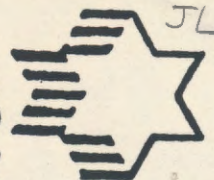


The Jewish Librarians Caucus Newsletter



July-December 1983

HEADQUARTERS

Volume 67 Number 3-4

Newsletter

JAN 5 1984

LIBRARY

JOIN US AT MID-WINTER FOR HEATED DISCUSSIONS, BUSINESS MEETING ESSENTIALS, INCLUDING ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS, AND REUNION WITH COLLEAGUES CONCERNED ABOUT JEWISH ISSUES AND ANTI-SEMITISM.

THE DATE AND TIME-----Sunday, January 8 from 8:00 - 10:00 P.M.

THE PLACE-----Sheraton Washington, Vermont Room.

Sandy Berman, one of the co-founders in 1975 of the Jewish Librarians Caucus and an active supporter of it ever since, as well as a leader in the improvement of subject access to library catalogs for ethnic minorities, has made several recommendations to the Library of Congress Subject Cataloging Division in order to improve access to Judaica. For example, Berman recommends replacing the current form JEWS, AMERICAN with JEWISH-AMERICANS, thus according Jews the same treatment enjoyed by other American ethnic groups (e.g. ITALIAN AMERICANS, JAPANESE AMERICANS). He also proposes establishment of more than 30 new headings, all warranted by existing library materials, such as ANTISEMITISM IN THE ARMED FORCES, BILINGUAL MATERIALS--ENGLISH/YIDDISH, GAY SYNAGOGUES, JEWISH RADICALISM, JEWISH RESISTANCE AND REVOLTS, NAZI FUGITIVES, SHTETL, YIDDISH THEATER. He suggests replacing awkward, oddly formulated headings such as AMERICAN LITERATURE--JEWISH AUTHORS with JEWISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE, WARSAW--HISTORY--UPRISING OF 1943 with WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING, 1943; AMAUROTIC FAMILY IDIOCY with TAY-SACHS' DISEASE, NATIONAL SOCIALISM with NAZISM. He would institute several kinds of cross-references such as Synagogues x Jewish synagogues

Shuls
Temples, Jewish

He would eliminate "Christian primacy" in religious headings by means of glosses, suffixes, prefixes and assign "Jewish" headings for works in particular genres, whether authored by one or more persons, e.g., FAIRY TALES, JEWISH; ISRAELI FICTION; JEWISH-AMERICAN POETRY.

Berman's suggestions will be discussed at length at Mid-Winter. In addition, discussion will center on anti-Israel bias, present and potential, in the Library of Congress subject headings. (See the letter from Hebrew Union College in this regard.) Discussion will also focus on whether or not the Jewish Librarians Caucus Newsletter should be publishing anti-Israel propaganda sent to the Editor of the Newsletter on a regular basis by the same Sandy Berman.

(continued, see p.2)

JLC Officers

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Sylvia Eisen,
Treasurer

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Asst. Editor

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Also, during the last two JLC meetings at Mid-Winter in San Antonio, Texas, and at the Summer Los Angeles Conference, comments have been made about the need for guides to selecting Jewish books for children. Core lists of recommended books for kids dealing with Jewish themes distinguished by the different branches of Judaism seem to be especially needed. Public librarians are often not aware of the differences in perspective and approach of those books written from a Reform, Conservative or Orthodox viewpoint. In order to match the right book with the right reader, it becomes important to know about these differences in perspective. There are many opportunities for undertaking the development of useful collection development tools. The JLC can begin to consider undertaking such a project which would not only help librarians in the field but also increase the awareness of the Jewish Librarians Caucus among librarians and others. This is one means by which the Caucus can become stronger and more visible within the library community. We need your input on these and related questions.

Susan Freiband, President of the Jewish Librarians Caucus, writes "...Another note: ...for the Mid-Winter Washington, D.C. meeting, I am planning to ask someone from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to come to our meeting as a resource person/discussion leader for a consideration of the topic of anti-Semitism on college campuses and the librarian's role in combatting anti-Semitism. I'm sure that I can get someone from the Washington, D. C. area with a national perspective on the issue who can add a lot to our discussion/consideration of it. We will continue with those items not covered on the Los Angeles agenda or those covered inadequately."

Send your \$7.50 annual dues to Sylvia Eisen, 690 Anderson Ave., Franklin Square, NY

Letters to the Editor

We received many responses from our readers to our last issue. For example:

Madeleine Cohen-Oakley wrote, "Hooray, mazel tov, and right on re: L.C. and the 'Jewish Question' heading. I wish I could have been at the meetings this summer."

Lillian Chazanow exclaimed: "Well done! Lots of luck!"

Anne Martel commented that it was a "very interesting issue."

Donald Altschiller "enjoyed the latest issue of the Caucus newsletter."

Sylvia Eisen, our Treasurer, who watched our paid membership more than double as a result of the subscription drive in the last issue, reported that we now have sufficient funds to "surely keep us going for the next year."

Thank you!

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

In our last issue, we reported on the successful effort to persuade the Library of Congress to drop its offensive and outdated subject heading, "The Jewish Question". We salute all of those who played a role in this important cause.

While we can take pride in this accomplishment, we must also not lose sight of the fact that the LC catalog contains other, more subtle, anti-Semitic classifications. Last month, Ida Cohen Selevan, Judaica Librarian at Hebrew Union College, wrote that the LC recently adopted the following shocking classification for Lebanon:

ISRAELI INTERVENTION, 1982 -- INCLUDING THE MASSACRE OF THE PALESTINIAN ARABS IN BEIRUT

We should give the LC the benefit of the doubt and suggest merely that the caption to this classification was carelessly and ambiguously drafted. Nevertheless, it is also fair to note that the caption is accusatorial and symptomatic of the success that anti-Semites on the Left and the Right have had in shaping American attitudes. Witness that the caption does not read as follows:

ISRAELI INTERVENTION, 1982 -- INCLUDING THE MASSACRE OF THE PALESTINIAN ARABS IN BEIRUT BY LEBANESE CHRISTIAN PHALANGISTS

Sometimes we have only ourselves to blame for these tragic formulations finding their way into the LC catalog. Our own Sandy Berman drafted the following heading this past summer as part of a recommendation of The Jewish Librarians Caucus Subject Access Committee to the LC Subject Cataloging Division:

BEIRUT MASSACRE, SEPTEMBER 16-18, 1982--ISRAELI PARTICIPATION

While the Jewish Librarians Caucus is in the forefront of supporting everyone's First Amendment rights and thus does not wish to deny Mr. Berman's right to express his controversial views on Israel, the JLC should refrain from automatically translating his views into JLC policy. By passing along his politically-charged formulation to the LC as a formal recommendation of the Jewish Librarians Caucus, we have ipso facto undermined any attempt on our part or on the part of friends of the JLC to get the Library of Congress to modify its classification. Still, we must not let Mr. Berman's recommendation prevent us from taking action.

We are delighted to report that the first major step has already been taken. Ida Cohen Selavan and six fellow librarians of Hebrew Union College have sent Mary K.D. Pietras, Chief, Subject Catalog Division of the Library of Congress, a letter, a copy of which is included in this issue. In the letter, the signatories refer to the objectionable LC caption, note the caption's ambiguity, and suggest a possible rephrasing.

We look forward to hearing more from the Librarians of Hebrew Union College and hope to report on any new developments in our next issue.



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

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November 29, 1983

Ms. Mary K.D. Pietris
Chief, Subject Catalog Division
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Ms. Pietris:

LC classifications have a great impact on how we organize information. People who use catalogs--as librarians or patrons--tend to accept LC classifications without question.

While most LC classification captions are objective and helpful, some are ambivalent and may lead to misunderstanding.

The recent LC Classification -- Addition and changes, List 210, p. 15, contains an example of such a caption. DS 87. 53 for Lebanon reads: "Israeli intervention, 1982- Including the massacre of the Palestinian Arabs in Beirut."

This ambiguous wording may easily be interpreted as LC's perception that Israelis massacred Palestinian Arabs in Beirut. In order to avoid perpetuating what we presume is not LC's stand on the issue of the Beirut massacre, and without going into a discussion of moral responsibility, we would like to suggest that the phrase, "Including the massacre of the Palestinian Arabs in Beirut," be amended. One possible phrasing is: "Including the massacre of Palestinian Arabs by (unknown) extremists."

We would very much appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Librarians of Hebrew Union College

Allan D. Satin
Sarah M. Bernard
Armina Rudovsky

Bernard H. Rubenstein
Ellen Siegel Kovacs
Sarah Ellen Slavan

4341 Northview Lane
Dallas, TX 75229

August 7, 1983

Dr. S. Freiband
1600 N. Taylor St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Susan,

I am writing in connection with the display which the Jewish Librarians Caucus talked about setting up for the ALA Convention in Dallas next summer. As you recall, at the meeting in June I suggested using the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 as a point of departure for the exhibit. Since the idea seemed to be of interest to the members, I am now sending the written proposal which I promised you. I think the following outline will explain what I had in mind:

Theme/Subject:

The celebration of the installation of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor 100 years ago relative to the importance of the Statue as a symbol of the arrival on American shores of a generation of Jewish immigrants who built a new life in this country. Library materials depicting the historical period surrounding this wave of immigration can help all Americans understand how Jews became a part of the American scene. For Jews, these literary and cinematic works are especially meaningful because they clarify the process through which many of our parents and grandparents became Americans.

Purposes:

- (1) To identify materials which are relevant to the Jewish-American experience.
- (2) To suggest how these materials can be displayed in libraries all over the country in connection with the 1986 centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty.

(continued, see p.6)

Suggested Materials and Possible Sources:

Enlarged black and white photographs of the Statue of Liberty, ships arriving in the harbor, the Lower East Side in New York, performers in the Yiddish Theatre, etc. (Librarians should be encouraged to ask Jewish organizations in their local area for pictures depicting the Jewish history of their community.)

Commercially produced posters of the Statue
New York City Chamber of Commerce
Museum of the City of New York
New York Public Library
Library of Congress
Smithsonian Institution, etc.

Reproductions of appropriate paintings in poster form
(e.g. works by Chagall) Jewish Museum in New York

Ongoing slide/tape presentation either flashed on a screen or shown in a self-contained viewer
Jewish Theological Seminary
Yeshiva University Library
(synagogue library in Dallas?)

Books and book jackets displayed on tables and in display "cubes" (see following list of titles)

Record jackets from recordings of Jewish music both serious (e.g. The Kaddish by Leonard Bernstein) and more popular (e.g. traditional Yiddish clarinet pieces associated with Jewish weddings)

Stills from films on relevant themes (see following list for titles)

Filmfacts
Readers Guide to Periodical Literature

Jewish ritual objects

Bibliography of Jewish-interest materials for distribution to librarians.

(continued, see p.7)

A Few Specific Titles:

Books: (fiction)

Old World, New World Dintenfass
Yesterday's Streets Tennenbaum
Call It Sleep Roth
Portnoy's Complaint Roth
Rivington Street Tax
Ellis Island Stewart
Book of Lights Potok
The Auerbach Will (forthcoming) Birmingham

Books: (non-fiction)

Joys of Yiddish Rosten
Big Book of Jewish Humor
World of Our Fathers Howe
Golden Book of Jewish Humor Golden
Hooray for Yiddish, A Book about English Rosten
Treasury of Jewish Humor Ausubel
Our Crowd Birmingham
The Gradees Birmingham

A search of the computerized catalog of Dallas Public Library revealed that the system owns 5 titles under the heading LOWER EAST SIDE - NEW YORK, 28 titles under the heading JEWS IN NEW YORK and over 200 titles under JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES - History, - etc.

Of course there are also numerous biographies. Some of the personalities are identified in American Jewish Biographies by Murray Polner, Facts on File 1982.

Feature Films:

Yentle (to be released in a few months)
Funny Girl
Hester Street
The Jazz Singer (original and later version with Neil Diamond)
Fiddler on the Roof

Documentaries could also be located through synogogue and day school libraries or through local chapters of organizations like Hadassah or B'nai Brith. The attached article contains an example of the kind of local event which could provide an opportunity for collaboration between the library and a community organization.

(continued, see p.8)

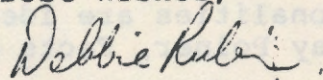
Tie-in Topics:

Israel
Holocaust
Diaspora
Early Jewish History

To actually create a display next year in Dallas based on these ideas, I think we would have to divide the labor involved in amassing materials. Since I am in Dallas I could determine what is already available in the city for us to use (e.g. a slide/tape viewer and the books themselves). Other members of the Caucus could then be responsible for obtaining materials from some of the source institutions I've listed. Perhaps members who have some geographical proximity to the institutions could pick up any materials that could not be mailed and bring them along to Dallas.

The Caucus can decide at Midwinter how ambitious/elaborate we want the display to be and how much effort we are willing to expend on it. I realize that the exhibit I've suggested here might take entirely too much work, and we may want to pare it down. Right now I don't know whether I will be at Midwinter, but I can always be contacted after the meeting if I can't be present. I hope this outline is helpful to you.

Best Wishes,



Debbie Rubin

MINUTES, ALA, LOS ANGELES, JUNE 26, 1983 - JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS

(Please note that the mid-Winter meeting of the JLC will complete discussion on those points of the Agenda which were not fully covered at the Los Angeles meeting.)

The major thrust of the organization has been to publish a newsletter. Sylvia Eisen, Treasurer, suggests intensive membership campaign.

David Cohen on the subject heading "The Jewish Question" -- established in 1911 to cover variety of problems facing Jews at that time and has been used to mean different things over the years...works with negative connotation. Robbie Wiener suggests it can be dropped for the 118 items in the MARC data base. It could be cancelled with no substitution and other headings existing could be used. It would show as cancelled in the LC Subject Heading book. ADL will support the recommendation to abolish this heading. Mary Pietras suggested that we write a letter to LC. Unanimous vote to cancel this heading.

David Cohen read his letter to Mary Pietras, at LC, which included his recommendations for an ad hoc committee. Ann Masik suggested adding Mae Weine to the committee. It was also suggested that Miriam Leikind (The Index to Jewish Periodicals) be included. Dick Hyman moved to establish a standing subject access committee; it was approved. Dick Hyman and Sandy Berman will also be members of the committee.

Robert Sewell, U. of Illinois--guidelines for evaluating Judaica, for building up a collection. Various suggestions made, including need for a listing of sources of bibliographies and other materials. Called for article on ADL for next Caucus NEWSLETTER.

Membership retention and involvement. Program for Dallas: Librarians' role in combatting anti-Semitism. Discussion of anti-Semitism on campuses: ADL has authorized hiring of a coordinator and needs much information on the subject; apparently there is much harrassment on various campuses. Universities are reluctant to deal vigorously with the matter until publicly pressured. Every regional office is to make this a high priority and Hillels will also monitor this. Arabic network of organizations stimulating these anti-Semitic activities. Members of the group (at this meeting) have had personal experiences with this at the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University.

Mid-Winter conference will be in Washington, D.C. Perhaps ADL representative there could offer some advice on this subject for the summer conference.

Discussion pro and con on suggested program topic (Anti-Semitism on Campuses) for Dallas: Some felt it lacked immediate relevance to library concerns. Voted on whether to have day-time open program meeting at Dallas conference on topic of anti-Semitism (to be discussed and planned at mid-Winter meeting. 6 for--passed. Definite decision will be made at mid-Winter.

Annette Blank: Ideas to present to Ethnic Minorities Round Table about the Caucus.

Debbie Rubin of Dallas Public Library suggested other possibility of program for Dallas: 1986 centennial of Statue of Liberty--how to tie in with local Jewish history--means of promoting circulation of Jewish history material. (See letter outlining this program on p. 5-8 of this issue of the NEWSLETTER.)

Bertha Wember

BOOK REVIEW

Guide to Wisconsin Survivors of the Holocaust: A Documentation Project of the Wisconsin Jewish Archives, edited by Sara Leuchter, with the assistance of Jean Loeb Lettovsky. Madison, WI, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1983. 206p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. \$12.50pa

This guide represents the results of a project undertaken by the Wisconsin Jewish Archives to tape Holocaust survivors throughout the State. The project was supported by grants from the Wisconsin Humanities Committee and the State Historical Society, as well as through private donations. It was begun in December, 1979, and includes 24 interviews representing 160 hours of tape. Survivors include concentration and forced labor camp inmates, families in hiding and emigres from Germany who relate their wartime experiences in Holland, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Greece, Russia and Siberia.

A prepared abstract serves as a finding aid in the location of specific references on the tapes for each interview conducted. Included with this abstract are the interviewers' introduction, an index enabling researchers to locate names, proper nouns, dates and historical phenomena which appear in the abstract. In addition to the tapes, more than 1,600 photographic images were collected during the project.

A slide tape presentation was also prepared which was used in a public program at the Wisconsin State Historical Society on Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 13, 1980. This presentation is available as a community resource through the Society's Office of Museum Education.

The guide was compiled "to insure the dissemination of the (project) materials to researchers, students and the general public." An introductory section describes the history, background and format of the guide, as well as the production, format and use of the tapes and photographic inventory. Special problems encountered in the compilation of the guide are also mentioned.

The guide itself consists of four sections: (1) the interviewees (biographies, information on the actual interviews and description of the photographic inventory); (2) reference, including a nine page unannotated bibliography on the Holocaust, a glossary of related items, a listing of related collections at the Wisconsin State Historical Society (materials pertaining to Nazi Germany, European Jewry and/or resettlement of refugees in the U.S.), a list of concentration camps, maps of their locations, and a list of supporters of the project; (3) index to specific references in the interview abstracts; (4) the abstracts themselves, reproduced on microfiche and accompanying the guide (in an enclosed packet).

The guide, as part of a larger documentation project, presents a fascinating, intensely personal, first-hand picture of the Holocaust. The brief stories of the 24 interviewees are a remarkable testimony to "the strength of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity." The book, carefully put together showing the result of many hours of research, is an important contribution to materials on the Holocaust, and would be an appropriate addition to public, academic and special library collections of Judaica.

by Susan Freiband, President of the Jewish Librarians Caucus

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