

Eyshe Beirich— *Sin valor comercial, or A Worthless Yiddish Library*

Aleichem, Sholem. *Inside Kasrilevke*. Translated by Isidore Goldstick. New York: Schocken Books, 1965.

English translation of Sholem Aleykhem's collection, Fun kasrilevke (also in the collection!).

———. ***Motl peyse dem khazns. Abridged and Adapted for Students with Exercises and Glossary*. League for Yiddish, 2017.**

One of the first books I ever read in Yiddish, with notes for students.

———. ***Ale Verk Fun Sholem Aleykhem*. Special "Morgn-Frayhayt" edition. New York, 1939.**

A collection of some of Sholem Aleykhem's most classic stories: Fun kasrilevke, or "From Kasrilevke."

Asch, Sholem. *Gezamelte Shriftn: Erets Yisroel*. 2nd Edition. Vol. 7. New York: Sholem Ash Komite, 1923.

———. ***Maż z Nazaretu*. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Dolnośląskie, 1990**

A Polish translation of Yiddish author Sholem Ash's novel "Der man fun natsres" (1939).

This book was owned by my Polish literature professor, who graciously gifted it to me.

Beinfeld, Solon, and Harry Bochner. *Arumnemik Yidish-English Verterbukh*. Bloomington, Ind: Indiana University Press, 2013.

Comprehensive Yiddish-English Dictionary, Condition: Worn, from extensive use.

Berdichevsky, Micah Joseph, James Adam Redfield, and Avner Holtzman. *From a Distant Relation*. First edition. Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and Art. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2021.

This book was gifted to me by one of my advisors/mentors, with the inscription: "To Eyshe, looking forward to readings yours."

Bergelson, David, and Alexander Eliasberg. *Leben ohne Frühling: Roman*. 1. Aufl. Aufbau Bibliothek. Berlin: Aufbau Taschenbuch, 2000.

German translation of murdered Soviet Yiddish writer, Dovid Hofshateyn. Just as I have Yiddish translations of German books, it feels important that I should also have German translations of Yiddish. Albeit reluctantly. Condition: Good, with water damage.

Chagall, Bella, and Marc Chagall. *Burning Lights*. New York, NY: Schocken Books, 1988.

English translation of Bella Chagall's Yiddish memoir, Brenendike likht, with illustrations by her husband, Marc Chagall.

Even, Yitskhok. *Funem rebens hoyf: zikhroynes un maysies gezehn, gehert, un nokhdertseht*. New York: Yitskhok Even, 1922.

I have been told by various Yiddishists that this volume is exceedingly rare and have had offers to buy it from me. I refuse because the book is special to me — I purchased this book, lying behind a bookshelf, at the Strand, in New York City, during the first week of my first job as a Yiddish teacher. It is a 100 year old collection of Hasidic folklore, memories, and daily life of Hasidic communities in Eastern Europe.

France, Anatole. *Di royte lilye*. Translated by Y. Padruzshnik. 1918: Farlag Idish, 1918.

This is a Yiddish translation of Anatole France's French novel, Le lys rouge.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Geklibene Shriften Fun Y. V. Gethe*. Translated by D. M. Hermolin. Vol. 2. New York: Hebrew Publishing Company, 1911.

Perhaps my absolute favorite book in my collection — a translation of Goethe's Faust into the Yiddish language, with a wonderful introduction on the language politics between Yiddish and German. It belongs to a generation where if many people wanted to access Goethe, they had to read him in Yiddish. I also prefer to read him in Yiddish.

Goldin, H. E. *Der yidisher lerer / The Yiddish Teacher: A Method for the Study of Yiddish*. New York: Hebrew Publishing Company, 1939.

One of my favorite books in my collection, this is one of the first English-Yiddish textbooks to be published. It is noteworthy that this textbook, published pre-genocide, is evidence of a drive to learn Yiddish in New York before the ethnic cleansing of the majority of its speakers abroad.

Green, Arthur, and Barry W. Holtz. *Your Word Is Fire: The Hasidic Masters on Contemplative Prayer*. Woodstock (Vt.): Jewish Lights Publ, 1993.

A collection of Hasidic texts translated from Hebrew and Yiddish.

Gros, Naftali. *Medem*. New York: The Workmen's Circle, 1938.

This illustrated Yiddish children's book about the socialist bundist Yiddishist leader Vladimir Medem is signed by its author, Naftali Gross, in the following dedication: "To one wonderful friend, L. Arkin, a gift. Naftali Gross, 1938."

Hirshbeyn, Perets. *Arum Der Velt*. New York: Farlag "Literatur," 1927.

This volume of Hirshbeyn's travelogues across the world opens with a handwritten signature from its previous owner: "Dear Dad, Happy Father's Day! with much love, Chaim & Anne." I am grateful to have received this book second-hand.

———. ***Fun vayte lender*. New York: Literarisher Farlag, 1918.**

This black and red illustrated travelogue describes the travels of Perets Hirshbeyn in Brazil and Argentina in 1916.

———. ***Gezamelte shriftn*. Vol. 1–5. New York: Literarish-dramatishe fareynen in amerike [Literary and drama unions in America], 1916.**

The collected works of writer Perets Hirshbeyn — I have been able to find 5 copies, specifically of his collected dramas. Condition: Worn.

Izban, Shmuel. *Famlye karp*. Vol. 1–2. 2 vols. Dos poylishe yudntum. Buenos Aires: Tsentral-farband fun poylishe yidn in Argentina, 1949.

Two volume novel about an Ashkenazi family that arrives in Palestine during the Third Aliyah. The first volume has a gift message written in Yiddish: "A gift, from Fanye Bulkin," and a stamp that reads: "COLEGIO ISRAELITA DE MEXICO," from the library of J. B. Tafelov. The second volume has a stamp on the first page: sin valor comercial.

———. ***Tsvishn hundert toyern*. New York: Farlag "Moyshe Shmuel Shklarski," 1942.**

Condition: Good, needs rebinding.

———. ***Umlegale yidn shpaltn yamen*. Vol. 28. Dos poylishe yudntum. Buenos Aires: Tsentral-farband fun poylishe yidn in Argentina [Central Union of Polish Jews in Argentina], 1948.**

This book has a gorgeous outer cover, which is rare for these older volumes from Dos poylishe yidntum [Polish Jewry]. The back has a dedication to where it was printed; "Este libro se terminó de imprimir el 28 Febrero de 1948, en los Talleres Gráficos Julio Kaufman,

calle Corrientes N. 76.” The back cover has a price listed, with the amount crossed out with black pen: “Price — Pesos.” Condition: Worn, with a particularly delicate cover.

J. K. Rowling. *הערי פאטער און דער פילאסאפישער שטיין = Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone.* Edited by Yankl-Peretz Blum and Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath. Translated by Arun Schaechter Viswanath. 2nd edition. Lund, Sweden: Olniansky Tekst, 2020.

This is a contemporary translation of Harry Potter into the Yiddish language, to be read by Yiddish enthusiasts and Yiddish speaking children alike. This book is, excitingly, not second-hand. Condition: Like New.

Karpilove, Miriam. *Judith: A Tale of Love & Woe.* Translated by Jessica Kirzane. France: Farlag Press, 2022.

English translation of Miriam Karpilove. The inscription is written in Yiddish by my Yiddish professor, wishing me success and love, unlike the protagonist of the novel.

Margolin, Anna. *During Sleepless Nights.* Translated by Daniel Kennedy. Farlag Press, 2022.

English translation of Yiddish writer Anna Margolin.

Maupassant, Guy de. *Gyu de Mopasan's Gezamelte Verk.* Translated by Leon Kobrin. Vol. 1–15. 15 vols. New York: Forverts, 1923.

My most complete and most beautifully illustrated collected works—these are 15 volumes of Guy de Maupassant's stories and dramas translated into Yiddish. There is something particularly important about these translations in relation to my collection's theme of “Worthlessness”: Gone is the generation that would have wanted to read Maupassant in Yiddish translation. But I am reading them, in Yiddish, before I read them in French. They have value to me, and that experience alone is worth it.

Metzker, I. *Gots Bashefenishn.* New York: Farlag Matones, 1958.

This collection of stories and drawings of animals and “God's creatures,” is signed in what looks like childish handwriting, by a “Khane Feygl.”

Moykher Sforim, Mendele. *Ale verk fun Mendele Moykher Sforim.* Vol. 10. Varshe [Warsaw]: Tsentral Gezelshaft, n.d.

Another volume of collected works of Mendele Moykher Sforim, attesting to his importance to Yiddish literature and to my collection. The binding is coming apart. This may be one of the oldest books in the collection—based on its orthography and paratext, it likely comes from the turn of the century in the Russian Empire.

———. *Geklibene verk.* Vol. 2. New York: YKUF Farlag, 1946.

These volumes are the collected works of one of the most important Yiddish writers of the 19th and 20th centuries: Mendele Moykher Sforim or Sholem Yankev Abramovitch. These were published by the Yidisher kultur-farband, YKUF, in the 1940s, for children and adults alike to enjoy. I was able to take these books from the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Condition: Generally good, with some wear and tear on the spine.

Muzychenko, Volodymyr. *Jewish Ludmir: The History and Tragedy of the Jewish Community of Volodymyr-Volynsky : A Regional History.* Translated by Marta D. Olynyk. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2016.

The only English-language history of the town my family comes from, Ludmir, now found in Ukraine.

Nelken, Halina. *Images of a Lost World: Jewish Motifs in Polish Painting, 1770-1945*. Oxford: Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, 1991.

This is an art book gifted to me by my Polish literature professor, which feels deeply thematically connected to my lost and “worthless” library. Condition: Great.

Niborski, Isidoro, Simon Neuberg, Eliezer Niborski, and Natalia Krynicka. *Verterbukh Fun Loshn-Ḳoydesh-Shtamiḳe Verter in Yidish*. 3. oysgebreyterte oyfl. Pariz: Medem-bibliyotek, 2012.

This is a dictionary of all Hebrew-derived words in the Yiddish language, with definitions given in Yiddish. The dictionary is published in France at the Medem bibliothèque, named after the Bundist leader and Yiddishist.

Nomberg, Hersh David. *Between Parents*. Translated by Ollie Elkus and Daniel Kennedy. Tur Farlag, 2021.

English translation of Hersh Dovid Nomberg

Olgin, M. 1905. New York: Olgin Ondenk Komitet, 1940.

This volume is a memoir written by influential Yiddish speaking communist writer, Moyshe Olgin, about his experiences in the Jewish Labour Bund during the 1905 revolution in Imperial Russia. It is decked in blue and gold, and published in memory of the writer.

Opatoshu, Joseph, and H. Leyvick, eds. *Zambikher*. New York: Farlag Matones, 1945.

This anthology is dedicated to the deceased Yiddish writer Y. L. Peretz, the “father” of Yiddish literature and the first Yiddish modernist. It is nearly 500 pages of poetry, dramas, short stories, and much more. It is very worn and shows signs of being read many times, which makes me smile.

Peretz, Isaac Leib. *Folksshtimleke Geshikhten*. Vilne [Vilnius]: Vilner Farlag fun B. Kletskin, n.d.

An edition of some of Y. L. Peretz’s earlier “Folk-minded stories,” which become classics in Yiddish literature. This edition is undated but appears to come from Imperial Russian Poland or early after WWI.

Peretz, Isaac Leib, and Ruth R. Wisse. *The I.L. Peretz Reader*. New York: Schocken Books : Distributed by Pantheon Books, n.d.

An English anthology of Yiddish works by writer Y. L. Peretz. This volume used to belong to a “Julie,” as evidenced by her signature on the first page. Condition: Good.

Perle, Yehoyshue. *Yidn Fun a Gants Yor. Dos Poylishe Yudntum. Buenos Aires: Tsentral-farband fun poylishe yidn in Argentina, 1951.*

This edition has two library stamps from its previous owners: “D. Sohn Library,” written in Yiddish, and “Library Bialystoker Center,” also written in Yiddish, referring to a library for Bialystoker Landsmanshaftn.

Raboy, Isaac. *A Dorf Fun Kinder*. New York: YKUF Farlag, 1953.

Roskies, Diane K., and David G. Roskies. *The Shtetl Book: An Introduction to East European Jewish Life and Lore*. Augmented ed. Jersey City, N.J.: Ktav Pub. House, 2006.

This textbook was one of the first texts I read that revealed to me the daily life of Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe. Condition: Like New.

Rozshanski, Shmuel, ed. *Dovid Ignatov: Oysgeklibene shriftn*. Vol. 63. 100 vols. Buenos Aires: Literatur-gezelschaft baym Yivo in Argentine [Literature Society of YIVO Argentina], 1981.

This volume has a small stamp: "For personal use, without commercial purposes."

———, ed. *Isroel in di tfutes*. Vol. 85. 100 vols. Buenos Aires: Literatur-gezelschaft baym Yivo in Argentine [Literature Society of YIVO Argentina], 1981.

One of 100 volumes, this one has two stamps: "Bialik High School Library, Montreal, Quebec, H4W 3B8," and a smaller stamp, in Spanish: "para uso personal, sin fines comerciales." [for personal use, without commercial purpose]. Condition: Worn.

———, ed. *Leyb Naydus*. Vol. 5. 100 vols. Buenos Aires: Literatur-gezelschaft baym Yivo in Argentine [Literature Society of YIVO Argentina], 1981.

This volume has a small stamp: "For personal use, without commercial purposes."

———, ed. *Moyshe Kulbak: Oysgeklibene shriftn*. Vol. 67. 100 vols. Buenos Aires: Literatur-gezelschaft baym Yivo in Argentine [Literature Society of YIVO Argentina], 1981.

This volume has a small stamp: "For personal use, without commercial purposes."

Rubin, Ruth. *Voices of a People: The Story of Yiddish Folk Song*. A. S. Barnes and Company, 1963.

Schaechter, Mordkhe, Paul E. Glasser, Alan Sachs, David L. Gold, and Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath. *Yidish tsyey: a lernbukh far miḥndike un payḥalters*. Nay-Baarbeṭer aroyskum, 4th Edition. Nyu-York: Yidish-shprakhiker resursn-tsenṭer bay der Yidish-lige, 1995.

The Yiddish textbook is called "Yiddish 2," or a 'sequel' of sorts to Uriel Weinreich's textbook, *College Yiddish*. Both texts belong to the postwar generation's desire to rebuild and testify to the past generations and their language, Yiddish.

Schaechter-Viswanath, Gitl, Paul E. Glasser, Chava Lapin, and Mordkhe Schaechter, eds. *Comprehensive English-Yiddish Dictionary (Based on the Lexical Research of Mordkhe Schaechter)* =: *Arumnemik English-Yidish Verṭerbukh (Bazirt Af Di Leksishe Zamlungen Fun Mordkhe Shekhter)*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016.

———, eds. *Comprehensive English-Yiddish Dictionary (Based on the Lexical Research of Mordkhe Schaechter)* =: *Arumnemik English-Yidish Verṭerbukh (Bazirt Oif Di Leksishe Zamlungen Fun Mordkhe Shekhter)*. Revised and Expanded second edition. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2021.

Segalowitch, Zusman. *Tsilke the Wild*. Translated by Daniel Kennedy. France: Farlag Press, 2022.

English translation of Zusman Segalowitch.

Shafir, M. M. *Bay der kholem multer [At the trough of dreams]*. Montreal: Self-Published, 1983.

A paperback copy of a collection of Yiddish poems by M. M. Shafir, signed by the author, with Yiddish inscription.

Shapiro, Lamed. *Der Shrayber Geyt in Kheyder*. Los Angeles: Farlag "Aleyn," 1945.

An instruction manual to Yiddish writers, Shapiro entitles this small blue notebook-looking book "The [Yiddish] writer goes to school." Condition: Good.

———. *Di Yudishe Melukhe Un Andere Zakhn*. A naye oyflage. New York: Farlag "Idish Leben," 1929.

Condition: Good.

———. *Fun Korbm Minkhe*. New York: Farlag “Aleyn,” 1941.

One of my favorite books, a small, innocuous volume of poetry by writer Lamed Shapiro. It’s title means “From a women’s prayer book,” and is a collection of Holocaust Poetry.

———. *Khsuvim*. Edited by S. Miller. Los Angeles: Lamed Shapiro Khsuvim Committee, 1949.

This book bears the inscription: “This book, once owned by a South African reader, has been preserved by the Cape Town Yiddish Cultural Federation and returned to circulation by the National Yiddish Book Centre of South Hadley, Mass. USA. May it thus inspire us to keep alight the flame of Jewish life and learning.” Condition: Good.

———. *Novelen*. Varshe [Warsaw]: Tip. G. Piment Ia. Shvabe, 1909.

This is an old volume of some of the best short stories of Lamed Shapiro, and on its inside cover it has a blue Imperial Russian commerce stamp, which is around 114 years old. Perhaps back in Imperial Russia this book had more commercial value—although its author never made a living from his writing and died in poverty.

———. *Nyuyorkish*. 2nd Edition. New York: Farlag “Aleyn,” 1931.

This volume bears an ex libris, in Yiddish: “A metone far der yidisher shul in meksike. Fun her maks dubovoi in ondenk fun zayn froy sore un tokhter tsirl. Yanuar 1978.” [A gift for the Yiddish school in Mexico, from Mr. Max Dubovoy in memory of his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Tsirl. January 1978]. Condition: Worn.

Shtern, M. *Hershele Ostropoler Un Motke Khabad*. Star Hebrew Book Co., n.d.

A book of Yiddish humor and folklore. Undated, but worn from visible use and I like to think, enjoyment.

Stavans, Ilan, and Joshua N. Lambert, eds. *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish*. First Restless Books hardcover edition. Brooklyn, New York: Restless Books, 2020.

Stutshkof, Nokhem. *Der Oytser Fun Der Yidisher Shprakh*. New York: Yidisher visnshaftlekher institut, YIVO, 1950.

I have two copies of this revolutionary Thesaurus of the Yiddish Language, both with different covers. The blue covered edition proclaims that it comes from the library of G. Bielasiak, in Brooklyn.

Tsharni, Shmuel. *H. Leyvik, 1888-1948*. New York: Farlag CYCO, 1951.

A volume on the works of H. Leyvick by the Yiddish critic Shmuel Tsharni on the yortsayt of Leyvick’s death. It has a worn but Yiddish styled paper jacket, and the Yiddish inscription inside reads: “A gift, to our beloved, Dvoyre Faynbinder, 1956.”

Vayninger, Frid. *In Groysn Droysn*. Tel Aviv: Y. L. Peretz Farlag — Israel, 1974.

There is a Yiddish inscription within the cover of these psychedelic Yiddish poems: “To the honorable Shmuel Weber, publisher and editor of the Forverts, fighting for the survival of Yiddish — Frid Vayninger, July 29, 1974.”

Weinreich, Max. *Geshikhte Fun Der Yidisher Shprakh*. Vol. 1–4. New York: Yidisher visnshaftlekher institut, YIVO, 1973.

One of the most important works of Yiddish historical linguistics, these 4 volumes are the life’s work of the Yiddish linguist Max Weinreich. I acquired these volumes from the Yiddish Book Center. Condition: Like New.

Weinreich, Uriel. *College Yiddish*. Ninth Printing. 1995: Yidisher visnshaftlekher institut, YIVO, 1995.

This is the ninth edition of the most popular and most influential Yiddish textbook in the Anglophone world: *College Yiddish*. I have been unable to find a first edition, although I would jump at the chance to see one in person.

———. ***Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary*. New York: Schocken Books, 1977.**

Yehoyesh. *Nevi'im Akhronim Khsuvim*. Vol. 1–2. 2 vols. New York: Yehoyesh Gezelshaft, 1941.

This translation of the Tanakh by Yiddish writer Yehoyesh is a large and ornately decorated book, with an inscription inside, in English: “January 6, 1945 — To Albert, with best wishes on your Bar Mitzvah, may you continue to make good use of these. Chaim Serecki.”

Zborowski, Mark, and Elizabeth' Herzog. *Life Is With People: The Jewish Little-Town of Eastern Europe*. Third Printing. New York: International Universities Press, 1952.

This seminal ethnographic work on the Yiddish-speaking “Shtetl,” despite its inaccuracies, remains a charming and important addition to my collection. This 1952 is among its first printings, and bears an ex libris from “Pearl and Sam Horwitz.” I am grateful to receive the book they passed down. Condition: Good.

Zhikhlini, Reyzl. *Harbstike skvern*. New York: CYCO Farlag, 1969.

I arrived to own this book as a gift after a donation to the last non-Hasidic Yiddish bookstore in New York City, CYCO. Reyzl Zhikhlini is a too-often forgotten and amazing Yiddish poet of the pre- and post-war generation.

Zinger, Y. Y. *Brider Ashkenazi*. Vol. 2. 2 vols. New York, 1937.

This hardcover edition of the famous Yiddish novel “The Brother’s Ashkenazi,” was written and published by Isaac Bashevis Singer’s brother. I. I. Singer.

Zucker, Sheva, and Sheva Zucker. *Yidish: An Araynfir: Loshn, Liṭeratur Un Kūltur*. Vol. 1–2. 2 vols. Hoboken, N.J. : New York, N.Y: KTAV ; Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring, 1994.

Sheva Zucker’s Yiddish textbook, the first textbook I used to learn Yiddish. Condition: Good, although slightly worn from a year of use.