### CONTENTS

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ix

#### Introduction 1

### PART 1 BREATHING FREE IN THE NEW WORLD: TRANSCENDENTALISM AND THE JEWISH SOUL 13

1 Songs of a Semite: Emma Lazarus and the Muse of History 16

2 Ecstasies of the Credulous: Mary Antin and the Spirit of the Shtetl 37

## PART 2 BATTLING THE NATIVISTS: MYSTICS, PROPHETS, AND REBELS IN INTERWAR AMERICA 53

3 "Pilgrim to a Forgotten Shrine": Ludwig Lewisohn and the Recovery of the Inner Jew 56

4 Modernist Flasks, Jewish Wine: Waldo Frank and the Immanence of God 76

5 Cinderella's Dybbuk: Anzia Yezierska as the Voice of Generations 93

### PART 3 YIDDISH INTERLUDE 119

6 From Heine to Whitman: The Yiddish Poets Come to America 121

# PART 4 "ORATING IN NEW YORKESE": THE LANGUAGES OF JEWISHNESS IN POSTWAR AMERICA 143

7 "My Private Orthodoxy": Alfred Kazin's Romantic Judaism 147 8 The Jewish Writer Flies at Twilight:

Irving Howe and the Recovery of Yiddishkayt 171

Conclusion 192

NOTES 201 INDEX 225

Illustrations appear on pages 109-117.