Books for the Trade

Notable Books

2016 Canadian Jewish Literary Award and J. I. Segal Translation Award

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*Stories by Abraham Karpinowtiz*
Translated from the Yiddish by Helen Mintz
Foreword by Justin Ehrlich

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*Hisham Bustani*
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*A Taste of Upstate New York*

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*Black Baseball Entrepreneurs 1902-1931*
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Translation from the Arabic by Nicole Faires
Red Shoes for Rachel

THREE NOVELLAS

Boris Sandler
Translated from the Yiddish by Barnett Zumoff
With a Foreword by Mikhail Krutikov

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APRIL 2017

Boris Sandler captures the disrupted world of Eastern European Jews who have miraculously survived and whom fate has scattered among foreign lands.

Red Shoes for Rachel, Sandler’s award-winning collection of three novellas, features tightly wound tales that seamlessly incorporate diverse genres, including magic realism, satire, and autobiography, and profound psychological profiles to create touching portrayals of the human experience. Zumoff’s translation of Sandler’s original Yiddish collection makes the J. I. Segal Award–winning volume available to English readers for the first time.

In the collection’s eponymous novella, Rachel, a daughter of Holocaust survivors raised in Brighton Beach, encounters a Moldovan Jewish immigrant divorcee as she is tending to her disabled, elderly mother along the Coney Island boardwalk. As the two begin a relationship, the story reveals their past and the commonalities between two children of Holocaust survivors raised in very different societies. In the novella Karolina Bugaz, an exhausted Moldovan Jewish immigrant architect leaves his wife and newly religious son behind to go on a cruise to a mysterious island, which may just be a direct voyage through space and time into his past. In the volume’s most acclaimed story, Halfway Down the Road Back to You, an elderly Moldovan Holocaust survivor in Israel separated from her children by emigration must confront her past as her failing mind begins to blur the boundaries between her daily life and the horrors of war sixty years before. The novella was adapted by the author into an acclaimed play, which has been staged in the United States, Belgium, and France.

Boris Sandler is one of the leading Yiddish fiction writers of the postwar generation and has received every major contemporary Yiddish literary award for his work. He served as the editor-in-chief of the Yiddish Forward from 1998 to 2016. Sandler’s work has been translated into English, Hebrew, Russian, German, and Romanian.

A prolific translator of Yiddish literature, Barnett Zumoff has published twenty-four volumes of poetry and prose translation. In addition, he is a professor of endocrinology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
Einstein’s Pacifism and World War I

Virginia Iris Holmes

A close look at Albert Einstein’s evolving pacifism in response to World War I.

“The book does an excellent job of bringing the reader through Einstein’s experience of the war and his visceral response to it.”

—Daniel Kennefick, coauthor of An Einstein Encyclopedia

“A well-researched, well-written book that will be a well-received addition to the Einstein studies community. Dr. Holmes’s work is unique in the care it takes to judiciously connect the events of pre-War, mid-War, and post-War with the sentiments expressed by Einstein and the evolution of themes in those comments.”

—Steve Gimbel, author of Einstein’s Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics

To understand how Albert Einstein’s pacifist and internationalist thought matured from a youthful inclination to pragmatic initiatives and savvy insights, Holmes gives readers access to Einstein in his own words. Through his private writings, she shows how Einstein’s thoughts and feelings in response to the war evolved from horrified disbelief, to ironic alienation from both the war’s violence and patriotic support for it by the German people, to a kind of bleak endurance. Meanwhile, his outward responses progressed, from supporting initiatives of other pacifists, to developing his own philosophy of a postwar order, to being the impetus behind initiatives.

In the beginning of the postwar period, Einstein’s writing reflected an optimism about Germany’s new Weimar Republic and trust in the laudatory effects of military defeat and economic hardship on the German people. He clearly supported the principles in US President Woodrow Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” speech. Yet Einstein’s enthusiasm diminished as he became disappointed in the early Weimar Republic’s leaders and as his aversion to the culture of violence developing in Germany grew. He also felt offended at the betrayal of Wilson’s principles in the Treaty of Versailles. Drawing upon personal correspondence and public proclamations, Holmes offers an intimate and nuanced exploration of the pacifist thought of one of our greatest intellectuals.

Virginia Iris Holmes served as senior research editor for the Einstein Papers Project at the California Institute of Technology from 2002 to 2008. She has taught courses on the Holocaust and world history at Western New England University and the State University of New York at Cortland.

Of related interest . . .

A Portrait of Pacifists

Le Chambon, the Holocaust, and the Lives of André and Magda Trocmé

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“A compelling and engaging narrative that tasks any reader to think about the role and reality of violence within their world. More to the point, it tasks anyone interested in nonviolence to think about the Christian call to become peacemakers in the world as an uncompromising demand.”—Peace and Justice Studies Journal

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**Pioneers**

**THE FIRST BREACH**

S. An-sky  
Translated from the Yiddish by Rose Waldman  
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APRIL 2017

History finds a human voice in this humorous novel about a young man seeking to be a part of the great Jewish enlightenment sweeping across Europe.

“A smart, capacious, and original novel, exploring how the Jewish enlightenment movement called Haskala functioned on the ground, in traditional small towns, in the lives of imperfect, inconsistent individuals. Rose Waldman’s translation of the novel is what a translation should be: full, precise, and literate. It does justice to both the variety of speech registers and the technical religious vocabulary by which the characters articulate themselves: not a small accomplishment, and a work to be celebrated and read.”

—Lawrence Rosenwald, Anne Pierce Rogers Professor of English, Director, Program in Peace and Justice Studies, Wellesley College

When young Zalmen Itzkowitz steps off the train on a dark, dreary day at the close of the nineteenth century, the residents of Miloslavka have no idea what’s in store for them. Zalmen is a freethinker who has come to the rural town to earn his living as a tutor. Yet, rather than teach Hebrew, he plans to teach his students the Russian language and other secular subjects. Residents of the town quickly become divided, with some regarding Itzkowitz as the devil’s messenger and others supportive of his progressive ideas. Set during the time of the Haskalah, the great Jewish Enlightenment that was sweeping through Europe, *Pioneers* is a charming tale of one ambivalent young man’s attempt to join the movement and a compassionate portrait of one shtetl on the brink of transformation.

S. An-sky, pseudonym of Shloyme-Zanvl Rapoport (1863–1920), was a Russian Jewish writer, ethnographer, and cultural and political activist. He is best known today for his play *The Dybbuk*.

Rose Waldman’s translations have appeared in *Pakn Treger, Circumference, Inventory*, as a chapbook, *Married* by I. L. Peretz, and elsewhere. She has received a translation fellowship from the Yiddish Book Center.

Of related interest . . .

**The Dybbuk and the Yiddish Imagination**

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—Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of An Army at Dawn

First published in 1959, The Autobiography of James Monroe collects the compelling fragments of Monroe’s unfinished autobiography, written after his retirement from the presidency. The memoirs trace his boyhood, education, and experiences during his long service as a public servant before becoming president.

Monroe vividly recalls his military experience in the Revolution, his law studies at the College of William and Mary, and his service as aide to Governor Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. From the early days of his political career, Monroe writes with passion about his opposition to slavery and his support for the Western farmer. He discusses his controversial first mission to France as a young and inexperienced minister to a country in the throes of a revolution, as well as subsequent missions in which he served as the key negotiator with France for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory.

Originally edited by Stuart Gerry Brown, this new edition includes an introduction by historian and documentary editor William Ferraro. Ferraro considers the lasting influence of Brown’s edition on Monroe scholarship and surveys the most recent research, detailing the ways this founding father’s legacy continues to unfold.

Stuart Gerry Brown was professor of American civilization in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He is the author of many books, including The Social Philosophy of Josiah Royce.

William M. Ferraro is managing editor of The Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. Previously, he served as a documentary editor for the first two volumes of The Salmon P. Chase Papers and contributed to thirteen volumes of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant.
Legends Never Die
ATHLETES AND THEIR AFTERLIVES IN MODERN AMERICA

Richard Ian Kimball

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MARCH 2017

A pioneering look at the myths and collective memories that surround athletes who die young.

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With every touchdown, home run, and three-pointer, star athletes represent an American dream that only an elite group blessed with natural talent can achieve. However, Kimball concentrates on what happens once these modern warriors meet their untimely demise. As athletes die, legends rise in their place.

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Richard Ian Kimball is associate professor of history at Brigham Young University. He is the author of Sports in Zion: Mormon Recreation, 1890–1940.
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The son of a Turtle Clan sachem chief and a respected medicine man, Ted C. Williams (1930–2005) grew up on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation near Niagara Falls, New York. He is the author of Big Medicine from Six Nations.

Eric Gansworth (Onondaga), a writer and visual artist from the Tuscarora Nation, is Lowery Writer-in-Residence at Canisius College and has been an NEH Distinguished Visiting Professor at Colgate University. He is the author of several books, including A Half-Life of Cardio-Pulmonary Function.
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Amid apocalyptic invasions and time travel, one common machine continually appears in H. G. Wells's works: the bicycle. From his scientific romances and social comedies, to utopias, futurological speculations, and letters, Wells's texts brim with bicycles. In The War of the Wheels, Withers examines this mode of transportation as both something that played a significant role in Wells's personal life and as a literary device for creating elaborate characters and exploring complex themes.

Withers traces Wells's ambivalent relationship with the bicycle throughout his writing. While Wells celebrated it as a singular and astonishing piece of technology, and continued to do so long after his contemporaries abandoned their enthusiasm for the bicycle, he was not an unwavering promoter of this machine. Wells acknowledged the complex nature of cycling, its contribution to a growing dependence on and fetishization of technology, and its role in humanity's increasing sense of superiority. Moving into the twenty-first century, Withers reflects on how the works of H. G. Wells can serve as a valuable locus for thinking through many of our current issues and problems related to transportation, mobility, and sustainability.

Jeremy Withers is assistant professor of English at Iowa State University. He is the coeditor of Culture on Two Wheels: The Bicycle in Literature and Film.
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From the 1870s to the 1930s, American cartoonists devoted much of their ink to outlandish caricatures of immigrants and minority groups, making explicit the derogatory stereotypes that circulated at the time. Members of ethnic groups were depicted as fools, connivers, thieves, and individuals hardly fit for American citizenship, but Jews were especially singled out with visual and verbal abuse. In The Implacable Urge to Defame, Baigell examines more than sixty published cartoons from humor magazines such as Judge, Puck, and Life and considers the climate of opinion that allowed such cartoons to be published. In doing so, he traces their impact on the emergence of anti-Semitism in the American Scene movement in the 1920s and 1930s.
Matthew Baigell is professor emeritus in the Department of Art History at Rutgers University. He is the author of numerous books, including American Artists, Jewish Images, Jewish Art in America: An Introduction, and Social Concern and Left Politics in Jewish American Art, 1880–1940.
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David R. Collier teaches courses on democracy in the Middle East and Asia at Boston University in Washington, DC. He is a research consultant for the Asia Group.
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Bronwyn Winter is deputy director of the European studies program and participating professor in the international and global studies program at the University of Sydney. She is the author of Hijab and the Republic: Uncovering the French Headscarf Debate.
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The Great Famine radically transformed Ireland; nearly one million people of the rural countryside died, and the eviction of farmers led to massive emigration. The Famine encouraged anti-English, nationalist sentiments, and this trauma is seen as pivotal in the development of an Irish anticolonial consciousness and in the identity formation of transatlantic Irish communities.

The Famine also left its undeniable imprint on Ireland’s cultural legacies, both at home and in the diaspora. In Relocated Memories, Corporaal challenges the persistent assumption that the first decades after the Great Irish Famine were marked by a pervasive silence on the catastrophe. She uncovers a vast corpus of fiction that consciously addresses the harrowing memories of recent starvation. These novels, novellas, and stories were often published in Ireland, but a large body of this fiction was also written by Irish American and Irish Canadian immigrants and their descendants.

Discussing works by well-known authors such as William Carleton and Anthony Trollope as well as more obscure texts by, among others, Dillon O’Brien, Susanna Meredith, Anna Dorsey, and Henry J. Monahan, Corporaal charts the reconfigurations of memory in fiction across generations and national borders. In doing so, she succeeds in bringing significant literary expressions of the tragedy back to the attention of scholars and provides a wider vista of literary Famine memories.

Marguérite Corporaal is associate professor of English at Radboud University in the Netherlands. She is the coeditor of Traveling Irishness in the Long Nineteenth Century.
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From 1923, when he emigrated from Bucharest, to his deportation to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, Benjamin Fondane made a unique and independent-minded contribution to the literary and intellectual life of Paris. Influenced by the Surrealists, he distanced himself from their doctrines and in both his critical writings and his own poetry insisted on the importance of individual lived experience and poetic craft. One of the most significant pieces in Fondane’s body of work is the long poem *Ulysses*. Published in 1933, it was his first major writing in French. Yet Fondane considerably revised his text during the dark years of occupied Paris, and it is this second “edition without an end,” left unfinished at the time of his deportation, that is translated here for the first time into English. Lyrical and modern, visionary and intensely personal, it is a moving testament to the poetic voice and philosophical engagement of this exceptional figure of the Paris avant-garde.

Benjamin Fondane (1898–1944) was a Romanian Jew who immigrated to France in 1923 to pursue his love of French poetry and philosophy. He is the author of several collections of poetry and philosophical essays, selections of which have been translated into English, including *Cinepoems and Others.*

Nathaniel Rudavsky-Brody has translated the work of French and Belgian poets, including Paul Valéry and Benjamin Fondane. In 2013, he was awarded the Susan Sontag Prize for Translation. His translation of Valéry’s poetry is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and his work has appeared in *TriQuarterly, Two Lines,* and *Cerise.*
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Ann Komaromi is associate professor of comparative literature at the University of Toronto. She is the author of Uncensored: Samizdat Novels and the Quest for Autonomy in Soviet Dissidence.

Stefani Hoffman is working as a freelance academic researcher, editor, and translator after her retirement from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has published several articles on Soviet Jewry and translated the memoirs of outstanding Soviet Jewry activists, such as Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel, and Hillel Butman.
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