

Recommended Reference Materials & Books

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With thanks to the dedicated and kind librarians at the
Mitchell Public Library

Jewish Women in American: An Historical Encyclopedia

Edited By Paula E Hyman & Deborah Dash Moore

(Routledge Publishing New York - London 1997)

It is a two-volume set. It is the most important reference resources ever published about American Jewish Women. There are 800 biographies who excelled in diverse activities as music, politics, social activism, art, the labor movement, literature, science, medicine, film, religion, education, and many others. To also include 140 topical essays that include histories of all the major Jewish women's organizations – such as Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, etc. Plus topic entries on the film industry, music, art, and the teaching profession.

Selected Informational Reads:

- A. Advertising and Consumer Culture Pgs. 23-32
- B. Assimilation of Nineteenth-Century Jewish Women Pgs. 82-90
- C. Assimilation of Twentieth-Century Jewish Women Pgs. 90-99
- D. Clara De Hirsch Home for Working Girls Pgs. 232-234
- E. Eastern European Immigration Pgs. 346-354

F. Historians Pgs. 638-644

G. Rituals Pgs. 1150-1154

H. Settlement Houses Pgs. 1231-1237

I. Suburbanization Pgs. 1354-1356

J. Yiddish Film, Literature, Musical Theatre, Theatre Pgs. 1523-1536

Please note Vol II of this series has an Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Archival Resources on the History of Jewish Women in America by Phyllis Holman Weisbard.

A Rosenberg by Any Other Name

A History of Jewish Name Changing in America

Kirsten Fermaglich

The Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History

(New York University Press 2018)

This first history of name changing in the United States offers a previously unexplored window into American Jewish life throughout the twentieth century.

A Rosenberg by Any Other Name demonstrates how historical debates about immigration, antisemitism, race, class mobility, gender and family, the boundaries of the Jewish community, and the power of government are reshaped when name changing becomes part of the conversation.

The Mauve Decade

American Life of the End of the Nineteenth Century

Thomas Beer

Vintage Books

Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc./A Division of Random House

First Vintage Edition, January 1961

(New York 1926)

Thomas Beer presents the morals, politics, society, and literature of the 1880's and 90's in America – and dramatizes the time period. Among the figures printed in these brilliant pages are Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Hanna, Eleanora Duse, Joseph Conrad, Ambrose Bierce, Stephen Crane, Stanford White, Anna Held, J. Pierpont Morgan, Henry George, Oscar Wilde, and William Graham Sumner.

How to be Victorian

A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life

Ruth Goodman

Liveright Publishing Corporation

500 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10110

www.wwnorton.com

(New York - London 2013)

Ruth Goodman is a wonderful guide to the Victorian era. The era of rapid changes in technology, science, social, political, and cultural ways. It is a remarkable journey to the everyday life for women, men and children – rich or poor. It is a reading adventure to be a part of the customs of the period.

Send These to Me

Immigrants in Urban American

John Higham

(The Johns Hopkins University Press 1984)

Originally published by Atheneum 1975

As

Send These to Me:

Jews and Other Immigrants in Urban American

To quote this notion: “In studying American ethnic groups, the most difficult and challenging task is the construction of a general framework for understanding a baffling variety of attitudes and an even greater diversity of peoples.”

His topics range from the work of the Jewish novelist Abraham Cahan to the Statue of Liberty. This work does focus on Jewish immigrants and anti-Semitism in America in which approaching ethnicity from a cultural perspective. It is a fine compilation of material on anti-Semitism relevant to social history, ethnic history, historiography, and historical methods.

Vilna on the Seine

Jewish Intellectuals in France Since 1968

Judith Friedlander

Yale University Press

(New Haven & London 1990)

This tome is the story of two generations of Jewish intellectuals living in France. The first generation is at the turn of the century (20th), emigrating from Lithuania and were educated in the Jewish and European cultures. Whereas the second generation – student radicals in 1968 embraced very different forms of Judaism which were based on the opulent traditions of Lithuanian Jews.

Families of Fortune

Life in the Gilded Age

Alex Gregory
Rizzoli International Publications
300 Park Avenue South
(New York 1993)

The greatest fortunes ever made and spent was during the Gilded Age. It was an immense period of prosperity throughout Europe and the United States from 1870 through 1914 unit the Great Crash of 1929.

This book is immensely illustrated and traces the rise of the great robber barons and those persons who rose from rags to riches. However, this book describes the world of castles being built, art collecting, yachting, and the various degrees of social climbing. The space between the rich and poor are depicted in this manuscript between 1890's and the 1980's. It is the story of a by-gone era – not to be forgotten.

Three Centuries of New Haven

The Tercentenary History

Rollin G. Osterweis

Yale University Press

(New Haven & London 1953)

This book is the history of New Haven in celebration of the 300 years in the development of New Haven from 1638 with the arrival of English Puritans. It covers the colonial changes into the growing of a modern city. It illustrates three vital themes: religion, education, and the drive for economic advancement and civic improvement.

Rollin G. Osterweis is the Associate Professor of history at Yale University and he is a lifelong resident of New Haven. He has written about the story of the persons who made New Haven and the city which they built through the passing of time.

New Haven

From Puritanism to the Age of Terrorism

Michael Sletcher

Arcadia Publishing

Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Portsmouth NH, San Francisco CA (2004)

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

From 1638 to our modern times, this book shows the prosperity, decline, and then renewal for New Haven. This city has been the wide screen of projecting the dramatic story of immigration, industry and defiance.

Historian Michael Sletcher is the editor of the Benjamin Franklin Papers at Yale University. A Commonwealth Scholarship award winner, visiting fellow at Harvard University, and lifetime fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, he taught colonial American history at the University of Cambridge and has published a wide variety of professional articles.

Well-Read Lives:

How Books Inspired a Generation of American Women

Barbara Sicherman

The University of North Carolina Press (2010)

Barbara Sicherman tells of a number of women living in the Gilded Age who became what they were to become and worked at a life full of purpose not only for themselves but for the life of others around them. Their profiles are an insightful pointing to their accomplishments. All of this decisive life is found through books.

As shown by the telling – “It is Sicherman’s masterful contribution to show that however the skill of reading was acquired, under the right circumstances,

adolescent reading was truly transformation in constructing female identity, stirring imaginations, and fostering ambition.”

The Bond of Womanhood

“Woman’s Sphere” in New England, 1780-1835

Nancy F. Cott

New Haven and London Yale University Press (1977)

The best description for this particular book is the following from the authoress herself: “Friendships between women here existed in all ages and cultures. But the diaries and correspondence of New England women suggest that from the late eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth century they invented a newly self-conscious and idealized concept of female friendship. This ideal became a subject of their conversation, reading, reflection, and writing. And in individual relationships women put their new perception into effect, making palpable the bonds of womanhood.”

Mortal Secrets:

Freud, Vienna, and the

Discovery of the Modern Mind

Frank A. Tallis

St Marin’s Publishing Press

New York (2024)

Vienna is one of most brilliant cities ever shaped in the world. Many of our own ways of existing all began in Vienna with the beginning of the twentieth century.

One of the most enduring creations was the establishment of the “Café”. Today as we live in many places all over the world a “Café” can be found for every ones need. Let us quote Frank Tallis in his Chapter 14, Coffee and Conversation to best describe the totality of this establishment the “Café”.

“The Viennese coffee house is steeped in its own legend, and many of its patrons were dreamers. But these patrons dreamed the modern world and their dreams ‘came true’. Today, to a very large extent, we live in their dreams.”

Great Jews in Music

Darryl Lyman

Jonathan David Publishing, Inc

68-22 Eliot Avenue

Middle Village, NY 11379 (1986)

This book is a compendium of over hundred major biographies and thumbnail sketches on the many professional careers of famous Jewish musical artists. It selects the many activities and accomplishments of these entertainers. Every aspect of music has been defined through this work.

The Big Bands

George T. Simon

Forward by Frank Sinatra

The Macmillan Company

Collier-Macmillan Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ontario

(Seventh Printing 1969)

When you want to “swing”, you find yourself in the “Big Band” Era from the mid-1930’s to the mid-1940s’. The sounds of Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Harry James, Tommy Dorsey Band, with singers like Doris Day, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald just to name a few in a long list of Big Band Era personalities.

Simon has created 400 biographies of those tremendous musical styles and how they all came to glory. You are made feel how it was to be a real “bobby-soxer”.

Plus this compilation can boast of 250 selected photographs from many private collections and information from *Metronome* magazine.

The Money Kings:

The Epic Story of the Jewish Immigrants Who Transformed Wall
Street and Shaped Modern America

Daniel Schulman

(This is a Borzoi Book)

Alfred A. Knopf Publisher

New York (2023)

Daniel Schulman recounts the stories of German-Jewish immigrants who made their way into creating and sweeping the financial dynasties in America propelling a modern financial system.

There is Goldman-Sachs, Kuhn Loeb, Lehman Brothers, J&W Seligman & Co. who were simple men as they landed in New York to become the largest investment bankers in the world. All the while, they encountered the anti-Semitic Gilded Age, the Civil War, World War I, and the Zionist movement which tried their empires and their identities as German-Jews as well as Americans.

Roads Taken:

The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who
Forged the Way

Hasia R. Diner

Yale University Press (2015)

Looking back into past times, from the 1700's to the 1920's Jewish emigration encompassed one-third of the Jewish population world-wide as peddlers. These

men traveled with heavy packs on their backs and traversed from one point to another of farms, of mining camps, and of homes, where ever they could sell their goods.

Hence, to this end, these men had left wives, families, and their communities only to endure new languages, different customs, hard weather at times, and most of all loneliness for the sake of, or trying to seek a new way of life. The peddler was a dynamic influence into the fabric of Jewish history.

Hungering for America

Italian, Irish, and Jewish

Foodways in the Age of Migration

Hasia R. Diner

Harvard University Press

Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England (2002)

As we define ourselves by our customs and mores, we also defines ourselves by what we eat. Hasia writes about the changes in our lives by the way we have been raised on our “foodways”. She shows how the conquering, exploration and colonization of the North American lands revolutionized the eating of Europe’s people. All these people were able to create new foods and new practices and then draped them into new traditions. They innovated within their boundaries. This book is exciting to read about how these three cultures also bended with one another as well.

Jewish Cooking In America: A Cookbook

Joan Nathan

Alfred A. Knopf Publisher

New York (1998)

This special cookbook contains 335 kosher recipes from Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews who made their lives here in America.

The Jewish food with its dietary laws govern their preparation and their consumption within the observance of Jewish laws into the binding of rituals from the past into the present. It is interesting that each and every dish has its own special story. Stories are from all over the United States. Nathan tells of Syrian, Moroccan, Greek, German, Polish, Georgian and Alsatian flavors representing those unique traditions.

The Little Encyclopedia of Jewish Culture:

101 People, Places, Things (and Foods) Every

Jew Should Know Paperback

Matthew Klickstein

Rockridge Press (2022)

This book is so delightful! It reveals items about food, philosophers, pop-culture, and some many more interests. There are facts on writers, entertainers, delis, and language.

This not only a book of references but a light-hearted read for pleasure and enjoyment. Plus there are many enjoyable illustrations as well.

The Stories Old Town Tell

A Journey through Cities at the Heart of Europe

Marek Kohn

Yale University Press

New Haven and London (2023)

The author was once asked “Do you have a favorite place in Europe?” The reply was a simple one – yes, “The Old Town”. For each and every town has cobbled

squares, Gothic works all over, color heraldry, narrow alleys and not many right angles. Koln feels the Old Town reflects the heart of Europe.

Kohn choose seven elegant but symbolic cities: Frankfurt am Main, Würzburg, Prague, Rothenburg ob-der Tauber, Warsaw, Lubin, Vilnius. This is a story of how these cities tried to protect themselves from the war but had to sub come to its destruction. However, after the war they needed to rebuild for the sake of the nation. The purpose was to retell the many stories of the past and then, with the reconstruction, these symbolic cities were beginning to tell stories for the future. This is a grand read.

Names of the Land:

A Historical Account of Place Naming in the United States

George R. Stewart

New York Review Books

New York (1972)

This book is a great writing of American History through the naming of our cities, rivers, valleys, streets, schools, country sides, mountains and even our whole continent. It is a study of the whole American culture by way of local knowledge and to include a global story. It has become a wonderful narrative read for any age.

The Landmark Herodotus

The Histories

Edited by Robert B. Strassler

Pantheon Books New York (2007)

Herodotus is known as the first historian to pen and chronicle the rise of the Persian Empire and its war with the Greek city-states. In his story telling, Herodotus includes anthropology, ethnography, geology, religion, various governments such as: Egypt and Scythia. He tells of cultures which no longer exist and their contribution to the histories of the world. Yet there are those who question the veracity of Herodotus. He has been deemed with a moniker of: “father of history, father of lies”.

However, this book has maps, annotations, and twenty-one appendices collected by Herodotus for his tome. It is comprehensive for a historian to have in their library.

Oyster Village to Melting Pot:

The Hill Section of New Haven

Dr. Robert M. Lattanzi

Pattaconk Brook Publishing

Chester, Connecticut (2000)

Dr. Lattanzi has created a wonderful book on the life in “The Hill” section in New Haven.

He carefully researched his section of life and how it was one of the great neighborhoods in New Haven. Lattanzi began with the very beginning of New Haven and its settlement and moves its growth and maturity into one grand city. He speaks about the Irish, Italians, Jews, Hispanics, and the Greeks and how they all contributed to “The Hill”. It is a great book to not only read but to have in your own library.

The House on Greene Street:

Life and Times of a First Generation Italian American

Leo Marino

www.ICGtesting.com

This book speaks to another great neighborhood in New Haven. He tells of the shopping area on Grand Avenue and continues into Wooster Street. He tells of its decline due to the Depression but how families sought to maintain a good quality of life. Marino recounts on the many memories of not only his family but other families who added to all their lives.

Families of Ancient New Haven

Compiled and Edited by Donald Lines Jacobus

New Haven, Conn (1931)

Originally published as *New Haven Genealogical Magazine*, Volumes I-VII

Rome, NY and New Haven CT, 1922-1932

Cross-Index, New Haven, CT, 1939

Reprinted nine volumes in three by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.

This type of compendium can be found in The New Haven Museum and Historical Society, New Haven, CT as well as in our Archives. It is a complete genealogical listing of the families in New Haven of those from the beginning.

Jewish Country Houses

The Tauber Institute Series for the Study of European
Jewry

Juliet Carey Editor and Abigail Green Editor

(2024)

To quote from the Amazon Book review:

An exploration of the world of Jewish country houses, their architecture and collections, and the lives of the extraordinary men and women who created, transformed, and shaped them.

Country houses are powerful symbols of national identity, evoking the glamorous world of the landowning aristocracy. Jewish country houses—properties that were owned, built, or renewed by Jews—tell a more complex story of prejudice and integration, difference and connection. Many had spectacular art collections and gardens. Some were stages for lavish entertaining, while others inspired the European avant-garde. A few are now museums of international importance, many more are hidden treasures, and all were beloved homes that bear witness to the remarkable achievements of newly emancipated Jews across Europe—and to a dream of belonging that mostly came to a brutal end with the Holocaust.

Lavishly illustrated with historical images and a new body of work by the celebrated photographer H  l  ne Binet, this book is the first to tell the story of Jewish country houses, from the playful historicism of the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire to the modernist masterpiece that is the Villa Tugendhat in the Czech city of Brno—and across the pond to the United States, where American Jews infused the European country house tradition with their own distinctive concerns and experiences. This book emerges from a four-year research project funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council that aims to establish Jewish country houses as a focus for research, a site of European memory, and a significant aspect of European Jewish heritage and material culture.

Shakespeare

Basics for Grown-Ups

Everything You Need To Know About The Bard

E. Foley & B. Coates

A Plume Book

Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC

375 Hudson Street
New York, New York 10014
Penguin.com
(2014)

This book has the following information on historical context, contemporaries and influences, theories about authorship, famous speeches and quotations, phrases, words that have entered into general usage, familiar and less familiar works and characters and a family tree. It is comprehensive.

The Victorian City
Everyday Life in Dickens' London
Judith Flanders
Thomas Dunne Books
St Martin's Griffin
New York
(2012)

It has been said the nineteenth century was a unprecedented time of great changes and those changes were very apparent in the great city of London. London grew from a Regency place into one of the largest and greatest city of all times. The technology discovered in the city was railways, street lighting and city sewers all of which transformed the quality of life. Dickens lived it, worked it, and took pleasures in it – the city of London.

Jewish Life in Philadelphia
1830-1940

Edited Murray Friedman
ISHI Publications
Institute for the Study of Human Issues
Philadelphia
(1983)

The city of Philadelphia is the site of one of the country's oldest synagogues dating from the colonial period. The 19th century, however, saw a marked increase in the rise of the Jewish community. This book covers the 100 period that saw the golden age of Jewish life in Philadelphia.

Sponsored

The Jewish Alchemists

A History and Source Book

Raphael Patai

Princeton University Press

Princeton, New Jersey

(1994)

To give explanation for the choice of this book reference the following:

“The vocable *alchemia* (or some alternate form such as *ars chemica*) appears in the West from the twelfth century onward in reference to the medieval quest for a means of transmitting base metal into gold, for a universal cure, and for the “elixir of immortality”...The alchemist’s quest was not scientific, but spiritual.”

Micea Eliade, “Alchemy” in *Encyclopedia of Religion*

...“ Alchemy ... treats the soul as a “substance” which has to be purified, dissolved, and crystalized anew,”

Titus Burckhardt, *Alchemy*

A Season of Splendor

The Court of Mrs. Astor in Gilded Age New York

Greg King

John Wiley & Son

(2009)

The period of the Gilded Age was between 1870 to the dawn of World War I 1914. It was the era of how the “Bluebloods” had to move over for the “Nouveau Riche”. It was a time of a new glittering society – from peddlers to be a part of “the 400”.

The account from King has a wonderful scene of wonderful landscapes, balls, cotillions, grand mansions with the account of the sinking of the *Titanic*. This is great work for any ones library.

It will become a grand sojourn of the splendor and the excesses of the Gilded Age!

Vanderbilt

The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty

Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe

Harper

An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers

(2021)

Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe are retelling the grand story of a grand dynasty – **Vanderbilt**.

Commodore Vanderbilt one of the golden ones in the Gilded Age with extreme wealth, lavish galas, majestic summer homes in Newport, the showing of unfretted capitalism, and the high society selected families. This book is a quintessential reading about a significant family.

Astor

The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune

Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe

Harper

An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers

(2024)

Another book by Cooper and Howe about another legendary American Family.

The Astors, from immigrant beginnings, developed their dynasty by ambition and invention. They too were a part of the Gilded Age ruling where possible through political and cultural life, but the Astors also had sorrow through the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 of John Jacob Astor.

This book was deemed the Book of the Year by NPR – it is a must read about those who lived in their lavish lives in a lavish age.