

Preface and Acknowledgments

I began this project after many years of studying women Zionists in the United States, something that whet my curiosity about the activities of Zionist women in other countries worldwide. Aware of the lacuna in Zionist historiography in this field as the study of this topic was only in its inception, I initially aspired to write a scholarly volume about women Zionists worldwide. Alas, a historian's desires are not always mirrored by reality, and it soon became clear that such a book cannot be written by a single author. The next stage was to create a team of experienced scholars who understood the various languages and were familiar with the diverse cultures of the many Jewish communities involved. What is set before you is the outcome of many years of hard work of putting a volume that paints a panoramic picture of women's Zionist activism from the inception of Zionism in the late nineteenth century, up to the founding of the State of Israel where this volume ends.

The preparation of a book is always the work of many people, certainly a collection of articles by nine authors. It is my duty and pleasure to thank all those who helped in the long and complex path that led to the final outcome. I hope that I have included everyone who has assisted me during the process of preparing this collection and beg forgiveness of anyone whom I have inadvertently omitted.

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