

*Note to This Edition, to Translation,  
Transliteration, and Illustrations*

This second volume of Wengeroff's *Memoirs*, like the first in this Edition, seeks to make Wengeroff's writing accessible to readers with no background in modern Jewish history or Jewish women's history or writing, as well as to contribute to scholarship in these areas.

It has been my intention above all to produce a readable and honest translation that does justice to the original. I do this by not abridging or amending Wengeroff's text or structures in any way, saving any comments I have for the Notes and for my scholarly writing about *Memoirs* in these volumes and elsewhere. I do not "correct" Wengeroff when she is inconsistent, including in transliteration of terms, or contradicts herself. I do not fill in blanks in her narrative with information I surmise or obtain from other sources. I see my translation as the vehicle for bringing the two volumes of Wengeroff's *Memoirs* to audiences that cannot read them in the original. Knowing that Wengeroff very much wished a wide audience for her writing gives me particular gratification. As I make clear in all my writing about *Memoirs*, this is an extraordinary historical source, which should be made available in its entirety, unadulterated.<sup>1</sup>

What I say about my approach to translation and transliteration in the "Note to This Edition of Volume One" holds for Volume Two.

Where the two Volumes differ is in the extent of the Introduction to each. I intended to write a substantial Introduction to the issues raised in, and by, Wengeroff's second volume, similar to that which I wrote for her first volume. In fact, I wrote such a piece, which turned into a book in its own right: a biography of Wengeroff and of *Memoirs*, of why and how this writing came to be in the form we encounter it; of who she, her family, and her social circle were, aside from the highly selected

information she provides in the second volume of *Memoirs*. The writing that eventuated was too extensive for an Introduction. Accordingly, I have taken the main conclusions from that work and encompassed them in the Introduction here, leaving the longer story and its documentation for the biography.