

## Jewish Books in Review

is a service of the IWB Jewish Book Council,  
15 East 26th St., New York, N.Y. 10010

**The Palestine Question.** By Raymond Carroll. Franklin Watts Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Impact Series. 1980. 90 pp. \$8.90.

**Golda Meir.** By Mollie Keller. Franklin Watts, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Impact Biography Series. 1983 119 pp. \$8.90.

Reviewed by Marcia Posner

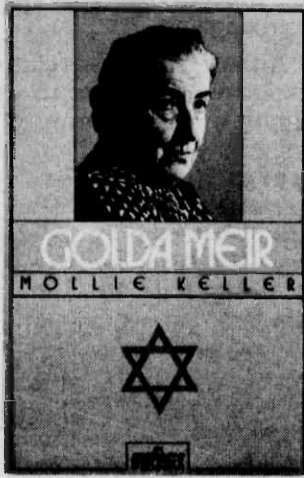
An understanding of Middle East affairs is difficult enough for adults. Books which can help young adults gain an understanding are especially valuable. Two new titles in the Impact Series from Franklin Watts are both good, in differing ways — one a broad, historical study, the other a personal, even intimate biography.

Carroll begins his discussion of *The Palestine Question* with an excellent, concise history of the region and the Jewish people up to 1897. In it he justifies the Jewish claim to the land. He shows that there were always Jews in the area, Jews who never left during the dispersions and whose descendants populated the area along with the Arab population until modern times.

By giving a thorough history of the area and the worldwide factors acting upon the participants Carroll clears up many puzzles and shows the British participation as glaringly at fault. The British promised the Arabs a land of their own if they helped the British to overthrow Turkey. They promised the French to divide up the territories of the Middle East if they joined the Allies in World War I. They wooed Jewish opinion in Europe and the United States with promises of a Jewish homeland, and rewarded the brilliant inventor of an explosive, Chaim Weizman, with the promise of a Jewish homeland. The result was that everyone had a legitimate claim and reason to believe that Palestine was theirs.

With the Holocaust, British insistence on mollifying the Arabs (who had sided with the Axis powers during World War II), as opposed to the Yishuv whose soldiers fought alongside the British) because of their dependence on Arab oil, was unforgivable. Carroll tells how ships full of Jewish refugees were turned back to certain death by the British and how British soldiers clubbed men and women trying to enter Palestine illegally.

Carroll also recounts the massacre of Deir Yasin by the Irgun under Menachem Begin on April 9, 1943; a move he says, calculated to make the Arab population flee. However, Carroll says, the Jewish leadership at the time and the International Red Cross confirm that the Irgun "had committed a



repugnant atrocity." It was these and other acts of violence against Arab villages which sent some 300,000 arabs into flight across the borders to neighboring Arab states. By the time the Arab effort to "drive Israel into the sea," failed, Palestine was partitioned — but between the Israelis and the Jordanians. The Palestinian Arabs had nothing. From that time to the present, Carroll traces the development of the PLO, the increasing hostilities of both sides, the Kissinger-Sadat peace negotiations and the current debacle in Lebanon.

Mollie Keller's biography of Golda Meir is personal and Jewish in outlook and tone. Beginning with the impression left upon Golda, the young child, by a pogrom in her native Russia; and continuing to her girlhood in America, where her talent for organization and speech-making was discovered; through to the socialistic influence of her sister Sheyna and Golda's certain realization that she must be a factor in the establishment of a homeland for her people, the book sparkles.

Dr. Marcia Posner is a library consultant and librarian, Jewish Center Library, Roslyn, NY.

## Yiddish Institute Has Fifth Successful Year



**YIDDISH INSTITUTE COMMITTEE**, From left to right, front row: Raizel Luski, Sarah Goldman, Lyba Pollard, Sarah Ackerman, Moishe Bienstock, Baila Pransky. Second row: Avram Luski, Yehudah Goldman, Yayneh Pransky, Gedalia Ackerman.

There was cause for celebration at the annual Charlotte Yiddish Institute, held in mid-May at Wildacres, Little Switzerland, N.C. It was the Institute's fifth successful year under the sponsorship of the Charlotte Jewish Community Center, with participating Yiddishists coming from diverse areas of the country (Calif., Mo., N.Y., Mass., Fla., etc.). The demand for reservations far exceeded the available number of accommodations.

This spirited response was a further indication of the renaissance of the Yiddish language and a source of gratification to those who have become identified with the Yiddish culture movement in Charlotte. The Charlotte Yiddish Institute Committee (pictured above) created a vibrant Yiddish environment at Wildacres and were heartily commended by those attending for this unforgettable experience.

Featured at this year's Institute were Diane Cypkin, lecturer, actress, singer; and S.L. Shneiderman, author, lecturer and editor for the Forward newspaper. Mr.

Shneiderman is writing a series of articles, now appearing in the Forward, elaborating on his Yiddish Institute experiences.

Plans are under way for the 1984 Yiddish Institute at Wildacres.

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