

# Scholarly Judaica: The Publishing Scene

By Franlee Frank

Rookies

Indiana University Press has come forward in Judaica publishing during the past year as the newest and strongest kid in town.

The Press announced three series in Jewish Studies — Jewish Literature and Culture, The Modern Jewish Experience, and Jewish Political and Social Studies. Several titles have already received kudos from such quarters as the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Library Journal* and *Commentary*. On January 5, 1984, the *New York Times* featured a lively synopsis of the program, somewhat bemused that it could emanate from a small midwestern city, Bloomington, Indiana, without a particularly large Jewish population (from a university, in fact, without a large Jewish student population).

The series are the offspring of Robert Mandel, assistant director of the Press. Dr. Mandel has long had a commitment to the study of Jewish culture and history and the university has a similar commitment in its more than 35 courses in Jewish Studies. One of the vital roles of a university press — to reflect in print the tenor and endeavors of its academic community — is exemplified in this joint endeavor.

The director of Jewish Studies at Indiana University, and editor of the Jewish Literature and Culture Series in the Press' program, is Alvin H. Rosenfeld. Before the program was put into high gear, the Press had already published Professor Rosenfeld's book, *A Double Dying: Reflections on Holocaust Literature* (1980, \$17.50, in print), and his volume, edited with Irving Greenberg, *Confronting the Holocaust: The Impact of Elie Wiesel* (1979, \$12.95, in print). In April, Professor Rosenfeld's translation (with Erna Barber Rosenfeld) of *The Murders at Bullenhusen Damm: The SS Doctor and the Children*, by Günther Schwarberg (\$17.50) will be released.

Recently published, and well reviewed, in the Jewish Literature and Culture Series, is *From Hester Street to Hollywood: The Jewish-American Stage and Screen*,

edited with an introduction by Sarah Blacher Cohen (\$22.50), a collection of essays on the Jewish contribution to the American entertainment world.

Two recent titles in The Modern Jewish Experience Series, edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, are *The Chosen People in America: A Study in Jewish Religious Ideology*, by Arnold M. Eisen (\$17.50) and *Our Gang: Jewish Crime and the New York Jewish Community, 1900-1940*, by Jenna Weissman Joselit (cloth, \$19.95; paper, \$9.95). These two publications indicate the direction this series will take in its subject matter: the historical experience and evolving adaptation of Jews to their surroundings, and to the conditions of the modern world. Announced for the near future in this series is *The Prophetic Minority: American Jewish Immigrant Radicals, 1880-1920* (no date or price yet), written by Gerald Sorin.

The Jewish community will be the focus of the Jewish Political and Social Studies Series edited by Daniel J. Elazar and Steven M. Cohen. Coming out in April this year will be *Religion and Politics in Israel* by Charles S. Liebman and Eliezer Don-Yehiya (\$17.50). Both authors are professors of Political Science at Bar-Ilan University in Israel and in this volume have realistically assessed the intimate relationship between politics and religion in Israel.

Planned for the future in this series is *The Jewish Polity: Jewish Political Organization from Biblical Times to the Present*, by Mr. Elazar and Mr. Cohen (no date or price yet).

Robert Mandel, when asked about the genesis of the publishing program in Judaica at Indiana, indicated that he felt there was a need for "an aggressive publisher" in the field. His plan is to acquire many new manuscripts from scholars in the field who are able to contribute both scholarly and non-specialist works. It is a field, he maintains, in which even scholarly titles ought to be accessible to the general audience for Judaica. Forthcoming ex-

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amples from the Press are *Jews and Christians: The Contemporary Meeting*, by A. Roy Eckardt, a synthesis of major issues; *The Jew in American Cinema* by Patricia Erens; *Sources of Anti-Semitism: An Anthology*, from pagan times to the present; and *Raw Deal for Jewish Refugees: Oswego, 1944-45*. Dr. Mandel would like to develop the Press as a major source for Judaica.

Although Indiana has taken center stage for the present in scholarly Judaica publishing, there is other significant action. The State University of New York Press (from which Indiana's Dr. Mandel came) recently issued three volumes in their Modern Jewish History Series under the editorship of Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore before their departure for Indiana. They are *Galveston: Ellis Island of the West*, by Bernard Marinbach from Tel Aviv University (Albany: cloth, \$49.50; paper, \$14.95); *The Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Jewish Communities of Morocco, 1862-1962*, by Michael M. Laskier, also of Tel Aviv University (cloth, \$49.50; paper, \$14.95); and *At the Crossroads, Essays on Ahad Ha'am*, edited by Jacques Kornberg from the University of Toronto (cloth, \$34.50; paper, \$10.95).

Under the editorship of Sarah Blacher Cohen, SUNY produces the Modern Jewish Literature and Culture Series. A title in this series that has received much attention is *Slayers of Moses: The Emergence of Rabbinic Interpretation in Modern Literary Theory*, by Susan Handelman, assis-

tant professor of English at the University of Maryland (1982; cloth, \$42.50; paper, \$15.95, in print).

SUNY also publishes an annual, *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, edited by Daniel Walden from the Department of English at Penn State University.

A poignant volume on Jewish immigration, documenting the Jewish flight for survival to America, has just been published by the University of Washington Press. *Let Me Hear Your Voice: Portraits of Aging Immigrant Jews* is photohistory by Mimi Handlin and Marilyn Smith Layton, with photographs by Rochelle Casserd (Seattle: \$19.95).

From Cornell University Press comes the paperback edition of *The Friars and the Jews: The Evolution of Medieval Anti-Judaism*, by Jeremy Cohen from Ohio State University, winner of the 1983 National Jewish Book Award for Scholarship (Ithaca: \$9.95).

During the Spring, 1984 publishing season, Harvard University Press will publish *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*, by David G. Roskies, associate professor of Jewish Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (Cambridge: \$20), and *Jewish Life under Islam: Jerusalem in the Sixteenth Century*, by Annon Cohen from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Cambridge: \$30).

Coming from the University of Alabama Press' Judaic Studies Series, under the general editorship of Leon Weinberger, is *Dori: The Life and Times of Theodor Herzl in Budapest (1860-1878)*, by Andrew Handler from the University of Miami (University: \$16.95).

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The University of California Press is distributing a recent volume of Hebrew poetry in a bilingual Hebrew-English edition, published by the Jewish Publication Society in their Jewish Poetry Series, under the editorship of Allen Mandelbaum and Yehuda Amichai. *At the Stone of Losses*, by T. Carmi, is translated and includes an introduction by Grace Schulman (Berkeley: cloth, \$13.95; paper, \$8.95). Other titles in the series are available from the Jewish Publication Society.

Evidently, the academic resources in Judaica and Hebraica are rich and the scholarly publishing contributions to the field are ever growing. Specialists should be appreciative.