PREFACE

Isaac Bashevis Singer occupies a unique place in modern American fiction. Living in the present, he is deeply rooted in the past. His novels as well as short stories unfold the pre-holocaust culture of the exile Jew. In The King of the Fields, Singer even goes back to a period before the spread of Judaism or Christianity in Poland. The conflict between the old way of life and the new is repeatedly presented by Singer. Women, too, are affected by the social changes taking place around them. Their responses to various problems and their influence on men and their lives make an interesting study. This dissertation attempts to study the women in Singer's novels available in India.

Chapter 1 of this dissertation is a study of Satan in Goray, in which Rechele, the central character, develops from a tortured child to a neurotic woman, and finally dies under unusual circumstances.

Chapter 2 discusses the women in The Family Moskat with its wide canvas set against the background of the impending holocaust.

Chapter 3 deals with The Magician of Lublin which presents diverse Women characters, all closely related to the protagonist.

Chapter 4 The Slave concentrates on the character of Wanda - Sarah who attains sainthood by her deep love for Jacob.
Chapter 5 The Manor and The Estate examines the numerous women characters presented in these two novels.

Chapter 6 presents a discussion of women in Enemies: A Love Story. Although the local is the United States, the situation of the hero, entangled with three wives, is similar to that of Yasha Mazur in The Magician of Lublin.

Chapter 7 deals with Shosha, in which Shosha, the child-woman, occupies a special place in the narrator's affection and proves to be superior to the other women in many ways.

Chapter 8 discusses the women in The Penitent who play a significant role in the errant Jew's return to his faith.

Chapter 9 deals with The King of the Fields, Singer's novel about a primitive people. In spite of the loose structure of family and society, women play a prominent role in the community.

For the sake of convenience, and in consultation with my supervisor, I have followed the M.L.A. Stylesheet (2nd Edition, 1970) in preparing this dissertation.

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