

# YIDDISH: A SURVEY AND A GRAMMAR

## Second Edition

*S.A. Birnbaum*

With new introductory essays by David Birnbaum, Eleazar Birnbaum,  
Kalman Weiser, and Jean Baumgarten

One of the great Yiddish scholars of the twentieth century, S.A. Birnbaum (1891–1989) published *Yiddish: A Survey and a Grammar* in 1979 towards the end of a long and prolific career. Unlike other grammars and study guides for English speakers, this survey fully describes the dialect and pronunciation used today by most native speakers, while also taking into account other forms of Yiddish such as those associated with secularist and academic circles. The book also includes specimens of Yiddish prose and poetic texts spanning eight centuries, sampling literature from the medieval to modern eras across its vast European geographic expanse.

The second edition makes this classic text available again to students, teachers, and Yiddish speakers alike. Featuring three new introductory essays by noted Yiddish scholars, a corrected version of the text, and an expanded and updated bibliography, this book is essential reading for any serious student of Yiddish and its culture.

S.A. BIRNBAUM was a pioneer in the academic study of Yiddish. The first person to hold a teaching post in the study of Yiddish at any university in the world, he taught at the Universities of Hamburg and London.

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