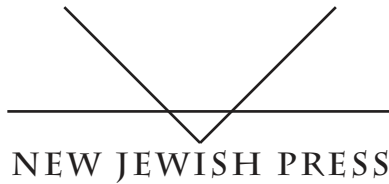




NEW JEWISH PRESS

AT
THE ANNE TANENBAUM CENTRE
FOR JEWISH STUDIES

2017 WINTER CATALOGUE



New Jewish Press is the inaugural publishing program of the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. This innovative program seeks to enhance the Centre's reputation as one of the finest and most comprehensive Jewish Studies Programs in North America by fulfilling its core educational mission and building bridges to the community. Our goal is to make outstanding books on Jewish culture, history, philosophy, and religion available to the broader Canadian and international community. A complement to existing scholarly and trade publishing, New Jewish Press brings the academy and the community together in a uniquely Jewish publishing venture.

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The New Jewish Press would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the following donors:

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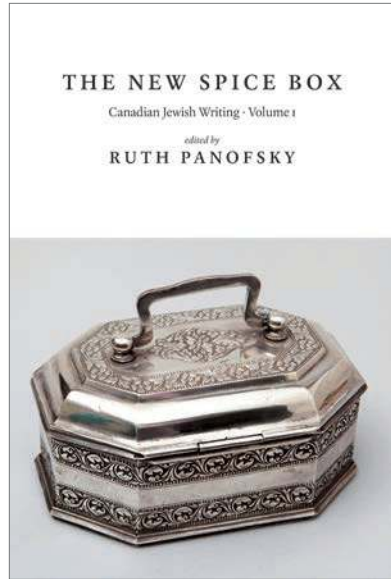
The New Spice Box: Canadian Jewish Writing, Vol. I

Edited by Ruth Panofsky

How does the past shape contemporary Jewish experience in Canada? How does it feel to be Jewish today? These are the questions that inform Volume I of *The New Spice Box*, an aromatic blend of poetry, short stories, and creative non-fiction by a mix of writers who probe all matters Jewish.

Nora Gold dares to re-conceive the biblical story of Joseph as Yosepha. For Seymour Mayne, an aunt's comforter transported from Poland to the New World evokes a lost past. Chava Rosenfarb's Bergen-Belsen diary takes us back to the almost unimaginable moment of liberation, while Yiddish is a vital force for Karen Shenfeld's father.

Across this collection, the past is given new life and meaning by authors who write from their Canadian experience and sensibility. This is a new window on



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Canadian Jewish writing: its vista is expansive and the view, unmatched. Come take a look.

Ruth Panofsky is a professor of English at Ryerson University where she specializes in Canadian literature and culture. She recently edited the award-winning Collected Poems of Miriam Waddington.

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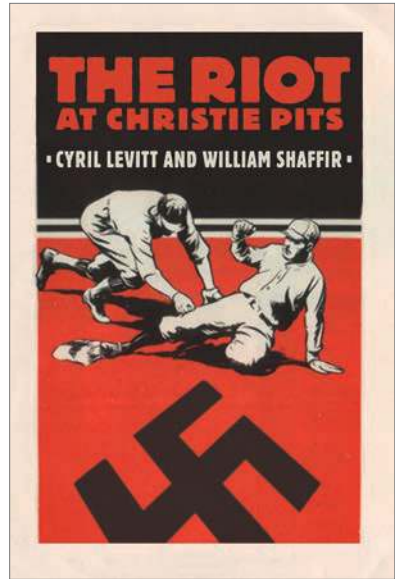
The Riot at Christie Pits

Cyril Levitt and William Shaffir

- 4 Ethnic tensions had been rising in Toronto throughout the hot summer of 1933. Hitler had recently come to power in Germany and some residents of the eastern beaches community had formed “Swastika Clubs” to protect their neighbourhood from “undesirable elements.”

On August 16, at Toronto’s Christie Pits, a baseball game between two local teams – one made up of Jewish players – ignited the simmering resentments. Some troublemakers unfurled a huge swastika flag, shouting, “Heil Hitler!” Retaliation from Jewish spectators and players was swift and reinforcements for both sides poured into the park. The result – never experienced in Toronto before or since – was a four-hour race riot.

The riot at Christie Pits remains a disturbing, even legendary part of the city’s history. Authors Cyril Levitt and William Shaffir, carefully sifting fact from fiction, provide a



compelling perspective on how ordinary Canadians reacted to the intensifying antisemitism in Europe.

A CANADIAN JEWISH
ESSENTIAL

Cyril Levitt and William Shaffir are professors in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University.

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HISTORY/ Social Science/
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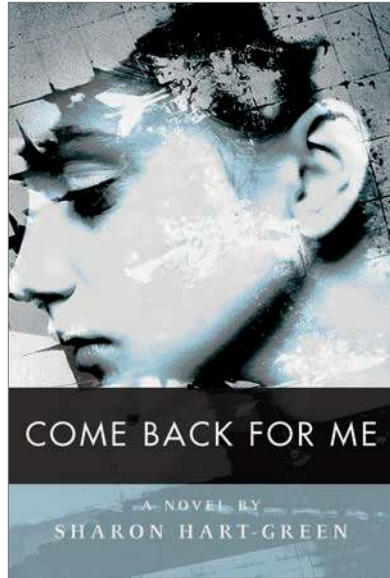


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Foreword by Marcus Gee

Come Back for Me

Sharon Hart-Green

Loss, trauma, memory, and, above all, the ties of family and being Jewish are the elements that weave together this panoramic story. *Come Back for Me* travels through time and place only to bring us, ultimately, to the connections between generations. Artur Mandelkorn is a young Hungarian Holocaust survivor whose desperate quest to find his sister takes him to post-war Israel. Intersecting Artur's tale is that of Suzy Kohn, a Toronto teenager whose seemingly tranquil life is shattered when her uncle's sudden death tears her family apart. Their stories eventually come together in Israel following the Six-Day War, where love and understanding become the threads that bind the two narratives together. Like *Sarah's Key*, *Come Back for Me* deals evocatively with the scars left by tragedy and the possibilities for healing.



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Author Sharon Hart-Green has taught Hebrew and Yiddish literature at the University of Toronto. Her short stories, poems, translations, and articles have appeared in a number of publications. Come Back for Me is her first novel.

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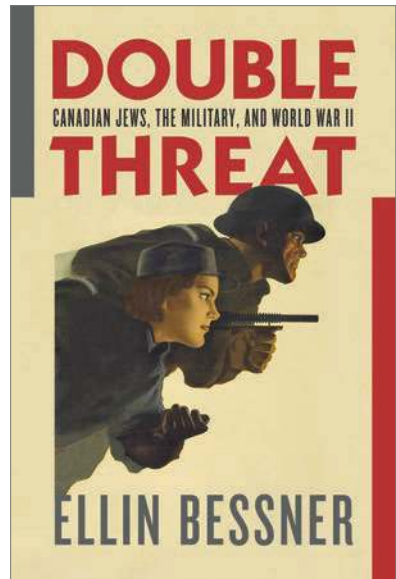
FICTION/ Literary/Jewish



Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military, and World War II

Ellin Bessner

- 6 “He died so Jewry should suffer no more.” These words on a Canadian Jewish soldier’s tombstone in Normandy inspired the author to explore the role of Canadian Jews in the war effort. As PM Mackenzie King wrote in 1947, Jewish servicemen faced a “double threat” – they were not only fighting against Fascism but for Jewish survival. At the same time, they encountered widespread antisemitism and the danger of being identified as Jews if captured. Bessner conducted hundreds of interviews and extensive archival research to paint a complex picture of the 17,000 Canadian Jews – about 10 per cent of the Jewish population in wartime Canada – who chose to enlist, including future Cabinet minister Barney Danson, future game-show host Monty Hall, and comedians Wayne and Schuster. Added to this fascinating account are Jews who were among the so-called



“Zombies” – Canadians who were drafted, but chose to serve at home – the various perspectives of the Jewish community, and the participation of Canadian Jewish women.

Ellin Bessner is a journalist and a professor of journalism at Centennial College in Toronto.

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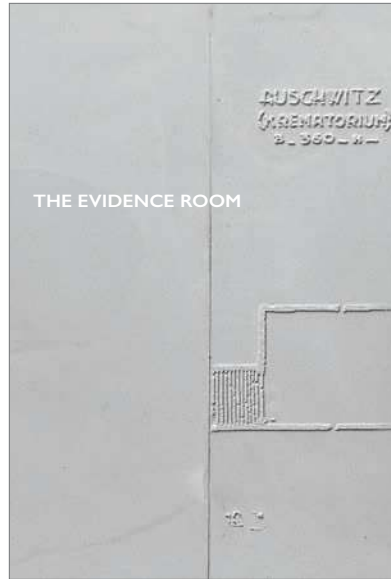
HISTORY/ Jewish/ Canada/ Military



The Evidence Room

Anne Bordeleau, Donald McKay, Sascha Hastings, Robert Jan van Pelt

It was the greatest crime ever committed by architects. In 2000, historian Robert Jan van Pelt authoritatively refuted Holocaust denial in a libel trial by detailing the role of architecture in constructing the gas chambers at Auschwitz. In 2016, at the Venice Biennale, *The Evidence Room* exhibition makes that defining evidence chillingly material. *The Evidence Room* book – a companion piece to the exhibition – uses visual and written essays to evoke the historical testimony presented at the trial that Auschwitz was a purposefully designed factory of death. “[The Evidence Room] is a remarkable achievement, among the most important works on the Nazi ‘project’... extraordinarily compelling.” Berel Lang



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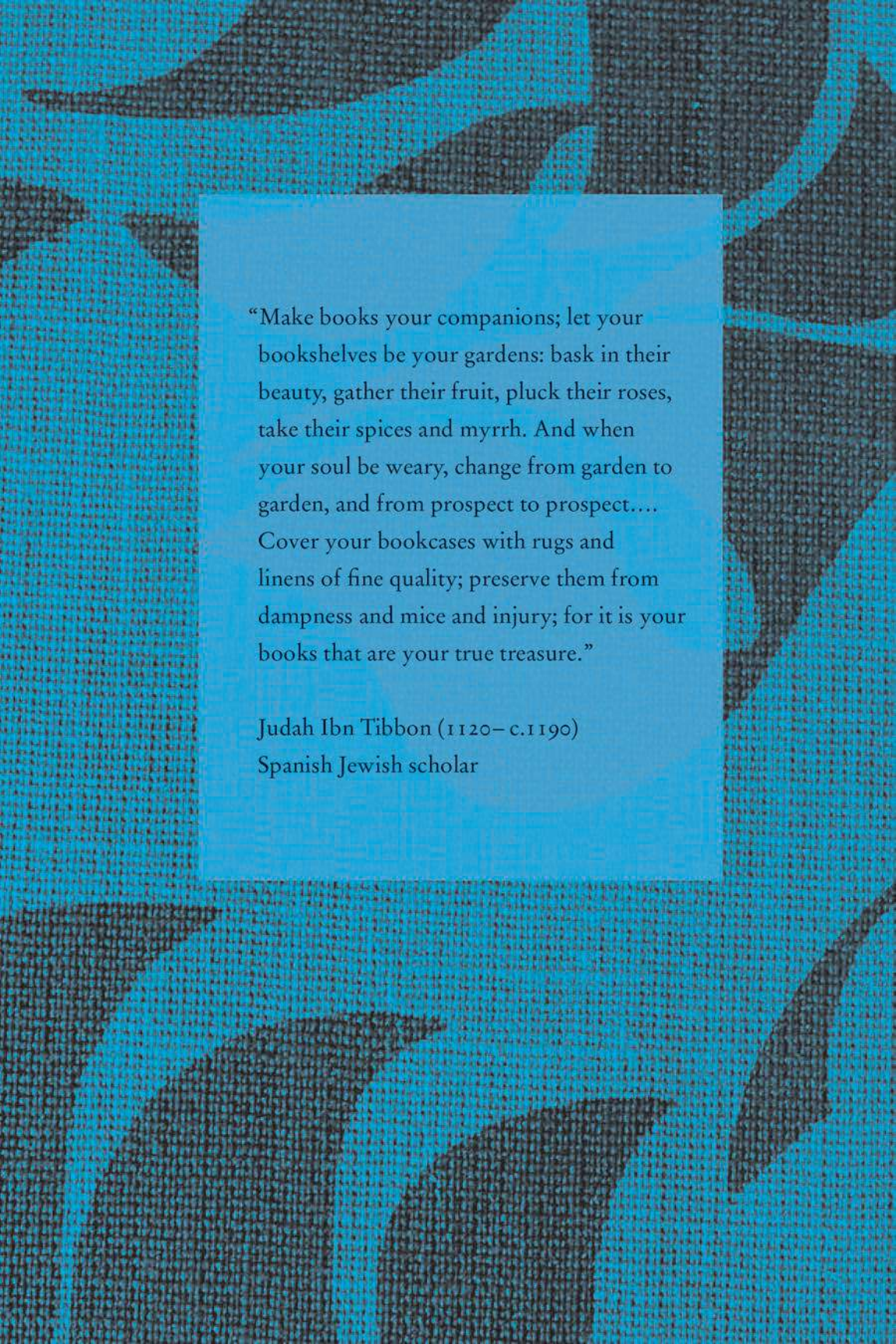
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Judah Ibn Tibbon (1120– c.1190)
Spanish Jewish scholar