A bibliography of the scholarly writings of Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs (1920-2006)

Compiled by Michael Fischer, MA

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Acknowledgements

The core of this bibliography has been compiled as part of a MA thesis in Jewish Bibliography for the department of Library and Information Studies at University College London in 2006.

I consider myself very fortunate to have had the possibility to meet Rabbi Jacobs several times before he passed away. He had kept a reference copy of almost every one of his books and articles and happily guided me through that collection.

After Louis Jacobs’ death, his son Ivor showed the same enthusiasm for the project. He very helpfully provided me access to some remaining publications and later even posted several boxes of additional material to the Oxford Centre.

I have also consulted Dan Cohn-Sherbok’s bibliography of Louis Jacobs’ writings. ¹

Lastly, I am very grateful for the help of Stephen Slater, MA, formerly of Jerusalem, who checked a number of references for me against the holdings of the Hebrew University.

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Scope of the bibliography

This bibliography is limited to published scholarly works. Within this scope it aims to be complete. Writings of a more popular nature like those for synagogue newsletters, newspapers (Jewish and general) and magazines have generally been excluded.

The most important piece of popular writing thus left out was a regular column in the London based weekly *Jewish Chronicle* that was published from 1964-1985. The (anonymous) column was headed “Ask the Rabbi” and presented answers to questions on all matters Jewish that readers of that newspaper had raised in letters. Far more than a thousand of them have been written.\(^2\)

Most of the book reviews Louis Jacobs has written are short and not necessarily of a scholarly nature. I nevertheless considered them an important part of his writings. Firstly, because they are a good indication of his presence in the printed world. Secondly, because they show the subjects he concerned himself with at any given time. I have, therefore, decided to exclude only those reviews that were mere notes on the contents of a work.\(^3\)

Citation style, arrangement, cross-referencing, transliteration

The citation style follows the recommendations of the MLA style guide.\(^4\) Only in a few minor matters have I taken the liberty of adapting the style to achieve a (in my view) clearer and more easily readable entry.

The bibliography is divided into five sections. Within each of those the arrangement is first in chronological and then in alphabetical order. In the journal section the second level of order is journal name and the third article title.

I have provided cross-references for all relevant entries throughout. The only exceptions to

\(^2\) The best and most popular of these columns have appeared in book form in 1999 under the very title *Ask the Rabbi*. The estimate is by Louis Jacobs’, made in the preface of this work. The number is well feasible since usually more than one question had been addressed each week.

\(^3\) This applies mainly to the following reviews: Jewish Law Annual, reviews no. 459, 587 (vol. 4); 778,807, 825 (vol. 5); 1238, 1241 (vol. 7); 1337-1340, 1344-1359, 1395-1402 (vol. 9); 1691 (vol. 12).

this are the reviews. When a review of a book has appeared in more than one journal, a reference is made at the earlier dated entry but no second entry has been created. The transliteration of Hebrew titles follows the usage of the given periodicals. It is therefore not uniform.

**Abbreviations**

BSOAS: Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.


HUCA: Hebrew Union College Annual. Cincinnati, OH.


JJSO: Jewish Journal of Sociology. London.


List of full journal titles


Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.


Commentary. American Jewish Committee, New York.


Concilium: Revista Internacional de Teologia. Estella (Nevarra), Spain.

Conservative Judaism. Rabbinical Assembly of America; Jewish Theological Seminary, New York.

European Judaism, Oxford.

Family of man, London.

Forum on the Jewish People, Zionism and Israel. World Zionist Organization, Jerusalem.


Hebrew Union College Annual. Cincinnati, OH.


Jewish Journal of Sociology. London.


Jewish Quarterly. London.


Manna. Manor House Centre for Judaism, London.


Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry. London; Portland, OR.


The Tel Aviv Review.

Twentieth Century. London.


A. BOOKS

1955-1959


  2nd ed. 1983.


*We have reason to believe: some aspects of Jewish theology examined in the light of modern thought.* London: Vallentine, Mitchell, 1957.


1960-1964


A. BOOKS


Special Commentary Classic ed. [USA]: s.n., 1964.


1965-1969


A. BOOKS

1970-1974


2nd ed. 1980. [Repr. 1985].


[Danish transl. of *A guide to Rosh ha-Shanah.* London: Jewish Chronicle Publications, 1959.]


A. BOOKS

1975-1979


[Danish transl. of *A guide to Yom Kippur.* London: Jewish Chronicle Publications, 1957.]

1980-1984


[Republ. of *Jewish values.* London: Vallentine, Mitchell, 1960.]


A. BOOKS

1985-1989


1990-1994


1995-1999


A. BOOKS


Also available in electronic form as *Oxford concise companion to the Jewish religion.*

2000-


*Continuing the quest.* London: Masorti Publications, 2002. [Anthology with reprints of sections of various books.]


*Judaism and theology: essays on the Jewish religion.* London; Portland, OR: Vallentine, Mitchell, 2005. [Collection of essays, all but one previously published.]

*Rabbinic thought in the Talmud.* London; Portland, OR: Vallentine, Mitchell, 2005. [Collection of essays, most of them reworked versions of previously published material.]

*Their heads in heaven: unfamiliar aspects of Hasidism.* London; Portland, OR: Vallentine, Mitchell, 2005. [Collection of essays, most of them substantially reworked versions of previously published material.]


B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

1953-1959


1960-1964


B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

1965-1969


1970-1974


“Halakhah.” EJ. Vol. 7: 1156-1157; 1161-1166.


“Hasidism, basic ideas of.” EJ. Vol. 7: 1403-1407.


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5 Many EJ articles are collaborations of several authors. Where L. Jacobs. has written most of an article, only the name of the general article is given; where he has written less than half of an article, the name(s) of the section(s) he has authored has/have been added in inverted form.


Spanish transl. of latter publ. as *Valores del Judaísmo*. Jerusalem: Keter, 1981.


Spanish transl. of latter publ. as *Valores del Judaísmo*. Jerusalem: Keter, 1981.


Spanish transl. of latter publ. as *Valores del Judaísmo*. Jerusalem: Keter, 1981.


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  Spanish transl. of latter publ. as *Valores del Judaismo*. Jerusalem: Keter, 1981.


  [Not identical with the 1960 book of the same name. This contains repubs. of the articles “Judaism.,” ”Prayer.”, ”Sabbath, in the apocrypha.”, ”Study.”, ”Women, attitude to.” of *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Jerusalem, Keter, 1972.]


1975-1979

B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS


[Republ. of ch. “Jewish law: a synthesis” of first ed. of *We have reason to believe*. London: Vallentine, Mitchell, 1957.]


B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS


1980-1984


[Contains repubs. of the articles “Judaism.”, ”Prayer.”, ”Sabbath, in the apocrypha.”, ”Study.”, ”Women, attitude to.” of *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Jerusalem, Keter, 1972.]

[Spanish transl. of *Jewish values*. No ed. Israel pocket library. Jerusalem: Keter, 1974.]


[First publ. in *Encyclopaedia Judaica, Yearbook 1975-76*: 361-362.]


B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS


1985-1989


B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS


Rev. version publ. in 2nd ed. Vol. 5: 3547-3552.


Repr. in 2nd ed. Vol.6: 3774-3775.

“Jewish religious year.” ER. Vol. 8: 41-45.

Repr. in 2nd ed. Vol. 7: 4865-4868.


Repr. in 2nd ed. Vol. 10: 7003-7005. [Bibliography updated.]


Repr. in 2nd ed. Vol. 11: 7516. [Bibliography updated.]


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Repr. in *EMJC*. Vol. 1: 453. [Bibliography updated.]

B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

Repr. in EMJC. Vol. 2: 791.


1990-1994


[First British publ. of Jewish mystical testimonies. Jerusalem: Keter, 1976.]


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1995-1999


“Asceticism.” *EH*: 27.


“Cordovero, Moses ben Jacob.” *EH*: 72-73.

“Creator and creation.” *EH*: 74-75.


“Ecstasy.” *EH*: 100.

“Exegesis.” *EH*: 121-123.


“Free will.” *EH*: 133-134.


“Klippot.” *EH*: 265-266.


“Messiah.” *EH*: 311-312.


“Miracles.” *EH*: 316-318.

“Pantheism.” *EH*: 357.


“Rebbe.” *EH*: 399-400.

“Reform.” *EH*: 402.


“Strange thoughts.” *EH*: 471-472.

“Study.” *EH*: 472-474.

“Tefillin.” *EH*: 482.

“Tobacco.” *EH*: 496-497.


“Tzavaot Haribash.” *EH*: 511.

“Unlearned and the ignorant, the.” *EH*: 520-521.
B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS AND ENCYCLOPAEDIAS


[Republ. of Jewish mystical testimonies. Jerusalem: Keter, 1976.]

[Also publ. as The Jewish mystics. London: Kyle Cathie, 1990.]


2000-


C. JOURNAL ARTICLES

1949-1954


“Jewish attitude to artificial insemination.” *Journal of Sex Education* 2.4 (Feb./Mar. 1950): 177.


“The Talmudic hermeneutic rule of ‘binyan ’abh’ and J.S. Mill’s ‘method of agreement’.” *JJS* 4.2 (1953): 59-64.


1955-1959


“Greater love hath no man ...: the Jewish point of view of self-sacrifice.” *Judaism* 6.1 (Winter
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1957: 41-47.


1960-1964


1965-1969

“God, where art thou?” Twentieth Century 174 (Autumn 1965): 7-10. [Section title; article without specific title.]


6 ‘Current theological literature’ was a series of review articles.

"אלוהים איש ואלוהים חלור." פורים 11(תש"ז = 1957) 11-14.
C. JOURNAL ARTICLES


“Current theological literature: the problem of evil in our time.” Judaism 17.3 (Summer 1968): 347-351.


1970-1974


C. JOURNAL ARTICLES

1975-1979


1980-1984


C. JOURNAL ARTICLES


“Holy places.” Conservative Judaism 37.3 (Spring 1984): 4-16.


1985-1989


“Manchester yeshiva.” Jewish Quarterly 35.4 (133) (Spring 1989): 48-49. [Extract from autobiography Helping with inquiries.]

1990-1994


C. JOURNAL ARTICLES

1995-


D. REVIEWS

1951-1954


1955-1959


Kallen, H.M. “Of them which say they are Jews” and other essays on the Jewish struggle for survival. Journal of Semitic Studies 1.1 (1956): 87.


Buber, Martin. The legend of the Baal-Shem.


D. REVIEWS

with:


1960-1964


Plaut, W. Gunther. The rise of Reform Judaism: a sourcebook of its German origins. World Jewry 7.2 (Mar./Apr. 1964): 17. Reviewed together with:

Davis, Moshe. The emergence of Conservative Judaism: the historical school in 19th century America.


1965-1969


Goldman, Alex J. Giants of faith: great American rabbis.


Blau, Joseph L. Modern varieties of Judaism.
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- Grollman, Earl A. *Judaism in Sigmund Freud's world*.
- Bakan, David. *Sigmund Freud and the Jewish mystical tradition*.


- Rowley, H.H. *Worship in ancient Israel*.


---. *How can a Jew speak of faith today?*

1970-1974


- Pearl, Chaim. *The medieval Jewish mind: the religious philosophy of Isaac Arama*.


D. REVIEWS

Cohon, Samuel S. *What we Jews believe.* JJS 23.2 (Autumn 1972): 204. Reviewed together with:

--. *A guide to Jewish practice.*


Baron, Jeanette Meisel (ed.) *Steeled by adversity: essays and addresses on American Jewish life by Salo Wittmayer Baron.* JJS 25.2 (Summer 1974): 349.


1975-1979


D. REVIEWS


Elon, Menahem (ed.) *Shenaton ha-mishpat ha-’ivri, 5.* JJS 30.1 (Spring 1979): 137.

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Gordis, Robert. Understanding conservative Judaism.


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Also reviewed in JJS 34.2 (Autumn 1983): 216-17.


Also reviewed in JJS 36.2 (Autumn 1985): 264.


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   Repr. in JJS 36.1 (Spring 1985): 141.


   Bland, Kalman P. *The epistle of the possibility of conjunction with the active intellect by Ibn Rushd with the commentary of Moses Narboni.*


   Rosner, Fred (transl.) *Maimonides’ commentary on the Mishna: tractate Sanhedrin.*
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Rosner, Fred (transl.) Moses Maimonides' Treatise on resurrection.


Dienstig, Jacob I. Eschatology in Maimonidean thought.


Twersky, Isadore. Studies in Jewish law and philosophy.


1985-1989


D. REVIEWS


Mahler, Raphael. *Hasidism and the Jewish enlightenment: their confrontation in Galicia and Poland in the first half of the 19th century.*

Heschel also reviewed *JJS* 40.2 (Autumn 1989): 262.


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Goldberg, Harvey E. (ed.) *Judaism viewed from within and from without: anthropological studies.* JJSO 29.2 (Dec. 1987): 138-140. Reviewed together with:

Furman, Frida Kerner. *Beyond yiddishkeit: the struggle for Jewish identity in a Reform synagogue.*
D. REVIEWS


Herring, Basil F. *Jewish ethics and halakhah for our time.* Heythrop Journal 29.2 (Apr. 1988): 244-245. Reviewed together with:

 Bloch, Abraham P. *A book of Jewish ethical concepts, biblical and post-biblical.*


 Spector, Sheila A. *Jewish mysticism: an annotated bibliography of the kabbalah in English.*


D. REVIEWS


Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *The Jewish heritage. JJS* 40.2 (Autumn 1989): 262-263. Reviewed together with:

Zuidema, William. *God’s partner: an encounter with Judaism*.

Ellis, Marc H. *Toward a Jewish theology of liberation*.

Rosenak, Michael. *Commandments and concerns: Jewish religious education in secular society*.


Idel, Moshe. *Studies in ecstatic kabbalah*.

Idel, Moshe. *Language, Torah and hermeneutics in Abraham Abulafia*.


Greenberg, Simon (ed.) *The ordination of women as rabbis: studies and responsa*.


1990-1994


D. REVIEWS


Katz, Jacob. *The 'shabbes goy': a study in halakhic flexibility.*


Wineman, Aryeh. *Beyond appearances: stories from the kabbalistic ethical writings.*


Ginsburg, Elliot K. *The sabbath in the classical kabbalah.*

Ginsburg, Elliot K. *Sod ha-shabbat: the mystery of the sabbath.*


Repr. in *Heythrop Journal* 34.3 (July 1993): 355-356.
D. REVIEWS


Herring, Basil F. *Jewish ethics and halakhah for our time: sources and commentary*, 2. JJS 45.1 (Spring 1994): 144-145. Reviewed together with:

- Kirschenbaum, Aaron. *Equity in Jewish law*.
- Ben-Menahem, Hanina. *Judicial deviation in Talmudic law*.
- Fishbane, Simcha. *The method and meaning of the Mishnah Berurah*.


Loewenthal, Naftali. *Communicating the infinite: the emergence of the habad school*. JJS 45.1 (Spring 1994): 142-144. Reviewed together with:

- Foxbrunner, Roman A. *Habad: the hasidism of R. Shneur Zalman of Lyady*.
- Elior, Rachel. *The paradoxical theosophy of habad hasidism*.
- Faierstein, Morris M. *All is in the hands of heaven: the teachings of Rabbi Mordecai Joseph Leiner of Izbica*.
- Mintz, Jerome R. *Hasidic people: a place in the new world*.


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1995-1999


Idel, Moshe. *Hasidism: between ecstasy and magic*.


Lightstone, Jack N. *The rhetoric of the Babylonian Talmud, its social meaning and context*.


Jackson, Bernard (ed.) *The Jewish Law Annual, 9 & 10*.

Jacob, Walter & Moshe Zemer. *Rabbinic-lay relations in Jewish law*.

Levine, Aaron. *Economic public policy and Jewish law*.


Meijers, Daniel. *Ascetic hasidism in Jerusalem*.

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Kotler, Aharon. *Mishnat Rabbi Aharon*.

Lopian, Laib. *Neot arveh*.

Shmulevitz, Hayyim Laib. *Sha’are Hayyim*.


2000-


E. PAMPHLETS & PUBLISHED LECTURES


*The sanction for the mitzwoth.* Lecture delivered at the New West End Synagogue, 11th July 1963. [London]: Society for the Study of Jewish Theology, [1963?].


*Jewish national consciousness in the Anglo-Jewish national community: an analysis.* Jerusalem: [s.n.], 1981. [English digest of a lecture and discussion held on 18 May 1981 in Hebrew.]


*Symbols for the divine in the kabbalah.* Friends of Dr. Williams’s Library, 38th lecture. London: Dr. Williams’s Trust, 1984.


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