

*Book Reviews and Advance Praise for:***A BRIDGE OF LONGING****The Lost Art of Yiddish Storytelling****DAVID G. ROSKIES**

- "Mr. Roskies...lays out a...complex and interesting theory in *A Bridge of Longing*, an ambitious, learned...often brilliant scholarly volume that will help rescue the 'lost art of Yiddish storytelling' by explaining what it really was."
--Richard Bernstein, *New York Times*
- "Fascinating and persuasive...As both the literary world these men lived in and the traditional one they wrote about slip further and further away in time, the tendency is great to lump it all together, to assume that Aleichem, Peretz and the rest lived the kind of *shtetl* lives they wrote about, were in effect next-to-neighbors to Tevye the Milkman and the whole 'Fiddler on the Roof' crowd. Not so, says Roskies, in this insightful and erudite study. Yiddish writers were rather cosmopolitan sophisticates who for a variety of reasons 'began to reimagine themselves as members of the folk.' They were literary craftsmen who rediscovered and then refashioned traditional stories and did it so successfully that today their recreations seem like original folk tales. Roskies calls this process 'creative betrayal' (a term he does not intend pejoratively) and he makes a strong case of it as the central pattern of the literature."
--Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*
- "This is a good book...I read [it] with admiration and pleasure...[The author's] analysis of Sholem Aleichem, Peretz and Manger is masterly, his study of Singer, inspired. His book is about the most stimulating guide to the Yiddish classics available in the English language."
--Chaim Bermant, *Jewish Chronicle*
- "Roskies' scope is encyclopedic, his grasp of the ever-changing Yiddish language sure. In this monumental literary history are the seeds for more flowerings of the tradition."
--Alan Cooper, *Library Journal*
- "This brilliant and scholarly work is written with an intensity seldom found these days even in fiction. It is at once a magnificent and heroic effort to keep the light of Jewish history from dimming, a discovery of the truth, and a testament of the author's honesty and passion."
--Mark Helprin
- "David Roskies' *A Bridge of Longing* is a stimulating scholarly overview of a great vein of Jewish literary art. I read it with interest."
--Herman Wouk
- "The concept of an artfully contrived surrogate for the role of the traditional storyteller does much to define the distinctiveness of modern Yiddish fiction. David Roskies' readings of these major Yiddish writers are minutely informed in every respect, finely perceptive, and conveyed in lively and lucid prose."

--Robert Alter

Available

6 1/8 x 9 1/4"

5 halftones, 33 line illus., 1 table, 400 pp.

ISBN 0-674-08139-0

\$37.50t cloth

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