GERSHOM SCHOLEM

From Berlin to Jerusalem and Back

NOAM ZADOFF

Translated by Jeffrey Green

Brandeis University Press An imprint of University Press of New England www.upne.com

© 2018 Brandeis University

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.



All rights reserved

Manufactured in the United States of America Designed by Eric M. Brooks

Typeset in Quadraat by Passumpsic Publishing

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

NAMES: Zadoff, Noam, author.

TITLE: Gershom Scholem: from Berlin to Jerusalem and back: an intellectual biography / Noam Zadoff; translated by Jeffrey Green.

OTHER TITLES: Von Berlin nach Jerusalem und Zuruck. English

DESCRIPTION: Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2017. | Series: The Tauber series for the study of European Jewry | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2017001006 (print) | LCCN 2017042725 (ebook) | ISBN 9781512601145 (epub, mobi & pdf) | ISBN 9781512601121 (cloth: alk. paper) | ISBN 9781512601138 (pbk.: alk. paper) | SUBJECTS: LCSH: Scholem, Gershom, 1897–1982. | Jewish scholars—

Germany—Biography. | Jewish scholars—Israel—Biography. |
Jews—Germany—Intellectual life. | Jews—Israel—Intellectual life.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC BM755.S295 (ebook)

LCC BM755.S295 Z3313 2017 (print) | DDC 296.092 [B]—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017001006

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction: The Metaphysical Clown xv

PART I "CONTINUITY OF THE CRISIS"

HOPE AND DISILLUSION (1923-1938) I

- 1 Cultural Contexts 3
- 2 A Political Circle: Brit Shalom 38
- 3 Religious Contexts 60

PART II THE UNPARALLELED CATASTROPHE

DESPAIR (1939-1948) 73

- 4 Responses to the Holocaust 75
- 5 The Journey to Salvage Looted Books and Manuscripts 95
- 6 The Heart of Odysseus 142

PART III EIN TIEFES HEIMWEH

NOSTALGIA (1949-1982) 155

- 7 Eranos 157
- 8 Between Israel and Germany 189
- Berlin, Again: The Finale 222

Afterword: From Berlin to Jerusalem 251

Notes 259

References 295

Index of Names 317