

Jewish Reading List



By LUDWIG LEWISOHN, novelist, critic, Jewish scholar, and professor at Brandeis University. His books include "The American Jew," "Expression in America," "Goethe: The Story of a Man," and a number of novels. He was also editor of "Rebirth: A Book of Modern Jewish Thought." His latest book is "What Is the Jewish Heritage?" which we've appended to his list of recommendations. SR's editorial staff has provided the descriptive annotations for most of Dr. Lewisohn's selections, while Harold U. Ribalow, a specialist in the field of Jewish writing, offers critical appraisal for ten of the works with wide interest.

AARON COPLAND. By Arthur Berger. Oxford University Press. \$3.50. A biography of the American composer who managed to combine the essence of jazz, mountain music, and New England church music into one. By a regular contributor on music to *The Saturday Review*.

BLESSED IS THE LAND. By Louis Zara. Crown Publishers. \$3.95. A full-blown novel about the first Jews in New Amsterdam, about their struggles and about their leader, Ashur Levy, a character often mentioned in the history books but never before in fiction.

EVENTFUL YEARS AND EXPERIENCES. By Bertram Wallace Korn. American

Jewish Archives. \$4. Bertram Wallace Korn is a young Philadelphia rabbi whose studies in American Jewish history are rapidly winning for him a reputation as one of the foremost Jewish historians in the United States. In his latest volume, subtitled "Studies in Nineteenth Century American Jewish History," he reports on the first prayer offered by a rabbi to Congress; on the Know-Nothing movement and its relations to the Jews; on the Southern statesman Judah P. Benjamin; on certain Jewish attitudes on the slavery question and on the contribution to American life by the German-Jewish immigrants of 1848. It does not harm Dr. Korn one bit that, in addition to his scholarship and his genuine curiosity, he writes very well. —H. U. R.

AN AMERICAN SYNAGOGUE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW. Edited by Peter Blake. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. \$10. A comprehensive guide to modern synagogue design and construction, edited by a member of the staff of *Architectural Forum*.

ANCIENT ISRAEL. By Harry M. Orlinsky. Cornell University Press. Clothbound, \$2.50. Paperbound, \$1.75. An account of the society which produced the Bible, together with a good deal of description of how Jewish religious concepts (the covenant of God, the worth of the individual) developed in actual historical situations.

THE COASTS OF THE EARTH. By Harold Livingston. Clothbound, Houghton Mifflin, \$3. Paperbound, Ballantine Books, 35¢. Since the establishment of Israel there have not been more than a half-dozen serious fictional attempts to delineate the struggle for Israeli independence. Few of them gained large audiences, for they were bought, if at all, by confirmed Zionists, and so their influence was minor. This novel is different. For one thing, its author is an American who helped to

fly airplanes with war materials from Europe to Palestine. With an assist from Ernest Hemingway, whose style Livingston ardently admires, the dialogue is fine, as is the action. As a war novel this is an exciting book. But this is a "political" novel as well. The Israelis demand that the Anglo-Saxon airmen working for them take a pledge of obedience to Israel during the war. The conflict of loyalties, especially within the hearts of American Jews, is severe. Oddly, the hero, a Gentile named Tony Nevins, breaks the "strike" which is called soon after the pledge of obedience is demanded. His action breaks the "strike" and the war goes on—although Tony is killed.

Mr. Livingston is not optimistic about the future relationship between American Jews and Israelis, which is a disturbing note, although an honest one, in a first novel of distinction.

—H. U. R.

FOR ZION'S SAKE. By Norman Bentwich. Jewish Publication Society. \$4. Judah L. Magnes's life was one of the most interesting failures of modern times. Rabbi Magnes established a Jewish Kehilla (organized community) in New York, but was unable to maintain it; he was a pacifist who was tortured over his pacifism when Hitler proceeded to massacre millions of Jews; he was an early Zionist who later opposed a Jewish State. He was a moral teacher whose preachings were seldom heeded. And he was the chancellor and first president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, but not sufficiently satisfied with his own command of the Hebrew language to address his students frequently. Therefore, one of the great Jewish orators of his time was in many respects stilled for much of his adult life.

To this day Dr. Magnes is either revered or reviled, and the word "reviled" is not too harsh. Mr. Bentwich, who collaborated with Dr. Magnes for many years, points out the contradictions in his subject's life and the complexities which made him so peculiarly ineffective as a leader. But he has also managed to write a good biography about a fascinating and a most unusual Jew. —H. U. R.

GOOD AND EVIL. By Martin Buber. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.75. Reinhold Niebuhr has called Martin Buber "the greatest living Jewish philosopher." This praise comes not only from Dr. Neibuhr, but from an entire generation of Jews tired of rationalism and intrigued by the mystic teachings and writings of men like Buber. In this small book, containing two separate essays, "Right and Wrong" and "Images of Good and

THE CHURCH, POLITICS and SOCIETY

by

The Very Rev. James A. Pike
and The Rev. John W. Pyle

Here is a book which discusses openly such questions as: What is the Church's business in politics? Is the Church tinged with Communism? Isn't the Church lagging behind in the elimination of segregation? What is the use of the World Council of Churches, with all the Churches believing different things? The book is based on the script of eleven dialogues presented by the authors over the ABC radio network. \$2.75

MOREHOUSE-GORHAM CO.

14 East 41st Street
New York 17, N.Y.

IMPORTANT REPRINTS

Calhoun. God and the
Common Life \$4.50

Niebuhr. Social Sources of
Denominationalism \$4.00

THE SHOE STRING PRESS
51 CAROLINE ST., HAMDEN, CONN.

thor had been less technical and more readable. —H. U. R.

MYER MYERS, GOLDSMITH. By Jeannette W. Rosenbaum. *Jewish Publication Society of America*. \$6. A biography of a colonial gold- and silversmith who operated about the same time as Paul Revere and whose work is to be found in synagogues, churches, museums, and private collections.

PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS IN JEWISH HISTORY. By Cecil Roth. *Jewish Publication Society*. \$4. A collection of delightful essays written over a period of twenty-five years for various Jewish magazines, including one on the possible Jewish background of Columbus. —H. U. R.

REBIRTH AND DESTINY OF ISRAEL. By David Ben-Gurion. *Philosophical Library*. \$10. The white-haired, elderly man, who is a member of the Israeli settlement called Sde Boker and was once Prime Minister of the State of Israel, is a remarkable individual, as this huge book of his public addresses, from 1915 to 1952, reveals. Naturally the emphasis here is on the history of Zionism and the detailed reports of a Prime Minister to his people during a War of Independence. But the quality of Ben-Gurion's mind can be judged, even in faulty translation and in unavoidable repetition. State declarations seldom read well; some of the essays in this volume do. It is a tribute to Ben-Gurion's broad knowledge of Jewish affairs and his courage, not only in the political arena but in the even more tangled jungle of Jewish cultural life. —H. U. R.

REBUILDING THE LAND OF ISRAEL. By Gershon Canaan. *Architectural Book Publishing Co.* \$12.50. An architect's search into the ancient architecture of Palestine (the Temple, Solomon's palace, and other buildings), all in an effort to develop an indigenous modern architecture for modern Israel. Examples of which the author describes in detail.

THE SPARK AND THE EXODUS. By Benedict and Nancy Freedman. *Crown Publishers*. \$3. A brave little tale of a Zionist flight from Poland to Palestine in 1906, and of a student, a weaver, a rogue, and others in the group. A novel by the authors of "Mrs. Mike."

SCAPEGOAT OF REVOLUTION. By Judd L. Teller. *Charles Scribner's Sons*. \$4.50. Dr. Teller aroused the Jewish intellectual community in America with his thesis that Jews are not radicals and revolutionaries, "which is a popular myth." Dr. Teller insists that the Jew has been a conservative, for

"revolution brings convulsions" and when revolutions occur "the alien at once becomes a target" and the Jew has been an alien.

Utilizing much scholarship, Dr. Teller stresses that Socialist leaders have frequently been violently anti-Semitic and that Jewish radicals were Jews who were "emancipated" from their Judaism and were themselves Jewish-haters. In attempting to prove his thesis Dr. Teller sometimes overexaggerates, but his analysis of Soviet anti-Semitism, of Zionism, of the Communist attempts to control the American Jewish labor movement are extremely valuable and make his work useful even when controversial.

—H. U. R.

A TREASURY OF YIDDISH STORIES. Edited by Irving Howe and Eliezer Greenberg. *Viking Press*. \$5.95. Literary critic Howe and Yiddish poet Greenberg have not only managed to collect fifty-two stories by a representative list of twenty-three authors (plus a brief section of Yiddish folklore and a Yiddish glossary of terms), but they also have obtained first-rate translations from such writers of stature as Saul Bellow, Charles Angoff, Ludwig Lewisohn, Maurice Samuel, Meyer Levin, Alfred Kazin, and A. M. Klein. Other equally gifted but less-known Jewish literary personalities (Shlomo Katz, Milton Hindus, Isaac Rosenfeld, and Hilde Abel) have also translated some of these tales.

Howe and Greenberg have done an imaginative and thorough job, although they readily concede that their collection is far from exhaustive.

"Yiddish literature," they say, "has brought forth a number of remarkable figures and has been characterized by attitudes we should look to with admiration, perhaps even yearning." Every page of their book supports this belief. —H. U. R.

THE WHITE CITADEL. By Charles Neider. *Twayne Publishers*. \$3.50. All about some robust and diverting people of Bessarabia, and particularly of a man who struggled to possess his soul against the determination of his mother and his wife to possess it for him.

THE WORCESTER ACCOUNT. By S. N. Behrman. *Random House*. \$3.50. Reminiscences by the well-known playwright of his growing up on Providence Street, Worcester, Mass., a district inhabited largely by first-generation Jewish-Americans.

WHAT IS THIS JEWISH HERITAGE? By Ludwig Lewisohn. *B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations*. \$1.25. A brief and dedicated attempt to explain the basic meanings of the Jewish heritage.

Religious Bookshelf

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a checklist of other significant religious books published during 1954 and thus far this year.

Religion in Our Times

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA: A Series of Articles from Commonweal. *Harcourt, Brace & Co.* \$3.75. In symposium form, the relation of Catholicism to other religions, politics, entertainment, and education is given vigorous and intellectually stimulating attention by Catholic and non-Catholic writers.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION WORLD IN OUR DAY. By Kenneth Scott Latourette. *Harper & Bros.* \$2.50. In spreading the Gospel the world over missionary institutions are facing critical problems which receive detailed explanation from Dr. Latourette, a professor emeritus at Yale University.

GOD'S SECRET ARMIES. By Joseph Johnston. *G. P. Putnam's Sons*. \$3.75. Using a variety of information which has leaked out of Russia, the author pieces together a picture which shows active resistance on the part of all faiths behind the Iron Curtain to thwart dictatorial oppression.

GUIDE POSTS IN MODERN JUDAISM. By Jacob B. Agus. *Bloch Publishing Co.* \$4.50. A detailed exposition of the thinking and teaching of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism in relation to community living forms the base for Dr. Agus's evaluation of current trends.

HAPPINESS THROUGH CREATIVE LIVING. By Preston Bradley. *Hanover House*. \$2.95. Dr. Bradley, pastor of the non-sectarian Peoples' Church of Chicago, has gathered a lifetime's worth of anecdotal material designed to guide readers toward serenity through conquest of worry.

IF YOU MARRY OUTSIDE YOUR FAITH. By James A. Pike. *Harper & Bros.* \$2.50. The ostrichlike approach to mixed marriages can cause serious repercussions which could be avoided, Dr. Pike suggests, by careful counseling and understanding of primary religious and social factors.

LIFE IS WORTH LIVING: Second Series. By Fulton J. Sheen. *McGraw-Hill Book Co.* \$3.50. Bishop Sheen's latest collection of sermons delivered on television expounds the need for religion in every-day life and brims with popular anecdotes.

MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. By William J. Wolf. *Doubleday & Co.* \$2.95. A professor at Cambridge (Massachusetts). Episcopal Theological Seminary translates the teachings of Jesus about God into modern-day terms and discusses the need for their application.

THE REAL ENJOYMENT OF LIVING. By Hyman Judah Schachtel. *E. P. Dutton & Co.* \$2.75. As chief rabbi of a Texas congregation and columnist for the *Houston Post*, Dr. Schachtel in these popularized and inspirational sermons gives his views on marriage, education, and a host of daily problems.

THE RENEWAL OF MAN: A Twentieth-Century Essay on Justification by Faith. By Alexander Miller. *Doubleday & Co.* \$2.95. Exploring ways and means of making contemporary life significant, the author calls for a wider application of the basic principles expounded in the Bible.

SECULARISM IS THE WILL OF GOD. By Horace M. Kallen. *Twayne Publishers*. \$4. Dr. Kallen, a professor emeritus of the New School for Social Research in New York, analyzes the historic relation of church and state in America and in strong terms advocates a continued separation to preserve the liberties now enjoyed by both.

THEOLOGY AND REALITY. By W. Norman Pittenger. *The Seabury Press*. \$3.25. Dr. Pittenger has an ecumenical approach to the Christianity of our times and as the vice-chairman of the Theological Commission of the World Council of Churches he explains the relation of religion to science, philosophy, liberal traditions, and culture.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATHOLICS. By Virgil A. Kelly. *The Dial Press*. \$2.75. As an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Mr. Kelly in crusading fashion answers a catalogue-full of criticism directed against the faith he represents.

TRUTH IS ONE: The Story of the World's Great Living Religions in Pictures and Text. By Henry James Forman and Roland Gammon. *Harper & Bros.* \$5. Religion as it is practised today in both the West and the