

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



JEWISH AMERICAN LITERATURE

美国犹太文学

MICHAEL P. KRAMER 编
HANA WIRTH-NESHER



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出版前言

《剑桥文学指南》是上海外语教育出版社从海外引进的一套研究、介绍外国文学的丛书,内容涉及作家、作品、文学流派、文学史等诸多方面。作者均为该领域有着较深造诣的专家、学者。

《美国犹太文学》是该丛书中的一本。

美国犹太文学是美国文学的重要一支,它同美国华人文学、黑人文学、印第安文学一样,是作为整体的美国文学的组成部分。美国文学的历史并不悠久,但却造就了一大批犹太作家。奥齐克·辛西亚、爱玛·拉扎罗斯、欧文·肖等早朝犹太作家默默耕耘,见证了美国文学的源起与演变过程。进入20世纪,美国犹太作家群星璀璨,大家如林,除了诺贝尔文学奖获得者艾萨克·辛格及索尔·贝娄外,还有伯纳德·马拉默德、菲利普·罗思、杰罗姆·塞林格、约瑟夫·海勒、艾伦·金斯堡、诺曼·梅勒、阿瑟·密勒等著名作家,在过去的一百多年中,这些犹太作家为美国文学的繁荣与发展作出了不可磨灭的贡献。

本书是一部专门研究美国犹太文学的论文集,收录了美、英、以色列等当代知名学者撰写的14篇论文。这些论文所覆盖的领域包括文学史、犹太移民史、意第绪与希伯来文学、大众文化、女

性写作、文学理论、多语并置、大屠杀以及当代小说,所探讨的内容涉及政治、宗教、种族、性别、意识形态、历史和伦理,其研究的着眼点则是犹太文学与美国文学的双重语境。本书卷首刊登的美国犹太文学年表与每篇论文所附的导读索引,是该领域进一步研究的重要指南。

本书的读者对象为大学外语教师,外国文学研究人员,外国文学专业的研究生、博士生,以及具备了较高英语阅读能力的外国文学爱好者。

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RUTH R. WISSE is Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. She is the author of *The Modern Jewish Canon*, *I. L. Peretz and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture*, *A Little Love in Big Manhattan: Two Yiddish Poets*, and *The Schlemiel as Modern Hero*. She has edited and co-edited several volumes of Yiddish literature in translation. She has also written widely about Jewish politics, including *If I Am Not For Myself: The Liberal Betrayal of the Jews*.

SHIRA WOLOSKY is Professor of English and American Literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Her publications include *Emily Dickinson: A Voice of War*, *Language Mysticism*, *The Art of Poetry*, and *Poetry and Public Discourse*, volume IV of *The Cambridge History of American Literature*, as well as numerous articles on poetics, literary theory, and feminism. She was a Guggenheim fellow in 2000.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1492 Expulsion of Jews from Spain.
Columbus' first voyage. Crypto-Jews said to be among his crew.
- 1654 Twenty-three indigent Sephardi Jews arrive in New Amsterdam from Brazil. *Shearith Israel* congregation founded in 1656.
- 1658 Newport, Rhode Island becomes home to Jews.
- 1722 Public conversion of Judah Monis at Harvard College.
- 1740 Parliament passes law allowing Jews to become citizens in British colonies.
- 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord. American Revolution begins.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence. Francis Salvador, Jewish patriot, killed in battle.
- 1790 Moses Seixas and Newport Congregation welcome President Washington to Newport.
Approximately 1,500 Jews in the United States.
- 1820 Jewish population doubles to 3,000.
- 1825 Cornerstone ceremony for Ararat, Mordecai M. Noah's planned Jewish colony near Buffalo, New York.
- 1826 Law passed in Maryland allowing Jews to hold public office.
- 1836 Jewish population stands at 6,000.
Immigration of German Jews begins from Bavaria.
- 1843 Isaac Leeser founds *The Occident* in Philadelphia.
B'nai Brith, a Jewish lodge, founded.
- 1854 Isaac Mayer Wise, *History of the Israelitish Nation*. Founds *The Israelite* in Cincinnati.
Lévi-Strauss sells canvas pants to miners in California.
- 1860 Jewish population rises to 150,000.
Wise publishes *First of the Maccabees*.
Abraham Lincoln elected President. Civil War begins the following year.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1862 Judah Benjamin, former US Senator, becomes Attorney General and, later, Secretary of State of the Confederacy.
- 1881 A quarter million Jews in the United States.
Pogroms in Russia. Mass immigration of East European Jews begins.
- 1882 Emma Lazarus, *Songs of a Semite*.
- 1883 Fundraising event for pedestal to Statue of Liberty. Emma Lazarus contributes "The New Colossus."
- 1885 Pittsburgh Platform, renouncing Jewish nationality, adopted by Reform rabbis.
- 1888 Famed Orthodox preacher Rabbi Jacob Joseph of Vilna becomes Chief Rabbi of New York.
Jewish Publication Society of America founded in Philadelphia.
- 1892 American Jewish Historical Society founded.
- 1896 Abraham Cahan, *Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto*.
- 1897 Founding of the *Yiddish Daily Forward* in New York.
- 1898 Morris Rosenfeld, *Songs from the Ghetto*.
- 1900 Jacob Gordin, *God, Man, and the Devil*.
Over 1,000,000 Jews in the United States.
- 1901 *Jewish Encyclopedia* begins publication.
- 1904 The Jewish Museum founded in New York City.
- 1909 Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*.
- 1912 Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*.
Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah women's organization to aid Jews in Palestine.
- 1913 Lynching of Leo Frank.
- 1914 World War I begins.
- 1915 Horace Kallen, "Democracy *Versus* the Melting Pot."
Founding of the *Menorah Journal*.
- 1916 Funeral of Sholem Aleichem in Manhattan.
Louis Brandeis, first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, appointed.
- 1917 Abraham Cahan, *The Rise of David Levinsky*.
Communist Revolution in Russia.
- 1918 Sholem Asch, *Uncle Moses*.
Mani Leyb, *Lider* (Poems).
Rose Cohen, *Out of the Shadow: A Russian Jewish Girlhood on the Lower East Side*.
- 1919 Moyshe-Leyb Halpern, *In nyu york* (In New York).
- 1920 Anzia Yezierska, *Hungry Hearts*.
Nearly 3.5 million Jews in the United States.

- 1921 Joseph Opatoshu, *In Polish Woods*.
Judah Leib Lazerow, *Mateh Yehuda* (The Staff of Judah).
- 1922 Ludwig Lewisohn, *Up Stream: An American Chronicle*.
Hebrew newspaper *HaDoar* begins publication.
- 1923 Marcus Loew and Louis B. Mayer establish the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corporation (MGM).
- 1924 Johnson Act restricts immigration.
- 1925 Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*.
- 1926 Edna Ferber, *Show Boat*.
- 1927 Al Jolson stars in *The Jazz Singer*.
- 1929 Anna Margolin, *Lider* (Poems).
The Goldbergs begins on radio.
Stock market crashes. Great Depression begins.
- 1930 Michael Gold, *Jews Without Money*.
- 1931 The Marx Brothers star in S. J. Perelman, *Monkey Business*.
Lamed Shapiro, *New Yorkish*.
Charles Reznikoff, *By the Waters of Manhattan*.
- 1932 Fannie Hurst, *Imitation of Life*.
H. Leivick, *Lider* (Poems).
- 1933 Israel Efros, *Vigvamim Shotkim* (Silent Wigwams).
Charles Reznikoff, *Testimony*.
Albert Einstein flees Nazi Germany, arrives in the United States.
- 1934 Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*.
Mordecai Kaplan, *Judaism as a Civilization*.
Tess Slesinger, *The Unpossessed*.
Daniel Fuchs, *Summer in Williamsburg*.
Founding of *Partisan Review*.
Baseball star Hank Greenberg decides not to play for Detroit Tigers on Yom Kippur.
- 1935 Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty*.
- 1937 Meyer Levin, *The Old Bunch*.
Delmore Schwartz, *In Dreams Begin Responsibilities*.
Ephraim Lisitzky, *Medurot do'akhot* (Dying Campfires).
Kadya Molodowsky, *In the Country of My Bones*.
Jacob Glatstein, *Yidishtaytshn*.
- 1938 Muriel Rukeyser, *Book of the Dead*.
Irving Berlin, "God Bless America." The song is sung at both the Democratic and Republican conventions the following year.
- 1939 Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust*.
World War II begins. First reports of Holocaust reach the United States.

CHRONOLOGY

- Jewish population nears 4,000,000.
- 1943 Jacob Glatstein, *Gedenklider* (Memory Poems).
- 1945 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Family Moskat*.
Founding of *Commentary* magazine.
- 1946 Isaac Rosenfeld, *Passage from Home*.
Jo Sinclair, *Wasteland*.
Sholem Asch, *East River*.
- 1947 Laura Hobson, *Gentleman's Agreement*.
Arthur Miller, *All My Sons*.
5,000,000 Jews in the United States.
- 1948 Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions*.
Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*.
Israel declares independence. War with neighboring Arab states.
- 1949 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*.
Ephraim Lisitsky, *Eleh toledot adam* (*In the Grip of Cross-Currents*).
- 1950 Lionel Trilling, *The Liberal Imagination*.
Your Show of Shows premieres on NBC.
- 1951 Alfred Kazin, *A Walker in the City*.
Julius and Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage for the Soviet Union. Sentenced to death by Judge Irving Kaufman. Executed in 1953.
- 1952 Leslie Fiedler, *An End to Innocence*.
- 1953 Isaac Bashevis Singer, "Gimpel the Fool."
Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*. First National Book Award to Jewish writer.
- 1955 Herman Wouk, *Marjorie Morningstar*.
- 1956 Saul Bellow, *Seize the Day*.
Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in Search of Man*.
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*.
The Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank) opens on Broadway.
- 1957 Bernard Malamud, *The Assistant*.
- 1958 Bernard Malamud, *The Magic Barrel*.
Karl Shapiro, *Poems of a Jew*.
John Hollander, *A Crackling of Thorns*.
Leon Uris, *Exodus*.
- 1959 Grace Paley, *Little Disturbances of Man*.
Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus*.
First appearance of satirical comic strip "Feiffer" by Jules Feiffer.
- 1960 Eli Wiesel, *Night*.
- 1961 Tillie Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle*.
Allen Ginsberg, *Kaddish and Other Poems*.
Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*.

- Edward Wallant, *The Pawnbroker*.
Eichmann trial in Jerusalem.
- 1963 Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*. Three years later co-founds the National Organization for Women (NOW).
- 1964 Saul Bellow, *Herzog*.
Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Cheney murdered in Mississippi.
Fiddler on the Roof opens on Broadway.
- 1965 Lionel Trilling, *Beyond Culture*.
Norman Mailer, *An American Dream*.
Bob Dylan, "Like a Rolling Stone."
Neil Simon, *The Odd Couple*.
Joseph B. Soloveitchik, "The Lonely Man of Faith."
Vatican Council repudiates Jewish collective guilt for execution of Jesus.
- Sandy Koufax refuses to pitch in the World Series on Yom Kippur.
- 1966 Eli Wiesel, *The Jews of Silence*.
Louis Zukofsky, *All the Collected Short Poems*.
Susan Sontag, *Against Interpretation*.
- 1967 Chaim Potok, *The Chosen*.
The Six-Day War in Israel.
- 1968 Barbra Streisand stars in *Funny Girl*.
- 1969 Philip Roth, *Portnoy's Complaint*.
- 1970 Saul Bellow, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*.
- 1971 Adrienne Rich, *When We Dead Awaken*.
E. L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*.
Cynthia Ozick, *The Pagan Rabbi*.
- 1972 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Enemies, A Love Story*.
Lionel Trilling, *Sincerity and Authenticity*.
Leslie Fiedler, *To the Gentiles*.
First woman ordained as Reform rabbi.
- 1973 Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck*.
Maxine Kumin, *Up Country*.
Erica Jong, *Fear of Flying*.
Harold Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*.
The Jewish Catalog: A Do It Yourself Kit.
Henry Kissinger is first Jew to be appointed Secretary of State.
Yom Kippur War in Israel.
- 1974 Grace Paley, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*.
- 1975 E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*.

- David Mamet, *American Buffalo*.
 Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Puritan Origins of the American Self*.
- 1976 Irving Howe, *World of Our Fathers*.
 Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*.
 Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to Saul Bellow.
- 1977 Irving Howe, ed. *Jewish American Stories*.
 Woody Allen, *Annie Hall*.
- 1978 Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to Isaac Bashevis Singer.
- 1979 Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer*.
- 1980 Cynthia Ozick, *The Shawl*.
 Geoffrey Hartman, *Criticism in the Wilderness*.
 Jewish population close to 6,000,000.
- 1982 Kate Simon, *Bronx Primitive*.
 Adrienne Rich, "Split at the Root, An Essay on Jewish Identity."
- 1984 Robert Pinsky, *The History of My Heart*.
- 1985 Lore Segal, *Her First American*.
- 1986 Art Spiegelman, *MAUS, a Survivor's Tale*.
 Benjamin and Barbara Harshav, eds. *American Yiddish Poetry*.
 Sanford Budick and Geoffrey Hartman, eds., *Midrash and Literature*.
 Founding of *Tikkun* magazine.
- 1987 Philip Roth, *The Counterlife*.
 Jorie Graham, *The End of Beauty*.
 Jonathan Pollard convicted of spying for Israel.
- 1988 Wendy Wasserstein, *The Heidi Chronicles*.
- 1989 Howard Nemerov first Jew appointed Poet Laureate of the United States.
 First *Seinfeld* episode.
- 1990 Irena Klepfisz, *A Few Words in the Mother Tongue*.
 Joyce Antler, ed. *America and I: Short Stories by American Jewish Women Writers*.
- 1993 Rebecca Goldstein, *Strange Attractors*.
 Opening of Holocaust Museum in Washington.
- 1994 Henry Roth, *Mercy of a Rude Stream*.
 Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*.
 Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* wins Academy Award.
- 1995 Melvin Bukiet, *While the Messiah Tarries*.
 Victor Perera, *The Cross and the Pear Tree, A Sephardic Journey*.
- 1996 Thane Rosenbaum, *Elijah Visible*.
 "Too Jewish?: Challenging Traditional Identities" opens at The Jewish Museum, New York.

CHRONOLOGY

President Bill Clinton attends funeral of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

1997 Cynthia Ozick, *The Puttermesser Papers*.

Philip Roth, *American Pastoral*.

Allegra Goodman, *Kaaterskill Falls*.

Aryeh Lev Stollman, *The Far Euphrates*.

Diane Matza, ed. *Sephardic-American Voices*.

1999 Jaqueline Osherow, *Dead Man's Praise*.

Marge Piercy, *The Art of Blessing the Day*.

Joseph Lieberman is Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate.

2000 Philip Roth, *The Human Stain*.

Saul Bellow, *Ravelstein*.

2001 Bob Dylan, *Love and Theft*.

Publication of *Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology*.

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