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YEAR BOOK

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## Preface

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SINCE the appearance of the fiftieth volume of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK in April, 1948, its function and contents have been subjected to a thorough re-examination by a number of authorities in the fields of Jewish and general scholarship and Jewish communal affairs, and the editorial and publishing world. These discussions have resulted in a reaffirmation of the primary function of the YEAR BOOK as a volume of reference summarizing developments in Jewish life and those larger events of Jewish interest. A number of modifications were suggested, however, in order to make the series even more comprehensive, authoritative, and usable than it has been in the past. In the present volume an attempt has been made to incorporate as many of these suggestions as possible.

To achieve greater comprehensiveness many new topics have been added, particularly in the review of events in the United States. To increase the reference value of the articles the factual information has been presented in as standard and usable a style as the contents would permit. In addition, the statistical material, previously appearing at the end of the volume, has been integrated with the main body of the articles. The articles in the section dealing with the United States have been divided into four principal topics, while the regional arrangement has been continued and refined in the articles dealing with foreign events. Finally, the present volume for the first time contains a detailed index, thus increasing greatly the accessibility of the information.

Though primarily concerned with the events of the year under review, the YEAR BOOK continues to present special studies on topics not susceptible of adequate treatment within the limitations of a review of a single year. Of special interest in the present volume are the first two articles, which contain a great deal of unpublished statistical and socio-economic data concerning the Jews of the United States. In the first of these, "The American Jew: Some Demographic Features," Ben B. Seligman, of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, presents the results of his analysis of fifteen demographic surveys of local Jewish communities made during and since the war, and compares the data thus obtained with a number of earlier local surveys published in 1943 in *Jewish Population Studies*, edited by Sophia M. Robison. In the second article Eli E. Cohen, executive director of the Jewish Occupational Council, presents additional data on the economic position and occupational structure of Jews secured from the files of Jewish vocational adjustment agencies and independent sources. The Editors hope to present in succeeding volumes summaries of whatever data on this subject may be produced through basic research.

The YEAR BOOK also continues to publish certain basic compilations, such as

obituaries, directories of organizations and publications, and bibliographies, which are much in demand and deemed useful in rounding out a summary of the year's events. Here, again, volume 51 contains innovations in the use of a classified arrangement for the United States national Jewish organizations, the extension of the directories to include selected national Jewish organizations throughout the world, and a more selective compilation of the obituary notices. These notices are in the present volume introduced by brief biographical appreciations of two distinguished Jewish leaders who passed away during the period under review (June 1, 1948, through June 30, 1949)—Judah L. Magnes and Stephen S. Wise. A number of lists, such as those dealing with anniversaries, appointments, honors, and bequests, are no longer being carried.

The Editor also wishes to call attention to the change in the format of the *YEAR BOOK*, by means of which it is hoped to present more material in a less bulky volume, without at the same time sacrificing readability to any appreciable extent. In connection with this change the Editor wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Meyer Wagman, of Kurt Volk, Inc., who served as typographical consultant; and of Leonard D. Weil and Mrs. Carol S. Diamond of the Production Division of the American Jewish Committee, who have been most helpful in connection with the typography, as well as with all the details of production.

For the past fifty years the *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK* has been a publication of the Jewish Publication Society—printed at its press and distributed by the Society. With the present volume, however, as the result of a special agreement between the Society and the American Jewish Committee, the latter, in addition to continuing to serve as editor, joins the Society as co-publisher of the *YEAR BOOK* and will also be responsible for the printing of the volume and the distribution of all copies not reserved for the Society's membership. The Editor takes this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation of Dr. Maurice Jacobs, executive vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society and Benjamin W. Huebsch, vice-president of Viking Press and a member of the advisory committee of the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee, in facilitating this revised arrangement.

In the preparation of this volume the Editor has enjoyed the splendid cooperation of his colleagues on the editorial staff of the *YEAR BOOK*—Jacob Sloan, Irving Kaplan, and Dora Cohen. In particular, he is grateful for the collaboration of Mr. Sloan, who did the major editing of the articles. Thanks are also due to Herbert Poster, Harry J. Alderman, and Esther Frid of the Library of Jewish Information for their assistance to the editorial staff; to Dr. Julius Greenstone for the preparation of the calendars, and to Ernest Maass for the preparation of the index. In addition, the Editor wishes to thank the following persons for their advice in connection with the two special studies: Professor Albert Abrahamson, of Bowdoin College; Dr. Max Baer and Robert Shosteck, of the B'nai B'rith Vocational Service Bureau; Dr. Uriah Engelman, of the American Association for Jewish Education; Nathan Glazer, of *Commentary*; Nathan Goldberg, of the American Jewish Congress and Yeshiva University; Harry L. Lurie, of the Council of Jewish Federations

and Welfare Funds; Walter Lurie and Samuel Spiegler, of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Elias Picheny, of the National Jewish Welfare Board; Professor Nathan Reich, of Hunter College; and Dr. Sophia M. Robison, of the New York School of Social Work.

The Editor is also grateful to the advisory committee of the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee and to its chairman, Professor Salo W. Baron, for their examination of the contents of the past volumes of the YEAR BOOK and their helpful suggestions in connection with this one.

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# Tables and Graphs

THE AMERICAN JEW: SOME DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES		Citizenship Status of Foreign Born in Jewish Populations	
Jewish Population Studies	4	Fertility Ratios of Jewish Populations	42
Age Composition: Percentage Distribution	6	Families Planning to Move	44
Age Composition by Sex: Percentage Distribution	8	Average Length of Residence	45
Age Composition: Percentage Distribution	10	Newark (city): Age Distribution	47
Age Composition by Sex: Percentage Distribution	11	Newark (suburbs): Age Distribution	47
Sex Ratios	12	Atlanta: Age Distribution	47
Sex Ratios by Age Groups	14	Tucson: Age Distribution	47
Marital Status	16	Erie: Age Distribution	48
Family Size	18	Miami: Age Pyramid	48
Newark—Raw Data and Percentage, Number of Children Ever Born to Family	19	Worcester, Mass.: Age Pyramid	48
Family Size	20	Portland, Ore.: Age Pyramid	48
Family Size: Percentage Distribution	21	Camden: Age Pyramid	49
Family Size: Percentage	22	Indianapolis: Age Pyramid	49
Labor Force—Newark (city and suburbs), San Francisco, Detroit, Buffalo	24	Utica: Age Pyramid	49
Employment Status of Jewish Labor Forces	25	Charleston, S.C.: Age Pyramid	49
Estimated Percentage of Jewish Population in Labor Force	25	Grand Rapids: Age Pyramid	50
Industrial Classification of Jewish Labor Forces	26	Toledo: Age Pyramid	50
Occupational Classification	28	Buffalo: Age Distribution	50
Occupational Rank	30	Minneapolis: Age Distribution	50
Classification of Professional Occupations: Percentage Distribution	32	Passaic: Age Distribution	51
Home Ownership	33	Trenton: Age Distribution	51
General Education: Percentage Distribution	34	New London: Age Distribution	51
Type of Instruction of Those Attending Jewish Schools	36	Chicago: Age Pyramid	51
Jewish Education of Adults	37	Pittsburgh: Age Pyramid	52
Classification by Country of Birth	38	San Francisco: Age Pyramid	52
		Norwich: Age Pyramid	52
		Detroit: Age Pyramid	52
		ECONOMIC STATUS AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE	
		Occupational Distribution of Jewish Males in 1889, by Percentage	54
		Occupational Distribution of "Russian" Immigrants, 1900 Census	55
		Occupational Classification and Placement of Job Applicants in Chicago, January-June, 1949, by Percentages	62
		Occupational Distribution by Religion, Madison, Wisconsin	63

National Religious Distribution by Occupation, 1945 and 1946	64	Countries of Largest Jewish Population	249
Total and Immigrant Placements in Chicago, by Occupation, 1948	69	Estimated Jewish Population in Selected Cities	250
<b>JEWISH POPULATION ESTIMATES OF SELECTED CITIES</b>		<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>	
Cities with 1,000 Jews or More (Estimates)	71	Latin American Jewish Schools and Enrollment, by Country	255
<b>JEWISH IMMIGRATION UNITED STATES</b>		Argentina: Distribution of Jews in Argentinian Interior	264
Summary of Jewish Immigration to the United States, 1908-1943	75	Brazil: Urban Concentration of Jewish Population	268
DP Immigration to the United States, October, 1948-June, 1949	76	Brazil: Occupational Distribution of Jews	268
<b>INTERGROUP AND INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA</b>	
Field Offices of National Group Relations Agencies	118	Distribution of Jewish Community	289
<b>JEWISH EDUCATION</b>		<b>DISPLACED PERSONS</b>	
Estimated Jewish School Enrollment, 1948 and 1949	157	Geographical Distribution of Jewish DP's, December, 1946-July, 1949	315
Enrollment in Kindergartens and Elementary Schools for 1948 and 1949, by Type of School	158	Countries of Citizenship or Ethnic Groups of the Non-Jewish DP's	316
All-Day School Enrollment in the United States, 1948	159	Geographic Distribution of all DP's, June 30, 1949	316
Annual Allocations by Federations and Welfare Funds, 1936-1947	164	Reduction in Number of DP Camps, December, 1946-June 30, 1949	317
<b>WORLD JEWISH POPULATION</b>		Caloric Rations of Jewish DP Consumers in Germany, October 1, 1948-June 30, 1949	319
Distribution of Jewish Population, by Continents	246	Resettlement of Jewish DP's, July 1, 1948-June 30, 1949	319
Estimated Jewish Population in Europe, by Countries	247	<b>GERMANY AND AUSTRIA</b>	
Estimated Jewish Population in North and South America, by Countries	248	Total and Jewish Population in Germany, October 29, 1946	326
Estimated Jewish Population in Asia, by Countries	249	Distribution of German Jews and DP's in Gemeinden (March, 1949)	327
Estimated Jewish Population in Africa, by Countries	249	Membership of the Berlin Gemeinde, June 27, 1949	327
Estimated Jewish Population in Australia and New Zealand	249	Membership in German Gemeinden, 1948	328
		Gemeinden Membership in Austria	333
		New Members of the Vienna Gemeinde, January-April, 1949	333

<b>POLAND</b>		Age Distribution, January, 1946- October, 1948	409
Occupational Distribution of Jews, 1948	342	Percentage Distribution by Age, 1948	410
<b>ISRAEL</b>		Number of Females, 1935-1948	410
Results of Elections for Constituent Assembly, January 25, 1949	396	Jewish Immigrants by Conjugal Condition, Sex and Age (1946- 1948)	411
Jewish Immigration by Month, 1948	406	Jewish Immigrants by Size of Fam- ily	412
Jewish Immigration by Month, Jan- uary through June, 1949	407	Jewish Immigrants by Occupation and Sex	413
Jewish Immigrants by Country of Birth	407		

