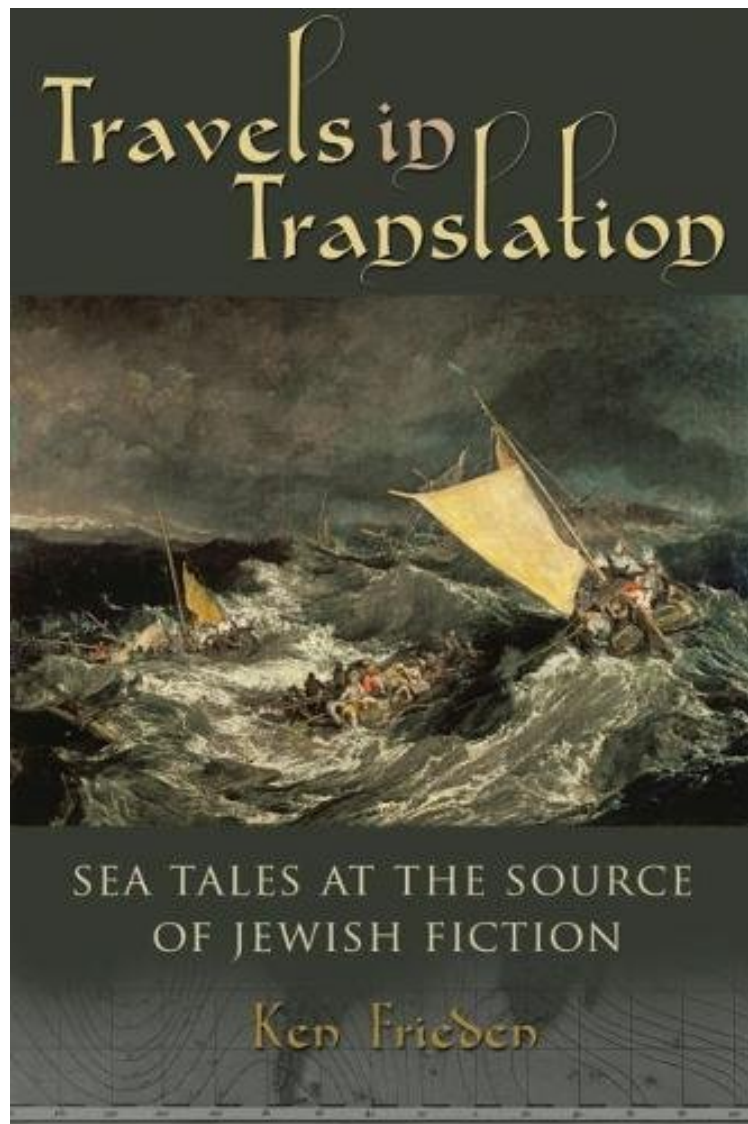


[Ebook free] Travels in Translation: Sea Tales at the Source of Jewish Fiction (Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and Art)

Travels in Translation: Sea Tales at the Source of Jewish Fiction (Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and Art)

Ken Frieden

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Ken Frieden : Travels in Translation: Sea Tales at the Source of Jewish Fiction (Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and Art) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Travels in Translation: Sea Tales at the Source of Jewish Fiction (Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and

Art):

For centuries before its rebirth as a spoken language, Hebrew writing was like a magical ship in a bottle that gradually changed design but never voyaged out into the world. Isolated, the ancient Hebrew ship was torpid because the language of the Bible was inadequate to represent modern life in Europe. Early modern speakers of Yiddish and German gave Hebrew the breath of life when they translated dialogues, descriptions, and thought processes from their vernaculars into Hebrew. By narrating tales of pilgrimage and adventure, Jews pulled the ship out of the bottle and sent modern Hebrew into the world. In *Travels in Translation*, Frieden analyzes this emergence of modern Hebrew literature after 1780, a time when Jews were moving beyond their conventional Torah- and Zion-centered worldview. Enlightened authors diverged from pilgrimage narrative traditions and appropriated travel narratives to America, the Pacific, and the Arctic. The effort to translate sea travel stories from European languages with their nautical terms, wide horizons, and exotic occurrences made particular demands on Hebrew writers. They had to overcome their tendency to introduce biblical phrases at every turn in order to develop a new, vivid, descriptive language. As Frieden explains through deft linguistic analysis, by 1818, a radically new travel literature in Hebrew had arisen. Authors such as Moses Mendelsohn-Frankfurt and Mendel Lefin published books that charted a new literary path through the world and in European history. Taking a fresh look at the origins of modern Jewish literature, Frieden launches a new approach to literary studies, one that lies at the intersection of translation studies and travel writing.

This book is an important revision to modern Hebrew literary history, demonstrating how the beginnings of a viable prose style go back to the early nineteenth century and translation played a crucial role. (Robert Alter University of California, Berkeley) The stakes, the scope, and the thrust of this book are exemplary, explaining how travel literature exemplifies the acts of cultural transfer that are so much at the heart of Jewish literary modernity. . . . Frieden lays out in admirably clear detail the linguistic pieces of the puzzle. (Jeremy Dauber director of the Institute of Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University) Frieden cogently traces the path of making Hebrew a viable living language to a coterie of writers who preceded Mendele by half a century. (Ruth Adler professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature at Baruch College) A rare look at how Jews, sea travel and language intersect. Frieden offers a different take on modern Hebrew literary history by focusing on the early 19th century as the moment when a new prose style began to develop, and by highlighting the importance of translation and travel literature in that process. (Aviya Kushner FORWARD) *Travels in Translation* should be required reading not only for students of early modern Hebrew literature but for the Haskalah in general. (Stanley Nash, Hebrew Union College Hebrew Higher Education) Ken Frieden expands, both chronologically and conceptually, previous scholarly attempts to rewrite the history of Hebrew prose fiction and to acknowledge the role translation played in shaping it. Frieden's rich study of Hebrew sea travel narratives from the late eighteenth century to the late nineteenth century combines philology and discourse analysis, focusing on different forms of translation and cultural transfer. (Danielle Drori, New York University H-Net) Frieden examines the development of Modern Hebrew literature through the lens of sea narratives from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century. With substantial notes, bibliography, and index, the book is recommended for academic libraries. (Sheryl Stahl, Senior Associate Librarian, Frances-Henry Library AJL Newsletter) The story Frieden tells does more than highlight the productive role played by translation in helping forge a literary language less beholden to its sacred prehistory, a literary idiom that let go of Zion in favour of the world. Frieden also dramatically rewrites the usual narrative of the development of modern Hebrew literature. Frieden's study of the lost origins-in-translation of Hebrew literature has much to offer far beyond the narrow limits of that field. (Naomi Seidman *The Translator*) About the Author Ken Frieden, the B. G. Rudolph Professor of Judaic Studies at Syracuse University, has published numerous books and essays on Yiddish and Hebrew literature. He edited *Etgar Kerets Four Stories* and translated stories by Abramovitsh and Peretz in the anthology *Classic Yiddish Stories*, published by Syracuse University Press.