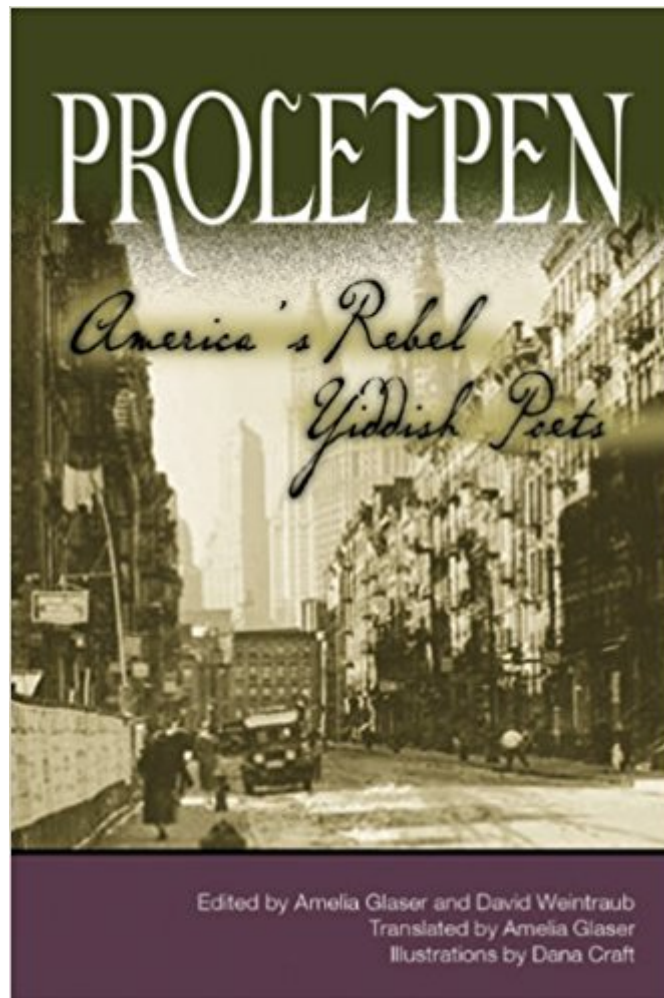




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Proletpen: America's Rebel Yiddish Poets



Synopsis

This unique anthology translates for the first time a little-known body of Yiddish poetry by American Yiddish proletarian writers who identified politically and poetically with the American Left from the 1920s to the early 1950s. In his introduction, Dovid Katz explains how a McCarthy-era "American Yiddish Political Correctness" wrote these leftist poets out of the canon. Amelia Glaser and David Weintraub correct this erasure, recovering the work of thirty poets. Proletpen introduces the reader to an untold chapter of American's tumultuous history during the pre- and inter-war period, revealing the depth and power of Yiddish literature through the backdrop of twentieth-century world politics. A Winner, CHOICE Award for Outstanding Academic Titles, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries Winner, 2006 Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize of the Modern Language Association A window into the lives of a group of socialist writers who spoke passionately about everything from racism to the plight of the worker and the grinding poverty they confronted on a daily basis. A Jewish Book Council

Book Information

Hardcover: 428 pages

Publisher: University of Wisconsin Press; 1 edition (June 27, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0299208001

ISBN-13: 978-0299208004

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

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Customer Reviews

Proletpen: America's Rebel Yiddish Poets is an anthology which demonstrates how the language lived among the Jewish community in New York during the early 1900's. It was spoken not only for daily life but also expressed through the hearts of the youth among the immigrants in the form of poetry. What has been uncovered is the rich tapestry of early Jewish life in New York - which could have been washed away into oblivion. Both Amelia Glaser and David Weintraub deserve full

recognition for their service to save its history. The translation done by Ms. Glaser maintains not only the uniqueness of the Yiddish language but also its poetic value as she translates the poems into English, even by recreating the rhyming scheme. This anthology introduces 100 Yiddish poems by 39 American Yiddish proletarian writers from the 1920s to the early 1950s. Among them is Alexander Pomerantz, whose book, entitled "Proletepen", was published in Kiev in 1935. Unlike its demographic comparison of a half century ago, when Yiddish speakers flourished, Yiddish has been revitalized thanks to Amelia Glaser and David Weintraub. Because of their efforts, Yiddish is not yet a dead language. In fact, the language persists like an old couple nursing their bygone days with words only they can locate at the bottom of their hearts. Norimi G. Yamaguchi

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