

THE ELLIS ISLAND REVIEW OF BOOKS

There is a lot of "Ellis-related" print media available. A few of them are:

BOOKS

5. Ellis Island Guide, with Lower Manhattan. by Oscar Israelowitz. Published by: Israelowitz Publishing: New York, c1990; 103 p. : ill. *NOTE: see sidebar review.*

1. Ellis Island: echoes from a nation's past. A series of essays, edited by Susan Jones, and photographs. Published by Aperture Foundation, New York, NY, 1989. *NOTE:* Text accompanies a major photographic exhibition presented at the Ellis Island Museum in honor of the opening to the public in 1990. An Aperture Book, in association with the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, and Montclair State College. 149

6. ... If your name was changed at Ellis Island. by Ellen Levine; illustrated by Wayne Parmenter. Published by Scholastic Inc.: New York, NY, c1993; 80 p., col. ill. *NOTE: see sidebar review.*

7. Ellis Island. by Catherine Reef. Published by: Dillon Press: New York, NY, c1991; 72 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map. *NOTE: see sidebar review.*

8. Gateway to liberty: the story of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. by Mary J. Shapiro. Published by: Vintage Books: New York, NY, c1986; 275 p. : ill..

p. : ill. (some col.)

2. Ellis Island Historic District. New York (NY) Landmarks Preservation Commission. Published by: The Commission, New York, NY, 1993. *NOTE:* from a public hearing, November 10,

1992; 72 p. ; ill.

3. Ellis Island, Main Building (interior). New York (NY) Landmarks Preservation Commission. Published by: The Commission: New York, NY, 1993. *NOTE:* from a public hearing, Novem-

ber 10, 1992; 10 p., [6] pages of plates: ill.

4. Ellis Island: a pictorial history. by Barbara Benton. Published by: Facts

on File: New York, NY, c1986. 192 p., : ill.

9. Sam Ellis's Island. by Beatrice Siegel; illustrated by DyAnne diSalvo-Ryan. Published by: Four Winds Press:

New York;

London :

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Collier Macmillan:

c.1985; 86 p. : ill..

see sidebar

view.

BOOKS

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ALL OF THESE BOOKS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

One of the better books about the Ellis Island Museum is called:

Ellis Island, an illustrated history of the immigrant experience.

by Ivan Chernmayeff, Fred Wasserman and Mary J. Shapiro (Macmillan Publishing: New York, c1991). This book is "coffee-table" size and contains hundreds of photos of the exhibits and artifacts. It was written by the design team behind the museum. It is an excellent source of information for planning your visit properly. The book is now out of print, but should be available in your local library, and it may even be found in some "close-out" tables in larger bookstores.

On another note, there is a wonderful book for those of you who may wish to do "Oral Histories" with your students (see **PROJECT: Treasures from Home**). The book is called **How to tape instant oral biographies: how to tape record, video or film your life stories.** by William Zimmerman; published by Guarionex Press: New York, NY, c1979-1981-1988. Now in its sixth printing, this book contains all the information that you might need to do the job correctly.

Sam Ellis's Island by Beatrice Siegel. Tells the story of the man who gave Ellis Island its name. Sam Ellis was a New York City Merchant during the Revolutionary War Period. He was an entrepreneur who was not afraid to take chances, so he bought an island in the middle of NY harbor to use as a fishery and tavern and inadvertently became a large part of American History (somewhat ironic, since Sam was a Tory during the War of Independence.

Ms. Siegel also fills in the gaps prior to Mr. Ellis's purchase, and continues with the story after his demise, right up to the 20th century.

The book is easy to read, with lovely illustrations by DyAnne diSalvo-Ryan.

Reading level is approximately 4.5.

* One of the most controversial issues about the history of Ellis Island deals with the changing of names. According to the historians of the National Park Service, no names were changed at Ellis Island, whatever name was on the Manifest Sheet (see appendix), was the one registered by the inspectors. The names on all of the official documents had to match, and by arbitrarily changing the name, an inspector could invalidate the other documents.

This is not meant to cast doubt on the recollections of Ms. Levine's grandfather, or the many other immigrants who have similar recollections. History often has varied accounts of the same incident, and there is generally truth in those accounts, depending on the person's perspective.

However, if a name was changed, chances are, it was a choice of the shipping company's representative at the Port of Embarkation, NOT at Ellis Island.

... If your name was changed at Ellis Island.

by Ellen Levine,
Illustrated by Wayne Parmenter.

Although the title is somewhat controversial*, this book is an excellent way to prepare a class for a trip to Ellis Island.

The book describes, in a question and answer format, the great migration to America since 1500, but concentrates mainly on the Ellis Island years, 1892 - 1954. The book features quotes from children and adults who passed through the Immigration Station, based on tapes and transcripts from the Ellis Island Oral History Project.

The reading level is approximately 4.5

- 5.

Ellis Island by Catherine Reef, is part of the "Places in American History" book series. It is written in a straightforward manner, and concentrates more on the reconstruction and present-day Ellis Island, with a nod to the past. It is geared for grade-school, and it will give information about Ellis Island and immigration. There is, however, one correction to be made: the driving force behind the Ellis Island Oral History Project is Paul Sigrist, NOT Seacrest.

The **Ellis Island Guide with Lower Manhattan** by Oscar Israelowitz, is somewhat mis-named: Ellis Island only takes up 34 of 103 pages, and 14 of those are photos or drawings. It is a good book if you plan to see other sites nearby, and it does contain drawings of the original floorplan to compare with the new floorplan.

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