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Review of Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia on CD-ROM

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As a reference book, *Gender Equality* presents the accomplishments of the Commonwealth and the partnerships necessary to achieve the priority concerns for each individual member country for the future. A drawback to this work is the lack of indexing and currency. On the other hand, for quick fact-checking about the fifty-three member countries, *Gender Equality* is the perfect reference book.

Note

1. See http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/20596/about_us/.

[Chimene Tucker is a reference/instruction, history (world), and film and media studies librarian at the University of California, Santa Barbara.]

JEWISH WOMEN

Paula E. Hyman, Dalia Ofer, & Alice Shalvi, eds., **JEWISH WOMEN: A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA**. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2007. CD-ROM, \$200.00, ISBN 978-0827608672.

Reviewed by Madeleine Charney

After five and a half years in the making, *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia* bounds into existence, presented in an innovative CD-ROM format. How apt that the image gracing the opening screen is a painting (*Adele Bloch-Bauer* by Gustav Klimt) recently recovered after being stolen from a Jewish home during the Nazi era. Like the rediscovery of Klimt's dazzling work, this new reference source reveals hidden treasures of Jewish women's rich and often invisible history.

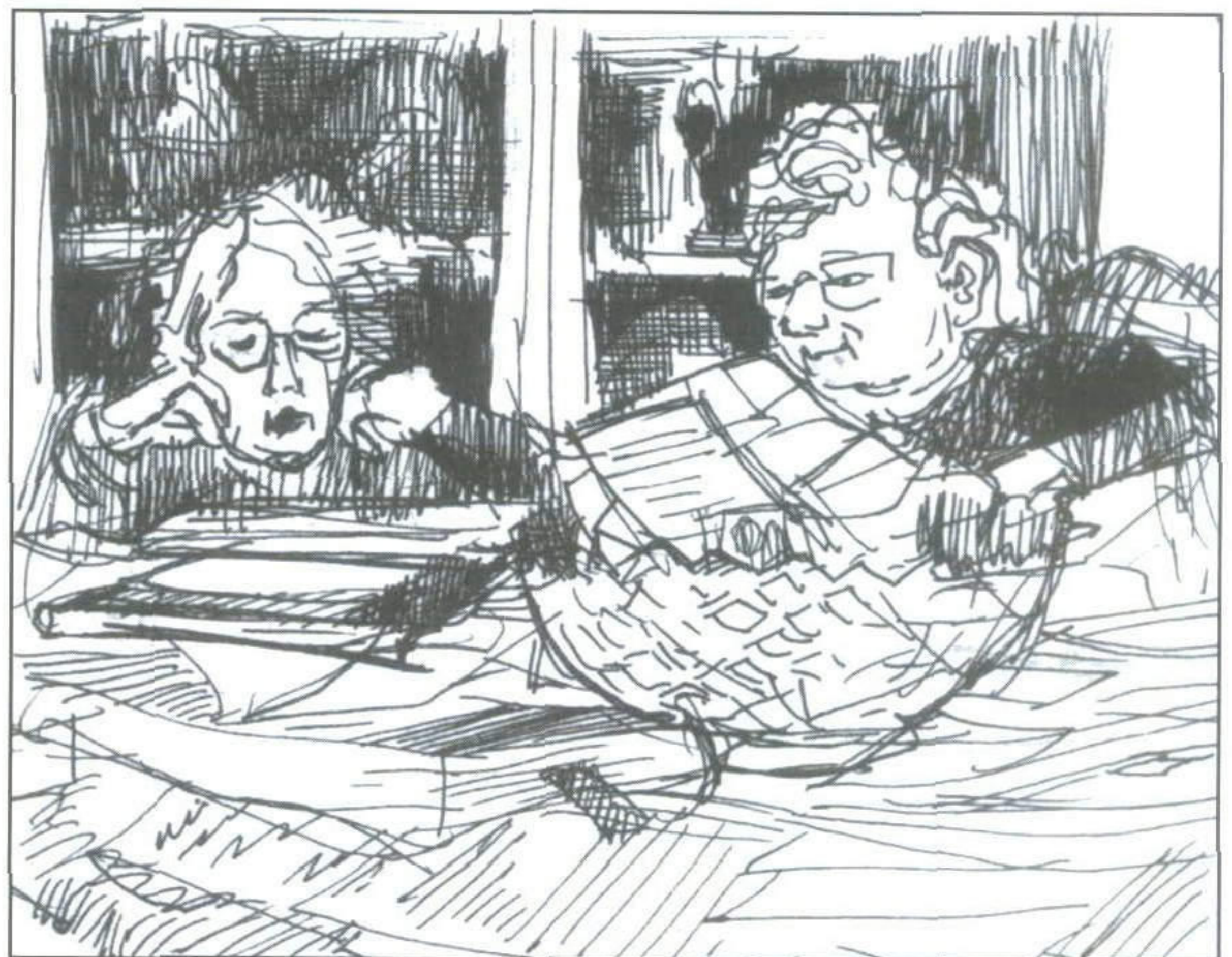
An impressive array of 1,071 contributors, both men and women, from several countries around the world crafted this monumental work, which attempts to cover "the whole Jewish world and all of Jewish culture from the Hebrew Bible to the present." Broadening the scope further, the encyclopedia's definition of *Jewishness* is not based only on Jewish law, which requires that a person's mother be Jewish. Included are daughters of Jewish fathers (e.g., Gloria Steinem), converts to Judaism (e.g., Queen Helene), and those born Jewish but who consciously separated themselves from Judaism (e.g. Robin Morgan). Also present are women typically excluded from standard reference works because their Jewish roots were concealed or not widely recognized (e.g., Bea Arthur, Ayn Rand, Kitty Carlisle). Since the focus is historical, however, inclusion is limited to women whose lives have passed and living women who are mostly over age fifty.

Colorful stories of glory and triumph intermingle with tragic strug-

gles, making for informative as well as emotional and inspiring reading. Diverse categories such as aeronautics, agriculture, anarchism, avant-garde film, holocaust studies, puppetry, theosophy, social reform, and zoology are threaded together by an extensive index. The straightforward yet lyrical writing style will appeal to the novice researcher as well as advanced scholars.

The electronic format is fairly simple to navigate and has several advantages over print. An advanced search option allows for combining time period, category, and country in the results. Readers can lithely search for keywords across multiple entries and cross-reference to related articles. "Mousing over" boldfaced terms accesses glossary definitions. Readers can look forward to frequent updates as living Jewish women continue to thrive and their contributions multiply.

Ways to improve this work might include the adding the ability to maximize the text screen, thereby reducing the need for scrolling. Integrating photos into the text, instead of using sepa-



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rate links in the adjacent frame, would enhance the reader's experience. The addition of a "back" button (instead of relying on that of the browser) would reduce the number of clicks required to move around in an entry. Adding subheadings would allow the reader to jump readily to desired portions of the text. And finally, mentioning the use of the CTRL-F key to find a word or phrase within a piece of text would be a welcome hint in the Help section.

The acumen of the editorial team provided the strong and flexible backbone of this ambitious project. Paula E. Hyman is the Lucy Moses Professor of Modern Jewish History at Yale University. Dalia Ofer is the Max and Rita Haber Professor for Holocaust Studies in the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Assistant Editor Alice Shalvi is a renowned feminist scholar, an educator, and professor emerita of English Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, among other academic achievements.

The comprehensive scope of *Jewish Women* soars beyond the geographic and historic parameters of its significant predecessors: *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* (Routledge, 1997), the contents of which are included and updated in the new encyclopedia; *The JPS Guide to Jewish Women: 600 B.C.E. –1900 C.E.* (JPS, 2003); and *The Jewish Woman, 1900–1985* (Biblio Press, 1996). Every academic collection should make space for this resource. In addition, *Jewish Women* would make a practical and thoughtful gift for a bat mitzvah, confirmation, conversion, or other rite of passage for a Jewish woman, for it is also simply pleasurable to peruse the lives of these powerful women and the pivotal movements and moments they occupy in history.

[*Madeleine Charney is a reference services librarian at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She serves on the UMass Faculty Senate Status of Women Council and is the liaison to the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.*]

SECOND WAVE FEMINISTS

Barbara J. Love, ed., *FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA: 1963–1975*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2006. 576p. \$80.00, ISBN 978-0252031892.

Reviewed by Christine Kuenzle

As editor Barbara J. Love declares, "This book had to be written" (p.xi). The success of the Second Wave of the women's movement was the result of a collective effort by thousands of people. This book aims to recognize the struggles and accomplishments of each individual involved in the movement. It includes the biographies of more than 2200 women (and some men) whose actions effected substantial change for women from 1963 — the year of publication for Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* — to 1975.

The emphasis on *individuals* is a departure from the style of many other texts addressing Second Wave feminism that focus on organizations and events to define the movement, instead of undertaking the momentous task accomplished here. Love wanted the book to be written mainly from primary sources, and the task of acquiring the stories of each feminist involved

was daunting. With the help of the Veteran Feminists of America and the Pioneer Feminists Project, questionnaires were distributed to everyone known to have been involved in the movement. Subjects of all backgrounds and ethnicities were sought out. On the questionnaires, feminists could list others they had worked with or heard about, and more and more people were contacted to contribute their personal stories. From the information acquired and other sources (listed in the book), biographies were written and then submitted to each subject for his or her approval before inclusion; these biographies have "ABS" (Approved By Subject) added. Biographies of deceased subjects or subjects who were otherwise unavailable were heavily researched through interviews with colleagues, family and friends, and many other sources. As a result, the book is incredibly inclusive, the only requirement being that the subject was a "changemaker."

Each biography is unique and interesting, focusing on the information the subject deemed most important. A photo essay documenting important meetings, gatherings, and protests held by feminists of the era is also included. The foreword, written by Nancy F. Cott, the Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library and the Jonathan Trumbull Professor of American History at Harvard University, places the women's movement of the 1960s in the context of other social movements of the time and in relation to the First and Third Waves of the women's movement. Editor Barbara J. Love is a member of the board of the Veteran Feminists of America, the au-