

## Jewish Lists

*Martin H. Greenberg*

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**Martin H. Greenberg : Jewish Lists** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jewish Lists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The first of a micro-genre By K. C. Burroughs I copyedited this entertaining reference book as a freelancer for Schocken in the 1970s (its first publication date was 1979). Its subtitle was "Physicists and Generals, Actors and Writers, and Hundreds of Other Lists of Accomplished Jews" (there are also some crime figures in it, like the legendary Mickey Cohen). Religious figures were deliberately not included, which would have made it a religious book, too lengthy and of little appeal to the Jewish parents of my generation who used to point to the TV set or the movie marquee and say, "Did you know he's Jewish?" I suggested adding Gilda Radner to the section on Jewish comedians, but apparently the author did not consider her famous enough at that time. Greenberg had originally titled his manuscript "The Jewish Book of Lists," in emulation of the popular series that appeared under variations on the title "The Book of Lists," compiled by David Wallechinsky, Irving Wallace, and Amy Wallace. Schocken either was warned by Wallechinsky's publisher not to copy their title or decided to avoid the issue by retitling the book, somewhat weakly, "The Jewish Lists." I suggested they pep up the list of brief biographies by adding text boxes such as one headed "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish" that included the Jewish creators of Superman-- supposedly implying that the superhero did not appear Jewish. Interestingly, today (1/3/13) in the New York Times an article reveals that a young Jewish man was the original model for the drawings of Superman ("Revealing Superman's Real-Life Identity" by David Itzkoff), causing me to look up this book on . In the process I discovered a book titled

"The Jewish Book of Lists" by Joel Samberg (Citadel, 2000) as well as "The Book of Jewish Lists" by Ron Landau (Stein Day, 1984)--apparently the publishers of those later versions of what appears to be essentially the same idea did not fear any reprisals for their choice of title. The 2000 book at least does list Gilda Radner. But Greenberg's was the first of this mini- or micro-genre.

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