

IN BRIEF

VAGABOND STARS, A WORLD HISTORY OF YIDDISH THEATER, by Nahma Sandrow. Harper & Row, N.Y., 1972, \$20. 435 pp.

An invaluable volume, the most authoritative and complete history of the Yiddish theater available in English. It comes with 125 sparkling photographs, innumerable illustrious names, countless sketches of dazzling productions. Nahma Sandrow, who teaches drama at City University, learned Yiddish especially for this undertaking. She spent five years producing this work and it was time well spent. What we have here is a work of first-rate scholarship, one that both teachers and students will delight in.

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I. H.

BRIGHT STAR OF EXILE: JACOB ADLER AND THE YIDDISH THEATRE, By Lulla Rosenfeld. Crowell, N.Y. 1972. \$12.95. 368 pp.

Lulla Rosenfeld, the granddaughter of Jacob Adler—whom many believe to be the greatest actor produced by the Yiddish stage—has here turned in a truly remarkable performance. In part a biography of Jacob Adler, it is also the story of the Yiddish theater throughout the world. Boris Thomashefsky, Sara Adler, Bertha Kalisch, David Kessler, Maurice Schwartz all come enchantingly alive. Ms. Rosenfeld is a master of anecdotal writing, of narrative drive; reading her book is an engrossing, even thrilling, experience. Hats off!

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I. H.

IN BRIEF

THE GREAT GAME: Memoirs of the Spy Hitler Couldn't Silence. By Leopold Trepper. McGraw-Hill, N.Y. 1977. \$10.95. 442 pp.

The Time is World War Two:

As the Wehrmacht sweeps across Europe it is met and challenged by the Red Orchestra, an octopus-like anti-Nazi spy network reaching through France, Belgium, Holland, into Germany and the upper echelons of the Nazi military itself. Some 200,000 Nazi soldiers die as a direct result of Orchestra efforts, countless Allied lives are spared and the war is shortened by months.

The man who created and led this outfit, one of the most remarkable figures of our time, was called the "Big Chief." A master-spy, holding down the rank of general in the Russian Army, he also wrote a regular column on the arts for the Soviet Yiddish daily *Emes*. He fought the British Mandate in Palestine, warned Stalin of Hitler's impending attack on Russia, spent ten long years in Lubianka prison, and became Chairman of the Polish Jewish Community for a decade—until he sided with Israel in the '67 war. His name is Leopold Trepper and his book, which tells this story, is simply enthralling. —I.H.

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THE RUSSIAN JEW UNDER TSARS AND SOVIETS, by Salo W. Baron. Macmillan. NY, 1976. 468 pp. \$14.95.

Salo W. Baron is one of the truly towering figures of modern Jewish scholarship. His scope is immense, his accounts impeccably detailed. He writes with a grace and wisdom that is always engrossing. This book on the Russian-Jewish experience was hailed as an instant classic when it first appeared more than a decade ago. This revised edition is even more rewarding, replete with much information on ORT. An essential volume. —I.H.