

## History

### 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.

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.*

### Rowe, William T. *Hankow: commerce and society in a Chinese city, 1796-1889.*

Stanford Univ. Pr. Jun. 1984. c.424p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. LC 82-61784. ISBN 0-8047-1204-2. \$39.50.

HIST

Rowe's excellent monograph on a major marketing center combines economic and social history with urban studies to underline the dynamism of Chinese cities in the 19th century. Rowe analyzes the major trades in Hankow's economy, looks at the guilds and native-place associations that served sectional and regional interests, and shows the advancement of credit and financial institutions with market growth. Hankow exemplifies the complex interaction of mercantile groups and the state in municipal governance that challenges Weber's generalizations on Chinese cities. This superb study should be acquired for all university and college collections.—*Evelyn S. Rawski, History Dept., Univ. of Pittsburgh*

### Somerset, Anne. *Ladies-in-Waiting: from the Tudors to the present day.*

Knopf. Jun. 1984. c.352p. illus. bibliog. index.

LC 83-04861. ISBN 0-394-52000-9. \$17.95. HIST

For much of England's history, a place at court in the Queen's service was the

THE BOOK REVIEW/LOS ANGELES TIMES

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## Title Page

**Israel After Begin** by Daniel Gavron (Houghton Mifflin: \$13.95) chooses development of an "Israeli personality" over a "return to our Jewish persona." Anticipating a peaceful Palestinian state, Gavron seeks to bequeath to the next generation "a world and not a smoking cemetery." His is a controversial, thoughtful, extremely well-written book about Israel's present complexities and possibilities. **Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture** by David G. Roskies (Harvard Univ. Press: \$20) illustrates how Jewish writers in Eastern Europe used anti-traditionalist modes in response to cycles of violence. "The extremity of the Holocaust revived the search for archetypes: Reality itself had become archetypal." Roskies focuses on group memory over apocalyptic despair. A probing, seasoned, brilliant work.

—MALCOLM BOYD