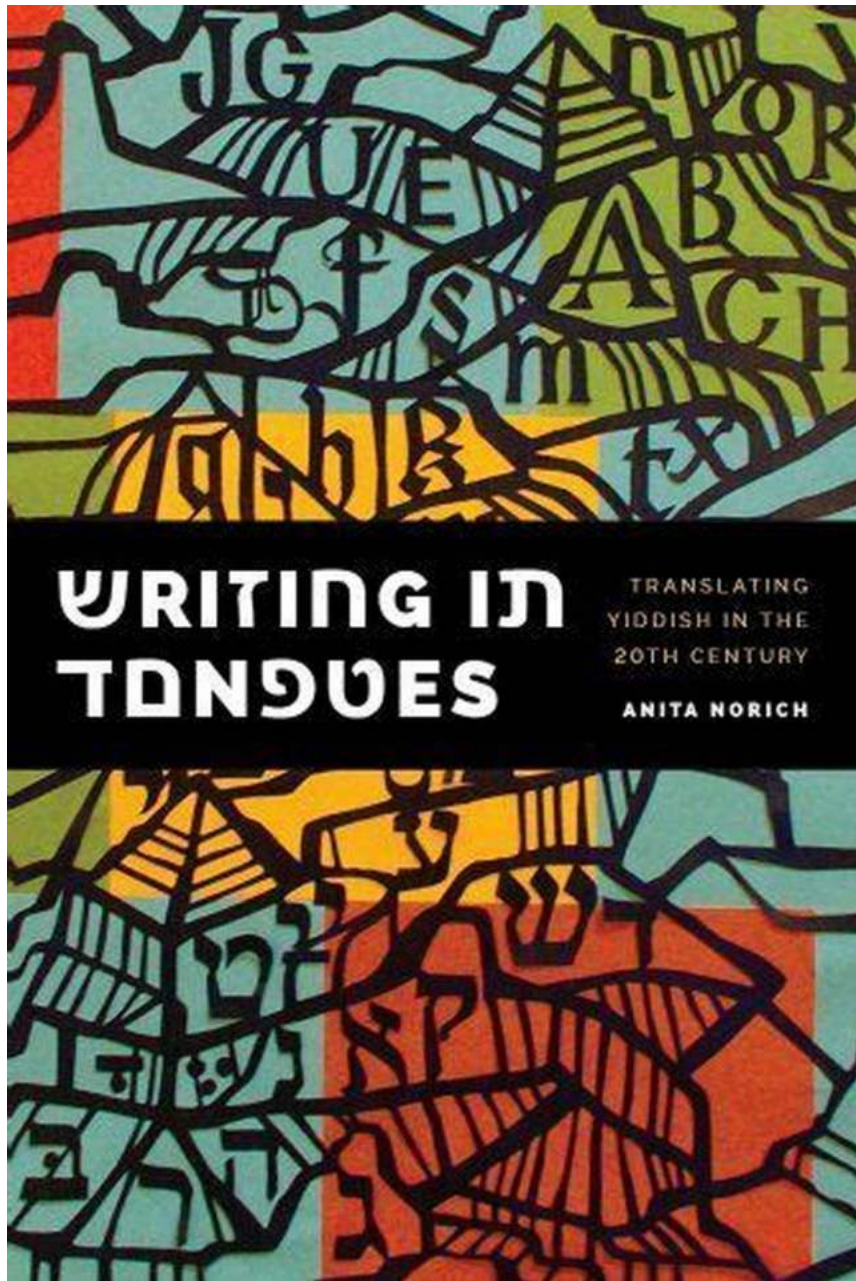


# Translating Yiddish In The Twentieth Century: A Journey Through Language and Culture

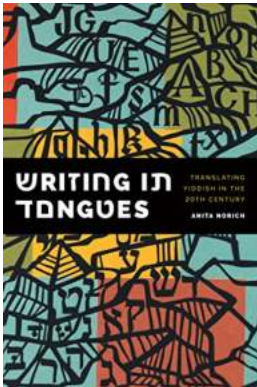


Yiddish, a language rich in history and culture, holds a significant place in the Jewish community. As the 20th century unfolded, the world witnessed an incredible transformation in Yiddish literature, poetry, and theatre. The importance

of preserving and translating Yiddish works has been recognized by scholars and individuals passionate about heritage.

## The Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures: Celebrating Yiddish Translation

The Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures, organized by the University of Washington's Jewish Studies Program, are an annual event that pays homage to the art of Yiddish translation. These lectures bring together renowned experts in the field who share their knowledge, experiences, and insights into the challenges and joys of translating Yiddish literature.



### Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the Twentieth Century (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies) by Anita Norich (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5



## The Fascinating History of Yiddish Translation

Yiddish literature flourished in the 20th century, with prominent writers such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Shalom Aleichem, and Chaim Grade captivating audiences with their powerful storytelling. Yet, it was not until later in the century that Yiddish works began to be translated into other languages, allowing a wider audience to appreciate their beauty.

Translating Yiddish works presented unique challenges due to the intricacies of the language. Yiddish, which combines elements of German, Hebrew, and Slavic languages, requires translators with a deep understanding of its nuances. Capturing the essence of Yiddish poetry, for example, calls for meticulous attention to rhythm, rhyme, and wordplay, while preserving the cultural context.



## **The Influence of Yiddish Theater**

Yiddish theater played a crucial role in the development of Yiddish literature and its translation. The Yiddish theater scene in major cities like New York and Warsaw thrived during the early 20th century, becoming a cultural hub for the Yiddish-speaking community.

Through performances of plays written in Yiddish, such as "The Dybbuk" and "Tevye the Dairyman," Yiddish theater popularized Yiddish language and culture. As a result, the demand for translations increased, allowing non-Yiddish speakers to enjoy the rich stories and themes present in Yiddish plays.

## **The Struggles and Triumphs of Translating Yiddish Works**

Translating any work from one language to another is a challenge, but Yiddish translation presents a unique set of obstacles. The translators must strike a delicate balance between remaining faithful to the original text and making it accessible to readers who may not be familiar with Yiddish culture and history.

One of the greatest triumphs of Yiddish translation came with the translation of Isaac Bashevis Singer's works. Singer, a Nobel laureate, wrote exclusively in Yiddish, and his stories had a deep connection to Jewish traditions and Eastern European history. Translators like Saul Bellow and Hillel Halkin managed to bring Singer's stories to life in English, capturing the essence of his writing while preserving the cultural nuances.

## **Preservation Through Translation: Ensuring Yiddish Literature's Legacy**

Yiddish literature embodies a rich heritage and provides a unique window into Jewish history. The work of translators is crucial in ensuring that this cultural treasure remains accessible to future generations.

Through events like the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures, the importance of Yiddish translation is acknowledged and celebrated. By bringing together scholars, practitioners, and enthusiasts in a collaborative environment, these lectures foster a greater understanding of Yiddish literature and its translation.

## **The Ongoing Legacy of the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures**

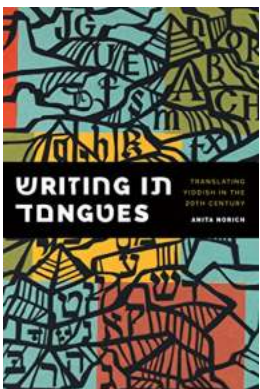
The Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures continue to shape the landscape of Yiddish translation in the 21st century. Each year, new insights and techniques are shared, contributing to the ongoing improvement and evolution of Yiddish translation practices.

As we look to the future, it is crucial that the legacy of Yiddish literature is preserved through translation. By embracing the challenges and triumphs of translating Yiddish, we ensure that this vibrant language and its fascinating works continue to inspire and educate for generations to come.

## In

Translating Yiddish literature in the 20th century established a bridge between cultures, enabling a wider audience to appreciate the works of incredible Yiddish writers. The Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures serve as a testament to the importance of Yiddish translation and its role in preserving the cultural heritage of the Jewish community.

As we move forward, let us continue to celebrate and support the efforts of translators who dedicate themselves to bringing Yiddish literature to readers around the world, ensuring that this remarkable language and its creative wonders thrive well into the future.



### **Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the Twentieth Century (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies)** by Anita Norich (Kindle Edition)

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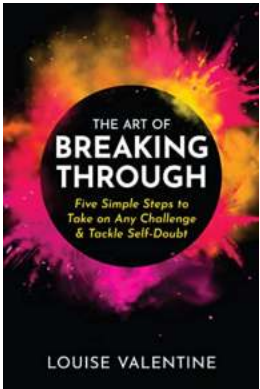


Writing in Tongues examines the complexities of translating Yiddish literature at a time when the Yiddish language is in decline. After the Holocaust, Soviet repression, and American assimilation, the survival of traditional Yiddish literature depends on translation, yet a few Yiddish classics have been translated repeatedly while many others have been ignored. Anita Norich traces historical and aesthetic shifts through versions of these canonical texts, and she argues that these works and their translations form an enlightening conversation about Jewish history and identity.



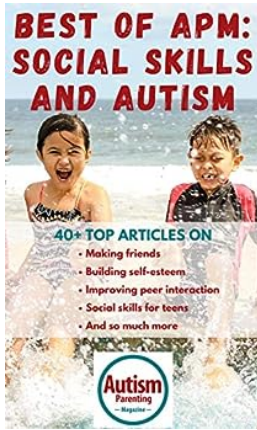
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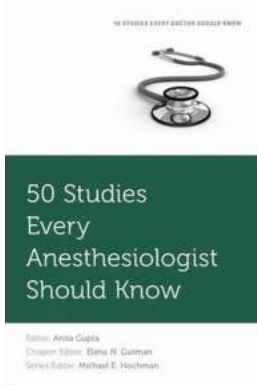
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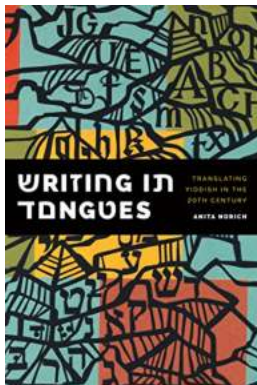
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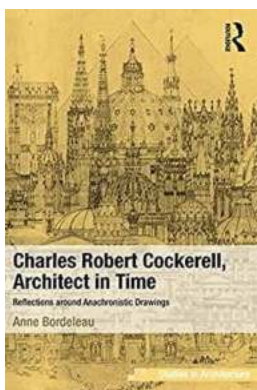
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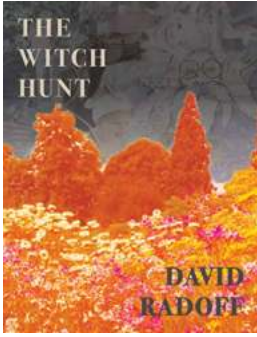
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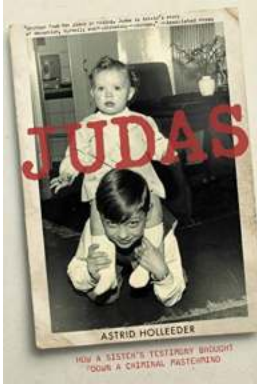
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