

Roskies Book Hailed as "A Volume of Unusual Scope"

The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe by David G. Roskies has been hailed as "a volume of unusual scope, originality, and impact, bound to become a classic of Jewish literature."

A sequel to his critical study, *Against the Apocalypse*, Dr. Roskies' new volume rejects the view that Holocaust literature is a unique genre, responding to experiences that are without historical analogy, defying normal uses of language. This new work presents 100 powerful selections from a two-thousand-year-old tradition of Jewish literary responses to catastrophe. Roskies presents biblical lamentations on exile, rabbinic midrash on martyrology, chronicles of the Spanish Inquisition, and protest poetry of the Cantonist era. The anthology includes moving selections from well-known modern voices, haunting verses from the great poets, and stunning pieces from writers previously untranslated and unknown to the modern reader.

The program celebrating the publication of the book included selected readings by the contributors to the anthology, and music offerings by students of the Cantors Institute.



Dr. Gerson Shaked (left), Adjunct Professor of Jewish Literature at the Seminary, congratulates Dr. David G. Roskies, Associate Professor of Jewish Literature, on the publication of his new book, at a literary gathering co-sponsored by the Friends of The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the publisher, The Jewish Publication Society.