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BURRELLE'S

Roskies, David G. Against the Apocalypse: responses to catastrophe in modern Jewish culture.

Harvard Univ. Pr. 1984. 374p. illus. bibliog. index. LC 83-18663. ISBN 0-674-00915-0. \$20.

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LIT/HIST

This is a highly original and intelligent book that succeeds in placing the Holocaust and the response of the victims within the context of Jewish tradition and experience. Roskies focuses on Eastern European Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries and shows how, in the face of growing violence, Jewish intellectuals and writers found new, anti-traditionalist modes of response to these calamities. In the Nazi ghettos both ancient and modern responses were transformed and refashioned. Writing with compassion, yet in full command of the scholarly and primary literature, Roskies buttresses his arguments with literary, artistic, liturgical, and classical sources. Highly recommended.—*Jehuda Reinharz, Near Eastern & Judaic Studies Dept., Brandeis Univ., Waltham, Mass.*