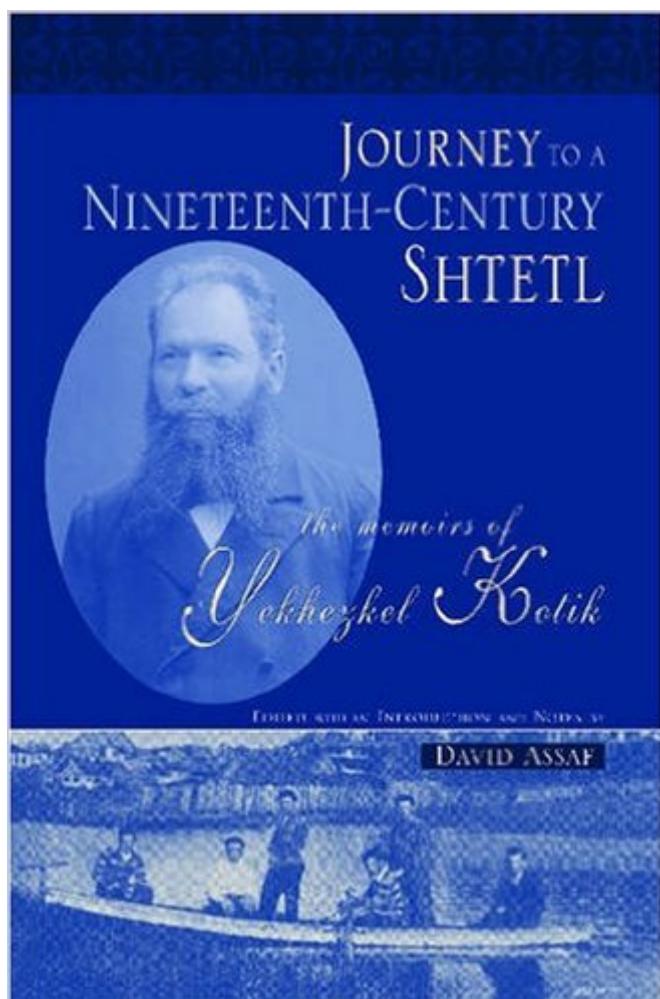


The book was found

Journey To A Nineteenth-Century Shtetl: The Memoirs Of Yekhezkel Kotik (Raphael Patai Series In Jewish Folklore And Anthropology)



Synopsis

Originally published in Warsaw in 1913, this beautifully written memoir offers a panoramic description of the author's experiences growing up in Kamieniec Litewski, a Polish shtetl connected with many important events in the history of nineteenth-century Eastern European Jewry. Although the way of life portrayed in this memoir has disappeared, the historical, cultural, and folkoric material it contains will be of major interest to historians and general readers alike. Kotik's story is the saga of a wealthy and influential family through four generations. Masterfully interwoven in this tale are colorful vignettes featuring Kotik's family and neighbors, including rabbis and zaddikim, merchants and the poor, hasidim and mitnaggedim, scholars and illiterates, believers and heretics, matchmakers and informers, and teachers and musicians. Stories of personal warmth and despair intermingle with descriptions of the rise and decline of Jewish communal institutions and descriptions of the relationships between Jews, Russian authorities, and Polish lords. Such events as the brutal decrees of Tsar Nicholas I, the abolishment of the Jewish communal board known as the Kahal, and the Polish revolts against Russia are reflected in the lives of these people. The English edition includes a complete translation of the first volume of memoirs and contains notes elucidating terms, names, and customs, as well as bibliographical references to the research literature. The book not only acquaints new readers with the talent of a unique storyteller but also presents an important document of Jewish life during a fascinating era.

Book Information

Series: Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: Wayne State University Press (April 9, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814334210

ISBN-13: 978-0814334218

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,468,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #260 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Jewish #1186 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Jewish #1265 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > History

Customer Reviews

Okay, so I Google myself. That's how I discovered this astonishing memoir, published (1913) in Warsaw in Yiddish, by a man who may or may not be my blood. I read the Hebrew translation in 2001 and corresponded a bit with Editor/Translator Dr. Assaf, a professor of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University. Assaf is a thorough and inspired scholar. The Hebrew edition was superb, and the English edition is, too. Yekhezkel Kotik was born into one world and lived long enough to die in another, one in which nearly all physical remnants of the old were vanished. An essentially medieval culture, on the periphery of the Russian Empire, unchanged for nearly a millennium, was in the course of Yekhezkel's adulthood swept away by the ripples of modernity which swept through the Russian Empire. Kotik was born in a small town in the Belarus -Lithuanian region of the Pale of Settlement, at a time when most men expected to spend their entire lives within a few kilometers of the spot where they came into the world. The 19th Century, however, did not end as it had begun. The emergence of industry, global commerce and the fundamental transformations of political economy which devolved from and fueled these tectonic shifts set people in motion to an unprecedented degree. Kotik's adult life was strikingly modern. He resettled himself several times in different towns in Belarus and the Ukraine, operating (with generally disappointing results) a series of businesses. He came to rest in cosmopolitan Warsaw, where he opened what turned into a thriving coffee house much favored by the city's Jewish intellectuals, artists, activists, bon pensants and bon vivants. Yekhezkel flourished in this milieu, and became locally famous as an organizer and promoter of all manner of cooperative societies.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Journey to a Nineteenth-Century Shtetl: The Memoirs of Yekhezkel Kotik (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology) Memories from a Russian Kitchen: From Shtetl to Golden Land The Chemistry of Organozinc Compounds: R-Zn (Patai's Chemistry of Functional Groups) Eighteenth-Century Utopian Fiction (Studies In Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature Series) Embroideries & Patterns from 19th Century Vienna (Embroideries & patterns from nineteenth century Vienna from the Nowotny collection) Paraguayan War: Armies of the Nineteenth Century: The Americas (Armies of the 19th Century: The Americas) The Other in Jewish Thought and History: Constructions of Jewish Culture and Identity (New Perspectives on Jewish Studies) "How Come Boys Get to Keep Their Noses?": Women and Jewish American Identity in Contemporary Graphic Memoirs (Gender and Culture Series) The Jewish Heritage Cookbook: A Fascinating Journey Through The Rich And Diverse History Of The Jewish Cuisine The Architecture

of Memory: A Jewish-Muslim Household in Colonial Algeria, 1937-1962 (Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology) Dutra's World: Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro (DiÁfÂjlogos Series) Shelley's Eye: Travel Writing and Aesthetic Vision (Nineteenth Century Series) Dickens, Reynolds, and Mayhew on Wellington Street: The Print Culture of a Victorian Street (The Nineteenth Century Series) Altered States: Sex, Nation, Drugs, and Self-Transformation in Victorian Spiritualism (SUNY Series, Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century) Flip-Flop: A Journey Through Globalisation's Backroads (Anthropology, Culture and Society) The Conservative Movement in Judaism: Dilemmas and Opportunities (Suny Series in American Jewish Society in the 1990s) (Suny Series, American Jewish Society in the 1990s) Self-Defense for Gentlemen and Ladies: A Nineteenth-Century Treatise on Boxing, Kicking, Grappling, and Fencing with the Cane and Quarterstaff Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century Virtuosity of the Nineteenth Century: Performing Music and Language in Heine, Liszt, and Baudelaire Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America (Race and American Culture)

[Dmca](#)