

Yigal Schwartz

The Zionist Paradox

Hebrew Literature and Israeli Identity

Translated by Michal Sapir

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Waltham, Massachusetts



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS
An imprint of University Press of New England
www.upne.com

© 2014 Brandeis University
All rights reserved
Manufactured in the United States of America
Typeset in Garamond Premier Pro by
Integrated Publishing Solutions

For permission to reproduce any of the material in this book,
contact Permissions, University Press of New England, One Court
Street, Suite 250, Lebanon NH 03766; or visit www.upne.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Shvarts, Yig'al.

[Ha-yada'ta et ha-aerts sham ha-limon poreah. English]
The Zionist paradox : Hebrew literature and Israeli identity / Yigal
Schwartz ; translated by Michal Sapir.

pages cm. — (The Schusterman series in Israel studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58465-894-8 (cloth: alk. paper) —

ISBN 978-1-61168-601-2 (pbk. : alk. paper) —

ISBN 978-1-61168-602-9 (ebook)

1. Zionism in literature. 2. Hebrew fiction—History and
criticism. 3. Israeli fiction—History and criticism. 4. Jews—
Israel—Identity. 5. National characteristics, Israeli, in literature.

I. Sapir, Michal. II. Title.

PJ5030.Z55S5813 2014

892.4'093585694—dc23 2014013635

5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Preface & Acknowledgments

ix

Introduction

i

1. Avraham Mapu, *The Love of Zion* (1853)
The Beautiful Daughter of Zion, the (Faux) Shepherd
Boy and the Cutting Up of the Monster

13

2. Theodor Herzl, *Altneuland* (1902)
Shall These Dry Bones Live

49

3. Yosef Luidor, “Yoash” (1912)
The Taste of Freedom and Space

97

4. Moshe Shamir, *He Walked in the Fields* (1948)
It Turned Out It Was All Fake . . .

142

5. Amos Oz, “Nomads and Viper” (1963)
A Short, Patched European Jacket
over a White Desert Robe

221

Notes 289

Bibliography 315

Index 329