

**HOW YIDDISH
CHANGED AMERICA
AND HOW AMERICA
CHANGED YIDDISH**

Edited by Ilan Stavans and Josh Lambert

RESTLESS BOOKS
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Contents

Preface: The Old in the New xv
ILAN STAVANS AND JOSH LAMBERT

Time Line: Yiddish in America xxv

PART I: POLITICS AND POSSIBILITY

A Ghetto Wedding 7
ABRAHAM CAHAN *fiction*

The First Shock 23
IRVING HOWE *essay*

Letter to the Forverts Editor 27
YESHAYE KATOVSKI, TRANSLATED BY EDDY PORTNOY *letter*

Against Marriage as Private Possession 29
EMMA GOLDMAN *speech*

from Di goldene medine 36
WILLIAM GROPPER *cartoons*

March of the Jobless Corps 40
DANIEL KAHN, ADAPTED BY MORDECHAI GEBIRTIG *poem*

Di Freiheit, A Personal Reflection 42
PAUL BUHLE *essay*

from The Jewish Unions in America 46
BERNARD WEINSTEIN,
TRANSLATED BY MAURICE WOLFTHAL *essay*

The Triangle Fire 52
MORRIS ROSENFELD, TRANSLATED BY LEON STEIN *poem*

<i>from</i> God of Vengeance	55
SHOLEM ASCH, TRANSLATED BY JOACHIM NEUGROSCHEL	<i>play</i>
On Zuni Maud	71
EDDY PORTNOY	<i>essay</i>
The Bitter Drop	80
LOLA	<i>cartoon</i>

PART II: THE MOTHER TONGUE REMIXED

Is Hebrew Male and Yiddish Female?	87
NAOMI SEIDMAN	<i>essay</i>
The Maximalist's Daughter	95
AARON LANSKY AND GITL SCHAECHTER-VISWANATH	<i>dialogue</i>
Shopping for Yiddish in Boro Park	103
JEFFREY SHANDLER	<i>essay</i>
O, R*O*S*T*E*N, My R*O*S*T*E*N!	114
ILAN STAVANS	<i>essay</i>
A Guide to Yiddish Sayings	126
SHIRLEY KUMOVE	<i>wordplay</i>
The Artificial Elephant	131
STANLEY SIEGELMAN	<i>poem</i>

PART III: EAT, ENJOY, AND FORGET

Kosher Chinese?	139
MATTHEW GOODMAN	<i>essay</i>
A Little Taste	147
AARON LANSKY	<i>memoir</i>

Carp, Rugelach, Egg Creams	149
ARTHUR KLEIN, ALICE AHART, LISA NEWMAN, ALBERT BERKOWITZ, DANIEL OKRENT <i>memories</i>	
The Baker and the Beggar	153
KADYA MOLODOWSKY, TRANSLATED BY MIRIAM UDEL <i>fiction</i>	
On Bagels, Gefilte Fish, and Cholent	157
ASYA VAISMAN SCHULMAN <i>lexicon</i>	
Crisco Recipes for the Jewish Housewife	161
PROCTER & GAMBLE <i>recipes</i>	
Holy Mole and Kamish!	165
ALISON SPARKS <i>recipes</i>	
Hering mit pateytes	169
ISADORE LILLIAN, TRANSLATED BY JANE PEPPLER <i>song</i>	

PART IV: AMERICAN COMMEMORATION

The Cafeteria	177
ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER, TRANSLATED BY DOROTHEA STRAUS <i>fiction</i>	
How Does It Feel to Be a Yiddish Writer in America?	195
ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER <i>essay</i>	
Literature, It's Like Orgasm!	201
JANET HADDA, KENNETH TURAN, ANITA NORICH, AARON LANSKY, ILAN STAVANS, RIVKA GALCHEN <i>appreciation</i>	
Epitaph, My Home, Girls in Crotona Park, and Unhappy	207
ANNA MARGOLIN, TRANSLATED BY MAIA EVRONA AND SHIRLEY KUMOVE <i>poems</i>	
I Will Run Away, You Beam, I'm Beaming, and White as the Snow on the Alps	212
CELIA DROPKIN, TRANSLATED BY GENE ZEIGER AND MAIA EVRONA <i>poems</i>	

Summoned Home	216
JACOB GLATSTEIN, TRANSLATED BY MAIER DESHELL <i>fiction</i>	
Madame	223
MOYSHE-LEYB HALPERN, TRANSLATED BY AARON RUBINSTEIN <i>poem</i>	
from Across America	226
PERETZ HIRSCHBEIN, TRANSLATED BY JESSICA KIRZANE <i>memoir</i>	
Oedipus in Brooklyn	229
BLUME LEMPEL, TRANSLATED BY ELLEN CASSEDY AND YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB <i>fiction</i>	
The New House	240
ROKHL KORN, TRANSLATED BY SEYMOUR LEVITAN <i>fiction</i>	
Woe Is Me that My City Is Now Only a Memory	247
CHAIM GRADE, TRANSLATED BY BARNETT ZUMOFF <i>poem</i>	
Coney Island	250
VICTOR PACKER, TRANSLATED BY HENRY SAPOZNIK <i>poem</i>	
from Messiah in America	260
MOYSHE NADIR, TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO <i>play</i>	
Pour Out Thy Wrath	273
LAMED SHAPIRO, TRANSLATED BY HEATHER VALENCIA <i>fiction</i>	
Mr. Friedkin and Shoshana	282
JOSEPH OPATOSHU, TRANSLATED BY SHULAMITH BERGER <i>fiction</i>	
God of Mercy	291
DAVID FRISCHMANN, TRANSLATED BY BINYOMIN WEINER <i>parody</i>	
Torture	296
MALKA HEIFETZ-TUSSMAN, TRANSLATED BY JACK HIRSCHMAN <i>poem</i>	

PART V: OY, THE CHILDREN!

Goodbye and Good Luck	303
GRACE PALEY <i>fiction</i>	
Sholem Aleichem's Revolution	314
CYNTHIA OZICK <i>essay</i>	
Prisoner on the Hell Planet: A Case History	340
ART SPIEGELMAN <i>cartoon</i>	
To Aunt Rose	345
ALLEN GINSBERG <i>poem</i>	
On Maurice Sendak's <i>Vilde khayes!</i>	348
ILAN STAVANS <i>essay</i>	
Mama Goes Where Papa Goes	353
SOPHIE TUCKER, TRANSLATED BY ADAH HETKO <i>song</i>	
On Being Indecent	356
PAULA VOGEL AND VICTORIA MYERS <i>dialogue</i>	
Yiddish Hollywood	363
FYVUSH FINKEL, WALTER MATTHAU, ALAN ALDA, ELLIOTT GOULD, ALAN KING, JERRY STILLER, JOAN MICKLIN SILVER, LEONARD NIMOY <i>oral history</i>	
<i>from</i> A Bintel Brief: Love and Longing in Old New York	371
LIANA FINCK <i>cartoon</i>	
Singer: A Purim Parody	381
ANONYMOUS <i>parody</i>	
Dedications to <i>Bashert</i>	384
IRENA KLEPFISZ <i>poem</i>	
<i>from</i> The Yiddish Policemen's Union	389
MICHAEL CHABON <i>fiction</i>	
Between Vilna and Dixie	396
STEVE STERN AND ANDREW FURMAN <i>dialogue</i>	

Stan Mack's Chronicles of Circumcision	408
STAN MACK <i>cartoon</i>	

PART VI: THE OTHER AMERICAS

A Room Named Ruth	414
RUTH BEHAR <i>memoir</i>	
Flies and Little People (From a Trip to the West)	424
JOSEPH GOODMAN, TRANSLATED BY HANNAH BERLINER FISCHTHAL <i>essay</i>	
Popocatépetl	428
ISAAC BERLINER, TRANSLATED BY ILAN STAVANS <i>poem</i>	
Bontshe Shvayg in Lethbridge	431
GOLDIE MORGENTALER <i>essay</i>	
The Yiddish Terrorist	439
CLAUDIA MIRELSTEIN, TRANSLATED BY BERNARD LEVINSON <i>fiction</i>	
A Yidisher Bokher in Mexique	447
ILAN STAVANS <i>memoir</i>	
Camacho's Wedding Feast	451
ALBERTO GERCHUNOFF, TRANSLATED BY PRUDENCIO DE PEREDA <i>vignette</i>	
<i>Permissions</i>	463
<i>Index</i>	471
<i>About the Editors</i>	481