CONTENTS

A Note on Transliteration and Translation ix
Introduction: The Silk Road of Modern Jewish Creativity 1
1. Odessa: Jewish Sages, Luftmenshen, Gangsters, and the Odessit in the Café 17
2. Warsaw: Between Kotik’s Café and the Ziemiańska 55
3. Vienna: The “Matzo Island” and the Functioning Myths of the Viennese Café 98
4. Berlin: From the Gelehrtes Kaffeehaus to the Romanisches Café 142
5. New York City: Kibitzing in the Cafés of the New World 186
6. Tel Aviv–Jaffa: The “First Hebrew City” or a City of Many Cafés? 246
Conclusion: Closing Time 303
Acknowledgments 311
Notes 315
Index 357
About the Author 371