

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
ORIENTAL STUDIES, VOL. IX.  
THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN  
HEBREW LITERATURE, 1850-1912**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649579143

Columbia University Oriental Studies, Vol. IX. The Evolution of Modern Hebrew Literature,  
1850-1912 by Abraham Solomon Waldstein

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ABRAHAM SOLOMON WALDSTEIN**

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
ORIENTAL STUDIES, VOL. IX.  
THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN  
HEBREW LITERATURE, 1850-1912**



**MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

SALES AGENTS

NEW YORK :

LEMCKE & BUECHNER  
30-32 WEST 27TH STREET

LONDON :

HUMPHREY MILFORD  
AMEN CORNER, E.C.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ORIENTAL STUDIES

VOL. IX

---

THE EVOLUTION OF  
MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE  
1850-1912

BY

ABRAHAM SOLOMON WALDSTEIN

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, IN THE FACULTY  
OF PHILOSOPHY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

New York  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1916

Copyright, 1916  
By COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

---

Printed from type February, 1916

TO THE  
ABSOLUTE

PRESS OF  
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY  
LANCASTER, PA.



J.  
W  
19  
M

## PREFACE

In writing this book, I have had in view not so much the appreciation of the individual authors and their productions per se, as their relation to the period in which they lived, the ideas and emotions by which they were, consciously or unconsciously, actuated, and what they contributed, as individuals or as a class, to the development of Hebrew literature. In short, I purpose to give here the evolution of the latter rather than its history, in the common sense of the term. This mode of treatment has been more and more pursued by literary historians since Taine; and should, in particular, be followed by any one that writes for a reading public to whom the literature treated is entirely foreign. Readers such as these are certainly more interested in the trend of thought, in the flux and flow of ideas, and in the artistic temperament of the period as a whole and in the literature as a whole, than in any particular writer. Hence, some authors, who would otherwise deserve a fuller treatment, have been dealt with rather summarily. For though as individual writers they may be of very high standing, yet their contribution to the *development* of Hebrew literature may have been less marked than that of other writers of inferior talent, who have, nevertheless, formed links in the chain of this development, and who have consequently been treated more fully.

I have selected as my subject the period between the fifties of the last century and our own time, and I did not go back to the middle of the eighteenth century, which is generally considered the *terminus a quo* of modern Hebrew literature, for the following reason. As I am here dealing mainly with belles-lettres and allied branches, I could have found very little scope in the literature of the hundred years preceding the middle of the nineteenth century. The novel in Hebrew had not yet been produced. In the domain of poetry, the only productions of the

## EVOLUTION OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE

period that can stand critical examination are: some lyrical outbursts in the dramas of M. H. Luzzatto, a small number of poems by Wessely, Sh. Cohen, Letteris, Adam Lebensohn, and some other stray verse, representing in all perhaps one medium-sized volume. Moreover, with the exception of some passages in the *scientific* "letters" of S. D. Luzzatto, the prose of the period did not even present what one may call literary temperament. The spirit of the time, particularly that of the first half of the nineteenth century, was scientific, the writers centering their efforts mainly on historic research; and only in this field did Hebrew literature show any sort of creativeness. But the account of these investigations could hardly fit into the scheme of this book. I have, therefore, relegated this long period in modern Hebrew, as well as a brief account of Mediaeval Hebrew literature, to the introductory chapter.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE . . . . .	v
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
1. Post-Biblical Hebrew Literature . . . . .	1
2. The Evolution of Post-Biblical Hebrew . . . . .	8
I. ROMANTICISM: THE CREATION OF THE HEBREW NOVEL . . . . .	14
II. THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HASKALAH MOVEMENT . .	24
1. The Movement; the Newspaper and the Maga- zine . . . . .	24
III. FICTION DURING THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HAS- KALAH PERIOD: LITERARY CRITICISM . . . . .	32
1. The Novel and the Short Story . . . . .	32
IV. FICTION DURING THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HAS- KALAH PERIOD (Continued) . . . . .	42
2. Poetry: Literary Criticism . . . . .	42
V. PERETZ BEN MOSHE SMOLENSKIN (1839-1884) . . . . .	57
VI. THE REVIVAL MOVEMENT . . . . .	67
VII. SHALOM JACOB ABRAMOVITZ AND SHALOM RABINOVITZ	75
VIII. THE REVIVAL MOVEMENT IN ITS NATIONAL SIG- NIFICANCE . . . . .	86
IX. CONTEMPORARY HEBREW POETRY . . . . .	99
X. RETROGRESSION AND PROGRESS . . . . .	112
XI. THE FEUILLETON, LITERARY CRITICISM, AND ALLIED BRANCHES: CONCLUSION . . . . .	119
INDEX . . . . .	125