

(January 1994)

A Jewish bookshelf

THE JEWISH WORLD IN MODERN TIMES: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography edited by Abraham J. and Hershel Edelheit. London, Mansell. 348 pp. £35.

PRIVATE FOUNDATION WORKING IN ISRAEL (The Doron Foundation for Education and Welfare) by Eliezer D. Jaffe. Jerusalem, Rubin Mass. 325 pp. NIS 32.

NOT STRICTLY KOSHER: Pioneer Jews in New Zealand by Odeda Rosenthal. Waincote, Y. Starchand Press. 208 pp. \$26.95.

AS THE amount of research work on the Jew in the modern period continues to grow in quantity and quality, it is essential that scholars, academicians and laypeople have access to it. This is the intention of the Edelheits, in this extensive bibliography which they have produced.

The area of greatest interest for scholarly research appears to be Israel and the Holocaust. Yet there are sizeable entries for the contemporary Jews in all his or her manifestations, social, economic, political or religious.

There is a good selection of Jewish feminist materials as well, though it did not appear that the Edelheits succeeded to the same extent in finding analytical studies in this field. The selection of material on American Jewry and the American Jewish community seems quite limited.

The final point to be made is that all the material surveyed and listed in the book is in English.

THE DORON Foundation for Education and Welfare in Israel is a private foundation, established in 1981 by several families resident outside Israel. During the first six years of its existence, the Fund made 200 grants totalling 8.4m. The special areas of interest of the Doron Foundation are education (schools, scholarships and extra-curricular projects)

universities (research, welfare, educational projects and scholarships), culture (theatre, cinema, music and dance, museums and exhibitions, publications), and projects for the relief of the handicapped, sick and elderly persons.

Professor Eliezer D. Jaffe, of the Hebrew University School of Social Work, noted for his interest in and research on philanthropy, non-profit organizations and social policy in Israel, was asked by the Foundation to review its first six years of activities, and to make recommendations to the donor-founders about the future directions of the Foundation. Jaffe, in performing this task, closely reviewed the files of every grant that had been awarded. His abstract of every organization which had received the grant, and the way in which was used, became the basis of this work along with the summary conclusion he made.

In Israel, there is a growing trend for donors and private foundations to find ways to make direct grants and to study the effects of these grants in the programmes they support. Jaffe, a pioneer advocate in this field, notes that direct foundation giving can provide "intelligent, discriminating twinning of donors with Israeli non-profit organizations and volunteer groups," and lead to "unbelievable mutual satisfaction, implementation of basic Jewish values, and mutual respect for all concerned."

During this six-year period the median grant awarded by the Doron Foundation was \$25,000 – half received more than that and half less. Over a third of the grants were given to educational institutions of all types. This was followed by an equal percentage to medical, cultural and social welfare organizations. Forty per cent of the grants were awarded in the Tel Aviv area. Jerusalem was next with 27%, and followed by Haifa and the north with 20%. Beersheba and the south received only 8%, and other areas 5%. This distribution fairly well reflects the population distribu-

tion of the country, though the author suggests that concentration of cultural, educational and religious organizations in the Tel Aviv is reflected in the larger percentage going to that area.

A significant feature of the Doron Report is that 42% of the grants were made for innovative projects which did not exist previously.

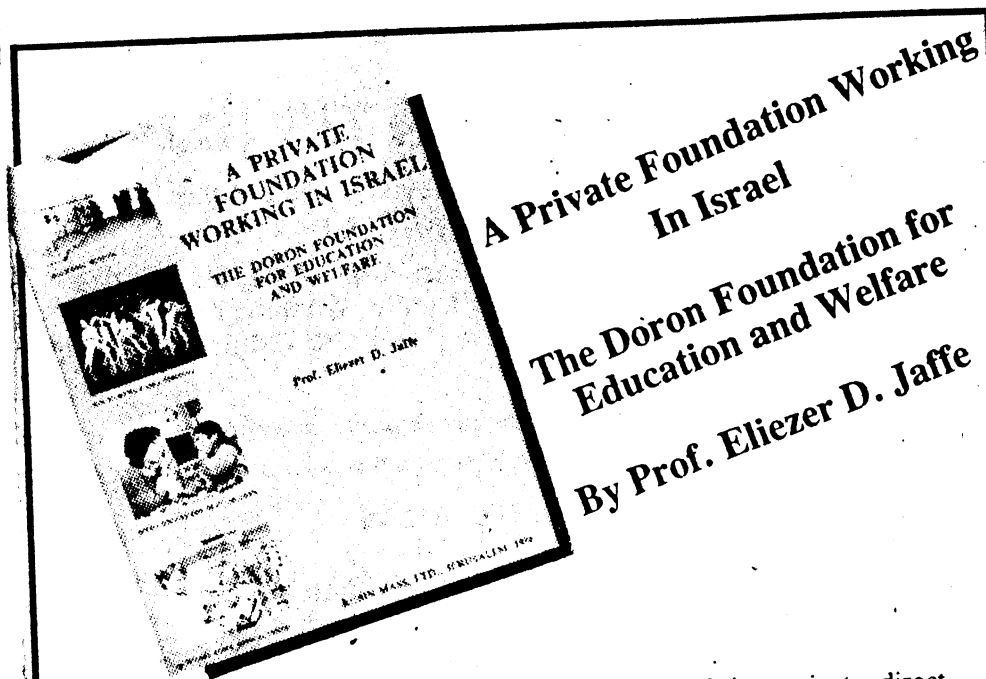
Any Israel group or organization which has an innovative project they would like to develop would do well to read this book.

THE FIRST Jew to make his home in New Zealand was Joel Samuel Polack, who arrived on the sailing vessel *Rossana* in September 1831. A 26-year-old ship's chandler at the time, he had been trained as an illustrator, and some of his work in that field is still known today. Polack became friendly with the Maoris, and they helped him to see the country. He travelled extensively through the hinterlands with a Maori guide, and visited places never previously seen by a white man. His travels resulted in a two-volume work, which appeared during the next decade, entitled *Manners and Customs of the New Zealanders*.

One of the earliest pieces of recorded banter in Auckland, where the first synagogue was established in the early 1840s, involved a Jewish lad and a Maori native. Thomas Keesing came to Auckland with his family in 1843. On his head he wore a *kippa* with a silver tassel. A Maori was so taken by the cap that he offered a baby pig for it. Supposedly Thomas had never seen a pig, and traded his *kippa* for it. When his mother saw Thomas proudly cradling the pig, she shouted *Chazer. Chazer. tfui Chazer*. Her son was so taken aback that he dropped the pig, and so lost both pig and *kippa*.

The reproductions of two early New Zealand *ketubot* from 1841 and 1846 demonstrate that there were people who could write these documents even when the community was a small one. Even today there are only about 4,000 Jews in New Zealand. At the end of this book, a time line gives the historic dates for New Zealand Jewry from its inception.

David Geffen



**A Private Foundation Working
In Israel**

**The Doron Foundation for
Education and Welfare**

By Prof. Eliezer D. Jaffe

Sophisticated donors are now directing significant funds into private, direct philanthropy as their major vehicle for innovative, accountable, and satisfying relationships with Israeli citizens and non-profit organizations. The Doron Foundation, which awarded \$8.4 million between 1981 and 1987, is an excellent case-in-point regarding how a private foundation working in Israel operates. From this experience one sees the wide range of organizations and projects to be funded and the far-reaching impact that private philanthropy can have on the quality of life in Israel.

This book includes a rare professional, objective analysis of a private foundation at work. The profiles of nonprofit organizations supported by Doron Foundation grants paint an outstanding picture of contemporary Israel and its dedicated citizens coping with complex modern problems with imagination, energy, and unsung loving care.

Softcover, 325 pages.

NIS 28.00