested arena of linguistic domination threw up roadblocks to newcomers. Catholic French-speakers and Protestant English-speakers had separate school systems, neither of which could easily accommodate non-Christians. This served to bolster independent community organizations (in this case, schools) that fostered Jewish particularity, delaying assimilation and producing a multi-faceted, intellectually and emotionally satisfying cultural life. “While a mainstream American Yiddish press promoted Americanization, Montreal intellectuals such as pedagogue Shloime Wiseman (1899-1985) advocated an ‘invented yidishkayt’ ” (31).