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■ *Primo Levi Papers*

Primo Levi, The Friend

Bianca Guidetti Serra, 2014

Translated by Alessandro Cassin and Mariuca Iosifescu.

ISBN 978-1-941046-00-5 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-01-2 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046012>

A brief text in the form of a limud. In Jewish tradition, a limud is a teaching that serves to pay homage to the departed by discussing topics close to their hearts. By delicately weaving personal memories with quotes from Primo Levi's writing, Guidetti Serra conjures up his presence, and reveals how Primo Levi, the man—his thoughts, attitudes, and character— was intrinsically linked to his work. What comes alive is Levi's unique gift for deep and long lasting friendships.

A Silver Martian: Normality and Segregation in Primo Levi's Sleeping Beauty in the Fridge

Paola Mieli, 2014

ISBN 978-1-941046-11-1 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-10-4 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046104>

In Mieli's interpretation, through surreal inventions, Levi pointed to a disquieting continuity between past aberrations and present normality, showing how the present is subtly interwoven with the logic of the past. In his short story, *Sleeping Beauty in the Fridge*, Levi describes with great acumen the relationship between science, new technologies, and subjective alienation, as well as the ways in which normality, and the tranquility of a prosperous life, are in fact the product of a bio-political normativity, universally accepted with careless complicity.

On reading If This is a Man

Alberto Cavaglion, 2014

Translated by Alta L. Price

ISBN 978-1-941046-13-5 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-12-8 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046104>

"My humble commentary on *If This is a Man* aims above all at digging into the rich literary mine from which many of its expressions come. To give just one example of this mine's material diversity, one of its ores, Dante, lies beside one of its gems, Baudelaire. The commentary also explores the relationship between what Levi called its "grammatical derivations" (for example, the frequent use of oxymorons and repeated conjectures, the many hypothetical passages) and a worldview "opposed to everything infinite," fascinated but at the same time suspicious of two extremes – both the demons and degenerates and the saints and martyrs."

Vanadium and the Gray Doctor Müller

Marco Belpoliti 2018.

Including Primo Levi's story, *Vanadium*. With an introduction by Simona Forti.

Translated by Jonathan Hunt.

ISBN 978-1-941046-91-3 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-92-0 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046913>

Belpoliti's essay on Levi's short story *Vanadium* from *The Periodic Table* is a slim and thought-provoking volume, introduced by philosopher Simona Forti.

After surviving Auschwitz, Primo Levi never stopped questioning how the German culture which had given humanity Goethe and Beethoven, had also produced Nazism. In his quest for a deeper understanding of the circumstances and mechanisms that had turned a people into barbarians, and to confront post-war Germans with his testimony, Levi sought a dialogue with them. The desire and need for such a dialogue manifest clearly in his fiction and non-fiction alike.

■ *Memoirs & Biographies*

Return To Erfurt

Olga Tarcali, 2014

Preface by Serge Klarsfeld, introduction by Susan Zuccotti. Translated by Allison Charrette

ISBN 978-1-941046-04-3 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-05-0 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046050>

After their parents were captured by the Nazis, Marianne Spier and her brother were taken under the protection of the Italian Jewish banker and philanthropist Angelo Donati. The Spier children lived in Nice with Donati – a key figure in the underground Jewish rescue efforts in Southern France – until September 1943, when he brought them into hiding in Italy. After the war, Angelo Donati adopted the children and gave them his name. The book opens in 1999, when Marianne Spier-Donati receive an official invitation to visit the town where she was born, Erfurt.

Skirmishes on Lake Ladoga

Roberto Bassi, 2014

Introduction by Daniel Mendelsohn.

Translated by Jeremy Scott.

ISBN 978-1-941046-07-4 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-14-2 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046142>

"Every morning in the kitchen I used to read – and comment upon – war bulletins for my grandmother. When everything was quiet, it said that there had been "skirmishes on Lake Ladoga". The word 'skirmish' must have made a particular impression upon me." Against the backdrop of war-torn Italy we follow one of the many stories of daily terror, uncertainty and loss of those who survived the attempt to wipe out European Jewry. At once personal and finely nuanced, Bassi's story is emblematic of the experience and need to bear witness of those whose life was forever shattered by the Nazi Fascist persecution.

"I Am Counting on You, on Everyone..."

Gemma Vitale Servadio, 2014

With an essay by Marco Coslovich.

ISBN: 978-1-941046-08-1 Paperback

ISBN: 978-1-941046-06-7 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046067>

Eight letters written by Gemma Servadio from the concentration camp of Fossoli have come down to us. Curated by the Gemma's granddaughter Mirella Bedarida Shapiro, with an essay by historian Marco Coslovich. Written between May and June 1944, these simple and bare appeals to humanity are at the same time historical documents, testimonies and a warning of what human beings are capable of.

Americordo. The Italian Jewish Exiles in America

Gianna Pontecorboli, 2015

Translated by Marion Lignaia Rosenberg, Steve Baker.

ISBN: 978-1-941046-15-9 Paperback

ISBN: 978-1-941046-16-6 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046166>

Forced to the US by the Fascist persecutions during the 1930's and 1940's, roughly two thousand Italian Jews landed in America and continued their work in a wide

range of fields, from mathematics and biology to medicine, music, banking, textile manufacturing, art and antiques. Pontecorboli retraces the threads of their stories, their strategies to exit Italy, find a visa to the US and their first steps in the new world.

Reflections of an Educator, Researcher, Entrepreneur

Andrew J. Viterbi, 2016

ISBN 978-1-941046-21-0 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-22-7 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046234>

A personal memoir reconstructing the course of the author's academic career at a time in which technology played a major role in a radical reshaping of the world's economy and society. Attuned to the post-war growing technological needs of government and population, Viterbi and his colleagues began to work in an area where scientific research and capitalistic enterprise could support one another. His main contribution to science, the Viterbi Algorithm, found application in different fields, ultimately leading up to the co-founding of Qualcomm. Originally written for family members, this carefully pondered autobiography proves valuable to readers of all ages, as it offers a glimpse into major 20th century events, and poses unavoidable questions on the impact of science on society and on the relation between personal initiative, creative thinking and private or public institutions.

Taamrat Emmanuel: An Ethiopian Jewish Intellectual, Between Colonized and Colonizers

Emanuela Trevisan, 2018

Translated by Jill Goldsmith.

ISBN 9781-941046-17-3 Paperback

ISBN 9781-941046-18-0 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046180>

Emanuela Trevisan Semi's book is an insightful biographical study of a key figure among Ethiopian Jews of the early 20th Century. Taamrat Emmanuel was profoundly fascinated by European Jewish culture, by Western thought, and by Italy's language and customs. ...His free spirit, his independence and critical thinking, his suspicion of power, sarcasm, and irony flowered and were nurtured during his years in Italy as a young man.

Mixed Messages Reflections on an Italian Jewish Family and Exile

Eleanor Foa, 2019

ISBN 978-1-941046-95-1 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-96-8 Ebook

In post-World War II America, who ever heard of an Italian Jew? Journalist and author Eleanor Foa, born in Italy, raised in America, daughter of a brilliant father whose Italian-Jewish roots trace back to 16th-century printers, was proud of her exotic roots, yet knew little about her lineage. In 2006, accompanied by her American born sister, she retraces the footsteps of their ancestors through northern Italy (Sologna, Cortemaggiore, Sabbioneta, Parma) and reconnects with living relatives in Turin, Naples, and Rome.

Correspondence 1929-1994

Efratia Gitai

Selected and edited by Rivka Gitai.

Translated by Timothy Aaron Priest.

Foreword by Alessandro Cassin.

ISBN 978-1-941046-25-8 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-26-5 Ebook

Born in 1909 in Haifa to Russian Zionist parents, Efratia Gitai was "the eldest daughter" of the Second Aliyah, the second wave of Jewish immigrants to Ottoman Palestine. Her family's migration and her own critical eye made her a keen observer of watershed moments: the Bolshevik

Revolution; the cosmopolitan culture of Vienna, where she studied psychology with Anna Freud; Hitler's 1932 speech at Alexanderplatz; Churchill's declaration of war heard as she fled by boat from Poland to Haifa; early experiments in kibbutz living; and the Six Day War. These "private letters" offer a rare first-person account into political events, discussions and social transformations, intertwined with formidable bonds of camaraderie, friendship, and love.

■ *Lezioni Primo Levi*

Outrageous Fortune Luck and the Holocaust "Sfacciata fortuna" La Shoah e il caso

Robert S. C. Gordon, 2017

Translated by Chiara Stangalino.

ISBN 978-1-941046-02-9 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-03-6 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046029>

Gordon explores the literary tradition and philosophical quandaries thrown by the workings of luck, chance and fortune. Examining a body of literature going from Dante to Boccaccio, Machiavelli and Shakespeare, he points to how myths, images and patterns of thinking about Fortuna were taken from classical culture and adapted by both Christian and Renaissance humanist writers. In the second part of the book, Gordon jumps forward to the twentieth century, and finds compelling and surprising links between this tradition of storytelling about fortune and the Shoah. In particular, he finds a disturbing but illuminating convergence on the question of survival: who survived the Lager and why, and what does it mean to say – as Primo Levi often did – that survival in the Lager was, more than anything else, the work of pure chance?

■ *History*

Gather What You Can and Flee

Annalisa Capristo, 2014

Translated by Peter Rothstein.

ISBN: 978-1-941046-09-8 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046098>

Capristo's essay presents a synthesis of themes regarding the Italian Jewish emigration after 1938: the nature of the persecution; the approximate dimensions, given the absence of accurate documentation, as well as the qualitative description of this migration; and the cultural and scientific consequences for Italy and for the countries where they arrived, and note made of the activities of some of the émigrés, particularly with regard to those who settled in the United States.

■ *The Arts*

New York Lectures and Interviews

Giorgio Bassani, 2016

Forward by Giorgio van Straten.

Translated by Steven Baker.

Published with The Italian Cultural Institute NY.

ISBN 978-1-941046-23-4 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-24-1 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046241>

Giorgio Bassani's New York Lectures and Interviews is published on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the author's birth. In these pages, Bassani delves into questions of life, poetry, history, truth and religion. He discusses being Italian, art and his love for Truman Capote. One of the essays "On Nazism and Fascism" is an important document originally written in 1944, which Bassani describes as the ideological background of some of his novels and stories: *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* or *A Night in '43* or *A Plaque on Via Mazzini* or *Clelia Trotti*.

Money Must Stay in the Family

Alain Elkann, 2018

Introduction by Alessandro Cassin.

Translated by Alastair McEwen.

ISBN 978-1-941046-93-7 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-94-4 Ebook

<http://digital.casalini.it/9781941046944>

The plot of *Money Must Stay in the Family*, unfolds around the family matriarch's last will and traces the story of an upper-class Jewish family from Turin, the fictional Ottolenghis. The multigenerational saga begins with the flight from Mussolini's Racial Laws of 1938 and



continues with the arrival in the Upper West Side of Manhattan and the dispersion from New York to Rome, Paris, Tuscany, South America, and Jerusalem. Avoiding stereotyping and sociological categories, in a delicate balance between fiction and memoir, Elkann focuses on individual destinies and quests. Through a multitude of characters from two interconnected families, he presents forms of attachment, estrangement, belonging, rejecting, escaping and returning to Judaism, in a post-Shoah world.

UPCOMING TITLES

Italian Judaica

Shirat Hayam The Song of the Sea

Curated by Enrico Fink, 2020

ISBN 978-1-941046-90-6

In "The Song of the Sea," musician and author Enrico Fink guides us through the Great Synagogue of Florence while mapping out the history and repertoire of the Sephardic liturgy in Italy. Exploring the origin and versions of the liturgical poem Shirat Hayam (Song of the Sea), Fink reflects on the importance of religious music throughout the Sephardic world. The book, with historical sections by musicologists Edwin Seroussi and Francesco Spagnolo, features a section dedicated cantillation techniques.

Memoirs & Biographies

Reluctant Jews

Sandro Gerbi, 2020

Translated by Jeremy Moyle

ISBN 978-1-941046-19-7 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-27-2 Ebook

Rather than going in search of his Jewish roots, Sandro Gerbi focuses on the reverse process: the gradual secularization of his family during the twentieth century, through the distancing from religious faith and the Jewish Community, up to the recurrent practice of mixed marriages. All without nostalgia, but also without any rejection of his ancestry.

The story begins with 1938, the year in which the author's father, the historian and economist Antonello Gerbi, was forced to leave Italy for Peru because of racial legislation. The fate of his two brothers, — one a

sports journalist, the other a doctor—who found shelter in the United States, was similar. With his fresh writing and rich in anecdotes, the author traces the 'Jewish' events that have touched him over time: his birth in Peru in '43 because of his father's exile, the return to Italy in '48, the survival of a specific "family lexicon", a trip to Israel in December '67, some decisive meetings: the financial expert Renato Cantoni, the philosopher György Lukács, the journalists Ugo Stille and Indro Montanelli, the literary agent Erich Linder. Finally, the moving first return to Lima in 2010, 62 years after leaving.

Fleeing for Safety: From Mantua to Switzerland

Corrado Vivanti and Clelia Della Pergola

Edited by Alessandro Vivanti. Preface by Silvana Calvo

Translated by Will Schutt.

ISBN 978-1-941046-30-2 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-941046-31-9 Ebook

The book combines two accounts, one picking up where the other leaves off, like the passing of a torch. The son, Corrado Vivanti, opens with the period preceding passage of the Italian racial laws of 1938 and closes with his family's flight to Switzerland, while the mother, Clelia Della Pergola Vivanti, begins with their traumatic border crossing and ends on the first days of January 1945. The two accounts differ greatly but have in common an absence of self-pity and a certain modesty when relating events that cut to the quick. That is a characteristic shared by many early accounts: those who suffered persecution often felt that sense of shame described by Primo Levi in the first chapter of *La Tregua (The Truce)*.

Exile and Creativity

Essays on the lives of men and women who were forced into exiles explore the interplay between the



ideas of creativity and displacement, and their counterparts of identity and home. Contributors include David N. Schwartz, Tina Frühauf, Harvey Sachs, Cesare Panizza, Mattia Acetoso, Franco Baldasso, Renato Camurri, Marina Calloni, Jennifer Scappettone, Raffaele Bedarida, Giuliana Altea, 2020. With an introduction by Giorgio van Straten. Published with the Italian Cultural Institute NY.

Translations by Alta L. Price.

ISBN 978-1-941046-25-8 Paperback

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academia, regularly publishing translations of classic and cutting-edge scholarship and encouraging collaborative projects between Italy and the US. *Printed Matter* makes available every month articles, interviews and books, an interdisciplinary selection of academic news and a variety of cultural and scholarly resources in print. **CPL Editions** offers classic and new books on topics of interest in Italian Jewish history and thought.



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