

Reviews of Nonfiction Titles for Adults

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Anderson, Gary. A, Ruth A. Clements and David Satran (eds). *New Approaches to the Study of Biblical Interpretation in Judaism of the Second Temple Period and in Early Christianity: Proceedings of the Eleventh International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature... 9-11 January, 2007*. Leiden: Brill, 2013. xiv, 302 pp. \$171.00. (9789004207431).

Since the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls in 1947 the interpretation of ancient Jewish texts has provided new understandings of both Jewish and Christian identities in our own time. The scholars whose work is represented in this volume examine the ancient texts from a multidisciplinary point of view. For example, Maren Niehoff and Serge Ruzer examine texts from the Letter of James with references to Qumran and other Jewish texts. Michael Stone examines the terms "canon" and "Bible" in the context of the period when the Torah acquired a special holiness.

As a book of papers from a symposium each chapter is a stand-alone article, and only a weak theme connects their presence in this book. Because it took six years to publish, some of the authors have published other versions of the articles in other places.

This book is for those interested in first century Judaism and Christianity and the history of Biblical interpretation, but the cost is somewhat prohibitive. Recommended for academic and special libraries.

Daniel D. Stuhlman, Malcolm X College Library, Chicago, IL

 Chernoff, Rena Margulies and Allan Chernoff. *The Tailors of Tomaszow: a Memoir of Polish Jews*. Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech University Studies Press, 2014. 208 pp. \$24.95. (9780896728790). Reviewed from an ARC.

Before the Second World War, the town of Tomaszow-Mazowiecki, in Poland, harbored a vibrant Jewish community. Nearly 14,000 Jews lived there, about one third of the city's total population. This community was almost completely decimated by the Nazis. Only 250 Tomaszowers survived the Holocaust. This is a memoir written by one of the youngest survivors. Most of these survivors were tailors and dressmakers, and it was their skill with the thread and needle, a skill useful to the Nazis, that contributed to their survival. Rena Margulies introduces us to her extended family in Tomaszow and to the day to day life of the Jewish community in this Polish town. Born in 1933, her normal life was soon to end. Her father, brother, and grandparents, as well as many of the extended family were killed in Auschwitz. Rena and her mother survived the Blizyn slave labor camp and the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. Liberated by the Russians in January 1945, she was 11 years old and in poor health. Returning to Poland and finding anti-Semitism very well alive, the author and her mother applied for a visa to the United States. It is in this new country where Rena built her new life and in her old age decided to speak about her experiences during the Holocaust. Well written and moving, this book is recommended for all synagogues and community libraries.

Sonia Smith, McGill University

Chiswick, Carmel U. *Judaism in Transition; How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press 2014. 248 pp. \$22.95. (9780804776059).

This a book about economics and American Jewry, and it centers around the question of how "economic incentives affect decisions about time and money and how prices and incomes influence whether a law or custom is generally observed or broken, whether it is viewed as central or peripheral, whether it is perceived relevant or outdated, and therefore whether it persists as part of the culture."

Chiswick organizes the book into four parts. Part I provides a background and contextualizes the economic situation of American Jewry in the year 2000, with regard to education, occupation and