

American Ethnic Groups: The European Heritage. A Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations Completed at American Universities. By Francesco Cordasco and David N. Alloway. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, 1981. x + 366 pp. Index. \$17.50.

Anyone who works in ethnic studies quickly learns the value of *The Comprehensive Dissertation Index* (1973-) published by Xerox University Microfilms. Though awkward and time consuming to use, the *C.D.I.* has until now been the best available guide to the rich treasure trove of scholarship hidden away in American doctoral dissertations. Happily, Francesco Cordasco and David N. Alloway have produced something better.

Cordasco and Alloway laboriously culled from *C.D.I.* some 1412 doctoral dissertations (1890s-1979) broadly relating to "any facet" of America's European ethnic group experience. They arranged these alphabetically by author under five major headings: "Western and Northern Europe," "Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe [including all European Jewry]," "Multi-Group, Interethnic, and Related Studies," "Emigration/Immigration: History, Politics, Economics, and Policy," and "Miscellanea." They then annotated most titles, usually based on descriptions found in *Dissertation Abstracts*, and tried to record publication data for those dissertations that subsequently appeared in print. They also included, whenever possible, the volume and page number of the *Dissertation Abstracts* listing. Finally, they compiled a five page "checklist of selected published bibliographies [in ethnic studies]" and two indexes, one for authors (mis-labeled "names") and one for subjects.

Cordasco and Alloway are prudent enough to admit in advance that "some dissertations will have been missed" (p. viii). Some were. In my own field, I find valuable dissertations by Michael Rapp, Jeffrey Gurock, Hasia Diner, and Harvey Richman to have been overlooked, as well as several other older theses listed in Moses Rischin's *An Inventory of American Jewish History* (1954). The compilers enjoyed even less success in their effort to identify dissertations that subsequently were published. They missed many that appeared as books and made no effort at all to identify those published as journal articles.

In a work of this scope, such omissions are inevitable. Far less easily excused is the deplorably poor quality of the index. Cordasco and Alloway claim that "the Index of Names and Subject Index are the keys to the volume's use; and since the Subject Index is clearly more important, it has been made as complete as possible" (p. viii). If only this were true! In fact, the index omits such basic key words as agriculture, anti-Semitism, blacks or Negroes, charity or philanthropy, colonization, folklore, leadership, press or journalism, remigration, and perhaps most remarkable of all, women. Henry M. Muhlenberg, Elling Eilsen, Mary Antin, and Gerald L. K. Smith figure prominently in the annotations to various dissertations; these and many other names do not appear in the index. Even names that do appear in the index too often appear incorrectly. A student searching for Kathleen Conzen's dissertation will never find it, it is listed under "Cozen." The Central-Verein appears in the index as the "Control-Verein." And so it goes. All one can do is hope for a second edition, a better one. Mean-

while, we should be grateful for the volume at hand. For with all its imperfections, it is still a valuable addition to the reference shelf.

Jonathan D. Sarna
Hebrew Union College-
Jewish Institute of Religion,
Cincinnati