## Contents

Pu	blisher's Note on the Translation and Transliteration	xi
1	The Origins of Hasidism	I
2	The Hasidic Library	11
3	Mystical Societies and the Spread of Hasidism: Internalizing and Reviving the Kabbalistic Myth	27
4	The Hasidic Concept of Language: The Window in the Word	41
5	Israel Ba'al Shem Tov's Uniqueness: Myth, Bibliography, Facts, and Image	59
6	The Hasidic Revolution	72
7	Hasidism in the Context of its Time	85
8	The Unity of Opposites: Being and Nothingness	106
9	'For indeed all is null and void': Transcending Being	115
10	The Doctrine of the Tsadik	126
11	Mystical Spirituality and Autonomous Leadership	152
12	Israel Ba'al Shem Tov and Jacob Frank: Hasidism and Shabateanism	173
13	Scholarship on Hasidism: Changing Perspectives	195
14	Summary	206
Gl	Glossary	
Bibliography		217
In	Index of Biblical References	
Subject Index		245