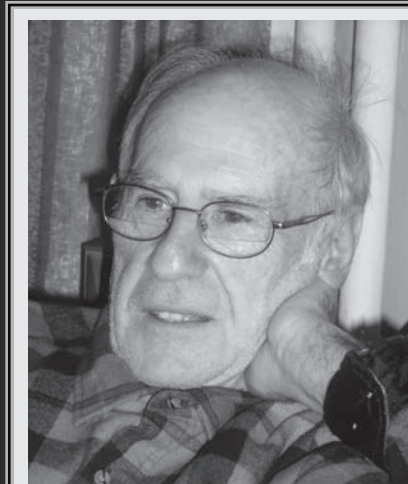


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About *Reversion* by Richard Fein

“How can I be done with you?” asks Richard Fein of his ghosts, and in this book they are many. There are the ghosts of his family and his childhood in Brooklyn. Then there are the ghosts of the Yiddish language and the poets who wrote in it. The ghosts of those poets inhabit Fein’s translations, adaptations, and what we might call his inspirations, Fein’s own poems that turn pondering “a dying language” into a lens through which he can see better his own life. Hovering over all is the ghost of Walt Whitman, whose democratic syncretism, perambulation, and generosity of spirit are reflected throughout Fein’s poetry. More than a book of the dead, however, *Reversion* shows us how, as Fein puts it, the past resides dormant within us, ready to be recast and live in a new creation. This is Richard Fein’s book of life, and we will return, “revert,” to it often with delight and gratitude. — Fred Marchant



Richard Fein’s collection of poems *Kafka’s Ear* won the Maurice English Award. His other poetry collections are *At the Turkish Bath*, *To Move into the House*, *Ice like Morsels*, *I Think of Our Lives: New and Selected Poems*, and *Mother Tongue*. Fein’s other works include translations, *Selected Poems of Yankev Glatshetyn*; a memoir of Yiddish, *The Dance of Leah*; and a critical study, *Robert Lowell*.

Fein is Professor Emeritus of English at SUNY, New Paltz and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Photograph by Miriam Fein-Cole

About *Mother Tongue* by Richard Fein

“Spells, vows, charms, jinxes, and jibes chanted”: all of these riches are stored in Richard Fein’s *Mother Tongue*, a treasury of Whitmanian, ecstatic American English and of translated Yiddish. Whether refashioning H. Leyvik’s poems or exploring the damaged, glowing, grainy truths of his own, Fein writes with unmistakable authority and the shock of truth. — Rosanna Warren



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Richard Fein

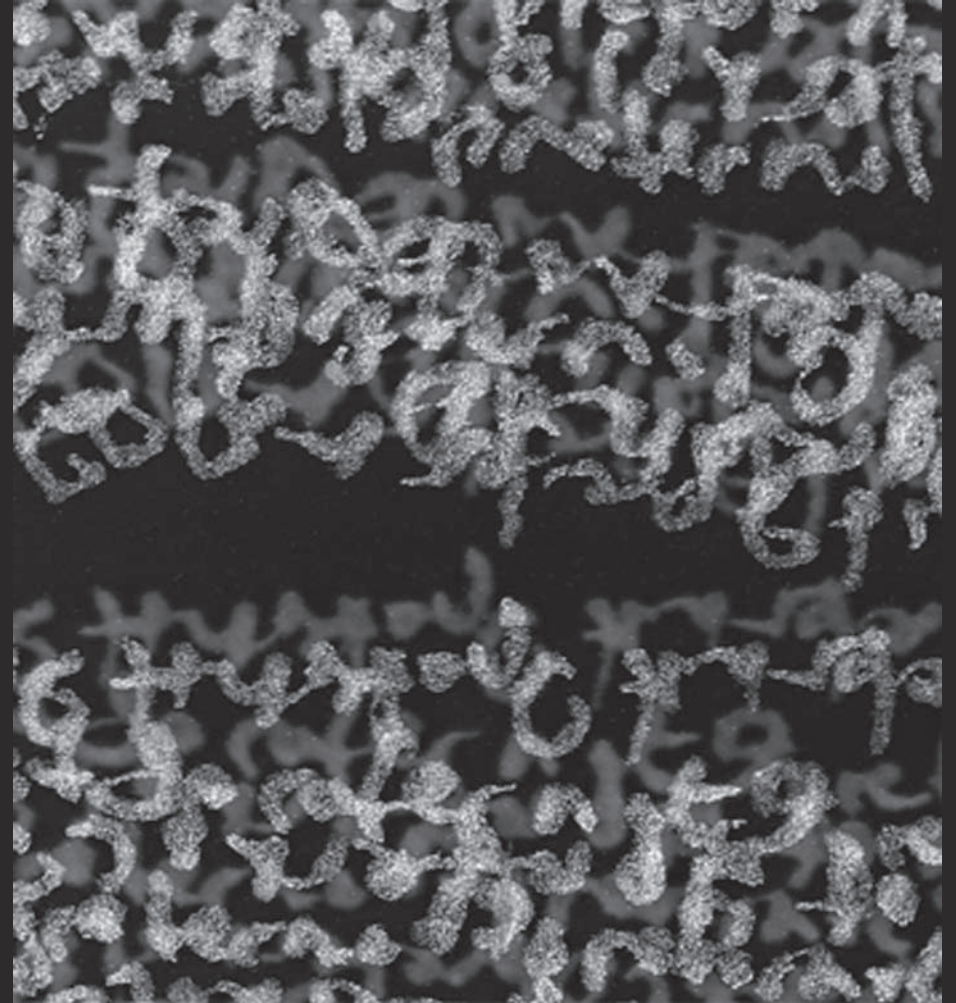
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# Reversion



Poems

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Richard Fein