
Moshe Pelli. *Hatarbut haivrit beamerica*. Tel Aviv. Reshafim. 1998. 392 + xx pages. ISBN 965-418-146-0.

"Hebrew Culture in America" is undoubtedly a significant contribution to the historical study of Hebrew culture (primarily belles lettres, literary and professional periodicals, and literary criticism) and a laudable pioneering work by Moshe Pelli, the director of the Judaic Studies Program at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The book's innovative and unique character stems from the fact that this is the first panoramically comprehensive attempt ever to follow fastidiously the evolution of Hebrew culture and literature in the USA during the last eighty years, portraying this evolution in the most plausibly informative and elucidating fashion.

One of the prominent cornerstones of Hebrew culture in the USA is the national organization entitled the Histadrut Ivrit (Hebrew Association), established in New York City in 1916. Among the leading founders and supporters of this organization were Hebrew writers, historians, critics, and journalists. These founders aimed to continue the remarkable, flourishing Hebrew

culture and literature that emerged in Eastern Europe at the end of the nineteenth century. Hebrew culture and literature gained considerable momentum at the beginning of the twentieth century, eventually spreading to the land of Israel between the first and third decades of the current century. As the center of Hebrew culture and literature continued to prosper in the land of Israel, the attempt by its American counterpart to achieve a similar success in a non-Hebrew-speaking environment turned dramatically heroic indeed. Pelli's impressively meticulous and insightful study does worthy justice to this attempt.

Accordingly, *Hatarbut haivrit beamerica* documents and maps, in a systematic and illuminating manner, the intricate network of literary and critical activities relating to Hebrew culture in the USA, established, formed, and molded in the Hebrew language during eight long and fruitful decades. Hence, Pelli's admirably substantive book is truly a must for anyone desiring to acquaint himself or herself with Hebrew culture in the USA in the most valuable and rewarding way.

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