



CHARTERS  
OCT 26 1982  
LIBRARY

### LEBANON AND DISINFORMATION

As librarians concerned with providing balanced information, we should be concerned with "disinformation," an intelligence community word to describe the deliberate dissemination of false information in order to sway public opinion. In recent weeks, we have been inundated by a flood of PLO and pro-PLO propaganda intended to weaken America's commitment to Israel's security and well being. This disinformation has also encouraged the growth in anti-Jewish hatred and in anti-Semitic incidents.

To combat the disinformation about Israel's operation in Lebanon, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has published a brochure entitled, "What we know about the crisis in Lebanon -- Truth or Disinformation?" The brochure cites the following disturbing facts:

- 1) At a July 1982 conference in London, 23 Palestinians from around the world (including 3 from the United States), with the specific consent of Yasser Arafat, agreed to raise \$100 million to create a lobby in the U.S. in support of the PLO.
- 2) When the Israeli army first moved into Beirut, headlines blared with the claim: "10,000 killed...600,000 homeless." Nowhere was it reported that fewer than 600,000 people lived in southern Lebanon and that the source for the figure of dead was the Palestinian Red Crescent. Apparently, the press did not think it important to point out to the American public that the President of the Red Crescent was none other than Yasser Arafat's brother, Fathi -- hardly a credible source.
- 3) The press did not devote much attention to the fact that Arafat was using the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA) office in Sidon as his personal headquarters and that in the halls, prominently displayed beneath his own picture, was a large swastika.
- 4) In Washington itself, pro-PLO propagandists are hard at work. One group, calling itself Americans for Peace, spent tens of thousands of dollars on radio advertisements and full-page ads in The Washington Post. The ads, deliberately misleading in character, urged the public to oppose Israel. The phone number given for the group and the P.O. Box listed have both been traced by AIPAC to the Palestine Information Office -- a registered foreign agent in Washington for the PLO.

(continued, see p.7)



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editor, and items of  
interest are always  
welcome.

CATALOGUE LISTS 100,000 YIDDISH BOOKS

More than 100,000 volumes in Yiddish, many of which would otherwise have been lost or destroyed, have been rescued and made available, at nominal price, to libraries, scholars and the general public. This treasure trove of Yiddish literature is listed in the recently-released Catalogue of Rare and Out-of-Print Yiddish Books by the National Yiddish Book Exchange of Amherst, MA, a non-profit agency with the goal of rescuing otherwise unwanted Yiddish books and recycling them to new readers.

Aaron Lansky, Chairman of the Exchange, points out that young people in recent years have shown a renewed interest in Yiddish, spurring an unprecedented demand for books. Courses in Yiddish language and literature are now offered at more than 60 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. Saving and distributing Yiddish books "is an absolute precondition for the continued growth of Yiddish Studies... Students can simply not learn a literature without books to read."

The bi-monthly catalogue is available free of charge. Membership in the Exchange is open to the public at \$18/year (\$10/year for students and senior citizens) and includes subscription to a quarterly newsletter and a 25% discount on all books purchased. For more information contact the National Yiddish Book Exchange, Old East Street School, P.O. Box 969, Amherst, MA, 01004, (413) 253-9201.

WIENER LIBRARY MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT NYPL AND LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

A substantial portion of the Wiener Library collection, one of the most important sources of information on Nazis, fascism, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, is now available in New York, thanks to a joint microfilm project by the New York Public Library and the Leo Baeck Institute.

All press clippings, documents, periodicals and books relating to the history of Nazi Germany and postwar developments in Germany and Austria may be found at the Leo Baeck Institute, 129 E.73rd St. Material on modern anti-Semitism, neo-Nazism and totalitarianism throughout the world has been integrated into the microfilm collection of the NYPL, 5th Ave. and 42nd St.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities made possible the microfilming of the Wiener Library's books and pamphlets not already available in the United States, and the microfilming of all periodicals not found in at least three major U.S. libraries.

INFORMATION NEEDED...

Freda Kleinburd, a graduate student at the Columbia University School of Library Service, is doing a doctoral dissertation on Holocaust literature for children and youth. If any of our readers has any information about anyone else working in this area or any specific articles or books which you would recommend, she would appreciate hearing from you. Her address is 2130 Broadway, Apt. 814, NY, NY, 10023.



YIDDISH FILM LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The largest extant group of Yiddish language films in the world was acquired by the American Jewish Historical Society in August 1976. The collection contains the most important as well as the most famous Yiddish films ever produced, and serves as a remarkable sight and sound record of a great culture that has been virtually decimated.

Produced in the United States and Poland in the 1930's and 1940's, the films are a direct offshoot of the tradition of the Yiddish theatre and reflect the fabric of everyday Jewish life: the central myths, values, and preoccupations as well as the rich language, intonations and gestures. The colorful physical and social milieu of a once vibrant culture is thereby preserved in a unique way. There are 39 titles in the current collection, spanning the full range from tragedy to melodrama and from musical comedy to farce. Some are low budget films made from stage plays in theaters, while others are elaborate outdoor productions.

Most of the films were originally made on nitrate stock, an unstable material which disintegrates into flammable powder within a few decades. The original nitrate materials in the collection have been donated by the Society to the Library of Congress where they have been preserved on safety-based film. Extensive technical renovations of the picture quality and the sound tracks, together with complete English subtitling to adapt the films for public use, have been undertaken by the American Jewish Historical Society with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Film Institute and Brandeis University.

As the renovation of additional titles is completed, new prints will be made available for distribution. All revenues will be used to continue the rehabilitation of the collection.

Rental fees are scaled according to use. For more information, please contact the Rutenberg and Everett Yiddish Film Library of the American Jewish Historical Society on the campus of Brandeis University, Lown Building, Waltham, MA 02254, (617) 889-7044. Sharon Pucker Rivo is the Film Curator; Miriam Krant is in charge of distribution. Titles include:

AMERICAN SCHADCHEN, USA, 1940, 90 min., starring Leo Fuchs.

A comedy filled with songs, this film tells the story of a frustrated bachelor who has been engaged eight times, but never married. Set in New York, this is truly an "American" picture, with dribblets of English and "street Yiddish," a makeshift combination of the old and the new.

GOD, MAN AND DEVIL, USA, 1949, 100 min., starring Michal Michalesko and Berta Gertsen.

Jacob Gordin's memorable play of a Jewish Faust with inverted overtones of Job. "Hershele," a poor sofer, is taken into unwitting partnership with Satan, disguised as an aggressive businessman, who has bet God that he can make the man happy with money and force him to forget his piety.



YIDDISH FILM LIBRARY, (cont'd)

GREEN FIELDS, USA, 1937, 95 min., starring Michael Goldstein and Herschel Bernardi.

A pastoral romance, based on Peretz Hirshbein's legendary tale of a Hasidic youth who leaves the heder to wander across the Pale in search of "true Jews." When the orphaned, otherworldly young scholar happens upon a family of simple Jewish peasants who take him in as a boarder and tutor for their children, an interesting juxtaposition of the two opposed life-styles ensues.

THE JEWISH KING LEAR, USA, 1935, 86 min., starring Maurice Krohner, Miriam Grossman, and Jacob Bergreen.

Jacob Gordin's famous play transposes the Lear story to Jewish Vilna at the turn of the century. In the family seudah, the pious father announces to his three daughters that he is dividing his fortune among them and is going to Jerusalem.

MIRELE EFROS, USA, 1939, 80 min., starring Berta Gertsen.

An elaborate, sophisticated presentation of Jacob Gordin's stage classic about a noble, pious woman who comes into conflict with the daughter-in-law she chose for her eldest son. Set in Grodno at the turn of the century, this film shatters the stereotype of East European Jews as invariably poor and also rehabilitates the much-maligned Jewish mother.

TEVYE, USA, 1939, 96 min., directed by and starring Maurice Schwartz.

A moving adaptation of Sholem Aleikhem's familiar story in which one of the daughters, Khave, falls in love with the intellectual son of a local Russian peasant. Their courtship and marriage pit Tevye's affection for his daughter against his deep and ultimately triumphant loyalty to tradition. This film is studded with memorable scenes: Khave showing her uncomprehending father the volume of Gorki which her suitor has given her; the colorful Ukranian wedding and Tevye's mournful havdalah after it; Tevye gently teaching Psalms to his grandchildren.

A VILNA LEGEND, Poland, 1924 and 1949, 60 min., starring Ester Rokhl Kaminska and Zygmunt Turkow. Narrated by Joseph Buloff.

A classic tale of frustrated love and destiny set in early 20th Century Jewish Lithuania. Though promised to each other before birth, a Yeshiva student and an orphan girl who are deeply in love would be separated forever if not for the miraculous intervention of Elijah the Prophet.

WHERE IS MY CHILD?, USA, 1937, 90 min., starring Celia Adler.

A somber melodramatic tale about a poor immigrant woman, widowed on a voyage to America in 1911, who places her baby in an orphanage because she can't "give it a home," then immediately changes her mind. She spends the next 25 years searching and pining for her son who has been given in adoption to a wealthy family by the unscrupulous director of the orphanage.



### CURIOUS CUTTERING

From Sanford Berman's column, "Consumer, BEWARE!," (Technicalities, 8/82), Marjorie Morgan of Philadelphia wrote that "I have noted for years that Cutter tables, and in particular the one I have here -- Cutter-Sanborn Three Figure author table, Swanson-Swift Revision, 1969 -- are all based upon WASP names, with a token inclusion of French and German names, so that the names of authors of Jewish, Italian, Hispanic and other origins, if plentiful in the library, can cause a shelving problem when one is dealing with these tables. Jewish authors have been particularly in evidence since WWII, and I particularly note this in a medical library. I would suggest that someone take the phone book of a large metropolitan city (e.g., New York City) and come up with a new ethnic base for an author table, which should be revised every 15 years or so as other ethnic groups which are not publishing much now start publishing. Perhaps this should be an international effort."

### HISTORY OF INDIAN JEWRY PLANNED

The oldest synagogue of the Bene-Israel Jewish community in India has launched a fundraising effort to prepare a souvenir reference book and a pictorial display of the history and culture of Indian Jewry. The congregation Gate of Mercy synagogue of Bombay, which celebrated its 185th anniversary last December, initially planned the project for March 1982 but had to postpone it for lack of funds.

Apart from the history of the synagogue, the reference book will contain accounts of cultural, social, and religious contributions to India by its ancient Jewish community. The proposed pictorial exhibition will feature photographs of men and women in their native Indian costumes and photographs of most of the synagogues in India and one in Pakistan built by Indian Jews.

### LIST OF LARGE-TYPE JEWISH INTEREST BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

The JWB Jewish Book Council has recently published Large-Type Books of Jewish Interest to help visually-impaired persons become better acquainted with their Jewish heritage. Dr. Robert Gordis, president of the Council, announced the publication of the new 19-page annotated bibliography of works of fiction and non-fiction. Compiled by Helene Tuchman, the publication describes 22 books of fiction, 11 religious works, and 12 works of non-fiction. It is available from the Council, located at 15 East 26th St., NY, NY, 10010, at \$4.00 plus \$1.00 per copy for postage and handling.

### MARC HELPRIN AWARDED ROME PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Marc Helprin, a 35-year-old New York writer, received the Rome Prize for Literature from the American Academy in June. Helprin, who served in the Israeli infantry and air force, recently completed "Ellis Island and Other Stories" for which he won the 1982 National Jewish Book Award for fiction. The Rome Prize includes an \$8000 award and a year of independent study in Rome with all expenses paid by the Academy, a privately-endowed residential community of American artists and scholars in Rome.



### "GENOCIDE" WINS AN OSCAR

GENOCIDE, the story of the millions of men, women, and children who fell victim to Hitler's Final Solution, was honored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences as this year's Oscar winner for Best Achievement in Documentary Film. A Simon Wiesenthal Center Presentation, GENOCIDE was produced by Arnold Schwartzman and Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

In accepting the award, Rabbi Hier, who also co-authored the film's script, thanked Simon Wiesenthal "as the man who stood alone for more than three decades so that the world would never forget," and explained, "this film is dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust; they have no graves but their memories will live on until the end of time."

With the Academy's recognition of GENOCIDE, Rabbi Hier stated that "the honor is much more significant with the knowledge that because of it, millions of people throughout the world, especially young people, will be exposed to the film's important message: that the Holocaust was, to a large extent, preventable; that the apathy and the indifference of a silent majority which allowed National Socialism to strike roots in the first place are not tied to any specific time or place; that such a complacency even exists today -- in our own country."

### JERUSALEM LIBRARIES

For the first time, 250 different types of libraries are listed together in A Guide to Jerusalem Libraries, by Mathilde A. Tagger. The guide includes public, academic, and special libraries, special collections of the National Library, yeshivot libraries, church and monastic libraries, and the libraries of Islamic institutions. This bilingual guide contains an alphabetical index which includes official and common names of the libraries, detailed subjects of the libraries, language in the libraries specializing in foreign literature, and nonbook collections. It also includes a list of the libraries numbered in the same order as they appear in the Hebrew text, with the official name of the library, address, and phone number. Available from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 46 Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem, Israel, for \$5.00.

### JPS TRANSLATIONS CITED IN BOSTON GLOBE

The Boston Globe's 6/24 edition carried an editorial entitled, "Milestone in Scholarship," which cited the issuance by the Jewish Publication Society of the third and final volume of the Bible, Kethubim (The Writings). The Globe called this an "epochal achievement on several counts. It marks the first time a group of scholars representing the Jewish community has translated the Bible from Hebrew into the vernacular since this was done in Greek, known as the Septuagint, nearly 2,300 years ago. It is presented in modern literary English, retaining the imagery of the Hebrew by rendering it in an idiomatic rather than word-for-word translation...The Jewish Publication Society, the scholars, translators and editors who performed this task with love, dedication and care are to be congratulated. Their true reward, though, will come with the English language reader's comprehension of and attention to the Word."



LEBANON AND DISINFORMATION (cont'd from p.1)

- 5) Another group called Peace Corps Volunteers for Middle East Understanding, unknown to U.S. Peace Corps officials, sent out a mailing to all Peace Corps alumni (including AIPAC's Executive Director) condemning "Israel's flagrant violations of international law." The postage meter number on the envelope was easily traced through the Postal Service to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 6) Still another group with a similar name duped a legitimate advertising agency into placing an anti-Israel ad on July 11 in four major American newspapers at a cost of about \$100,000. Concerned Americans for Peace, a fictitious organization with a non-existent post office box, listed six legitimate organizations with the clear implication that they were co-sponsors of the ad. When questioned later, the organizations (American Friends Service Committee; U.S. Committee for UNICEF; Church World Services of the National Council of Churches; American Red Cross; CARE and Save the Children Federation) all denied participation.

To help you present the other side, copies of this brochure may be obtained from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, 444 North Capital Street, N.W., Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20001. (202) 638-2256.

NEW OFFICERS OF THE JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS

At the meeting of the JLC during the ALA conference in Philadelphia, the following officers were elected for 1982-83 by acclamation: Susan Freiband as President, Sylvia Eisen as Treasurer, and Susan Kamm as Secretary. The role of the President is to preside at meetings, schedule meetings and tours, and to correspond with the public on behalf of the Caucus. The role of the Treasurer is to maintain financial records and the savings account and to disburse funds from the account for expenditures. Finally, the role of the Secretary is to take minutes at the San Antonio and Los Angeles conferences and to carry on extra correspondence.

SHMATE -- A NEW JEWISH NEWSMAGAZINE

On April 1, Shmate began publication. According to a recent letter to its readership, the intent of the magazine is to "avoid rhetoric, instead combining analysis with personal experience to produce a tool for dialog and action. We will examine issues from the perspective of their context and impact in the Jewish community as well as the broader socio-political framework. Approximately every other issue will have a special focus. Upcoming foci will include: the Middle East, with a thrust toward breaking through the stereotypes of Israeli and Palestinian life as monolithic entities of inevitable conflict; Soviet treatment of Jews and Soviet emigre life in America; anti-Semitism of the right, center and left; Black/Jewish relations; contemporary Jewish culture; family concerns such as mixed marriages and childrearing, spouse and child abuse, childless couples, singles, older Jews, etc." Subscriptions to Shmate are \$15 for a 6 issue year. Group and institutional rates are \$25. Address all inquiries and subscriptions to Shmate, Box 4228, Berkeley, CA, 94704.



"THE JEWISH QUESTION" IN LIBRARY CATALOGING

by Sanford Berman

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we began running excerpts from Sanford Berman's paper. We continue with his discussion on the vocabulary problem which "itself divides into several aspects." The last issue looked at three of these aspects: clearly defamatory, palpably Goyish terminology like JEWISH QUESTION; a special or peculiar approach to Jews and Judaica, exemplified by the almost exclusive use of --JEWS as an ethnic subdivision under topics like CAPITALISTS AND FINANCIERS; and a failure to create and assign headings for Jewish-related subjects in both print and audiovisual media. This issue will look at four other aspects of the vocabulary problem.

1) A failure to introduce helpful cross-references to existing terms, links that would benefit Jewish and non-Jewish catalog users like; e.g.,  
HOLOCAUST, JEWISH (1933-1945)

x Shoah  
SYNAGOGUES  
x Jewish synagogues  
Shuls  
Temples, Jewish

BIBLE, O.T.  
x Bible, Jewish-  
Jewish Bible  
YOM KIPPUR  
x Day of Repentance  
(Judaism)

2) Awkwardly or oddly formulated terms that impair quick access or, in catalogs with few cross-references, totally prevent finding the sought-after topic; e.g.,  
AMERICAN LITERATURE --JEWISH AUTHORS instead of JEWISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE  
WARSAW--HISTORY--UPRISING OF 1943 instead of WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING, 1943  
AMAURATIC FAMILY IDIOCY instead of TAY-SACHS' DISEASE  
NATIONAL SOCIALISM instead of NAZISM  
SLAUGHTERING AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES --JEWS instead of KOSHER MEAT INDUSTRY AND TRADE (or something similar)

3) A failure to recognize the Jewish dimension of certain notable events through see also connections; e.g.,

AUSCHWITZ TRIAL, FRANKFURT AM MAIN, 1963-1965  
xx Holocaust, Jewish (1933-1945)  
Jews--persecutions (or Jews in Europe--persecutions)  
BABI YAR MASSACRE, 1941  
xx Antisemitism--Ukraine  
Holocaust, Jewish (1933-1945)  
Persecutions (or Jews in the Ukraine--persecutions)

4) A pervasive and overwhelming "Christian primacy" among the multitude of headings that deal with religion. In nearly every string of descriptors concerning a special facet of spirituality, worship, or faith, Christianity comes first. There are forms for GOD (AFRICAN RELIGION), GOD (HINDUISM), GOD (ISLAM), AND GOD (JUDAISM), but not GOD (CHRISTIANITY). Why? Because the unglossed, the unmodified GOD, the primary divinity, the God-Before-All-Other-Gods, is unabashedly and undeniably Christian. And the same pattern obtains for countless other topics, including ANGELS, SERMONS, CHILDREN'S SERMONS, HERESIES AND HERETICS, PRAYER, ESCHATOLOGY, CONFIRMATION, and THEOLOGY (indeed, the lately added see references to the un-modified term, THEOLOGY, are from "Christian theology" and "Theology, Christian"!). Aside from considerations of ethics and fairness, this Christocentrism unquestionably violates the "Establishment Clause" of the first Amendment.

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The above selection was excerpted from a revised and updated version of a paper presented to the Association of Jewish Librarians Convention (1979). The original version was published in the author's Joy of Cataloging (Phoenix, Az., Oryx Press, 1981.)



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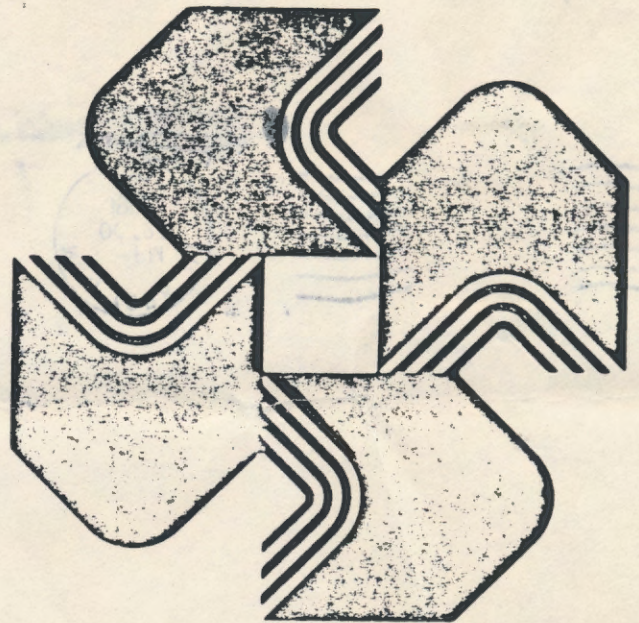
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# The Research Libraries Group In Brief

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