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| Nota di contenuto       | Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Dedication; Table of Contents; Acknowledgments; List of abbreviations; Introduction: young Jewish poets who fell as Soviet soldiers in the Second World War; 1 Jack Althausen (1907-42): communist fanaticism against the background of family problems; 2 Vladimir Avrushenko (1908-41): complex poet and communist warrior; 3 Buzi Olevsky (1908-41): learned researcher of Yiddish culture, gifted Yiddish writer and poet; 4 Elena Shirman (1908-42): nothing sweeter than the body of a beloved man<br>5 Motl Hartzman (1909-41 or 1943): dreams of a better life which never came true<br>6 Leonid Vilkomir (1912-42): passionate poetry of work and freedom; 7 Hennikh Shvedik (1914-42): the harsh destiny of the Jewish people and of one of its sons-a Jewish poet; 8 Aron Kopshtein (1915-40): death of mother as a lifelong trauma; 9 Leonid Shersher (1916-42): dreaming as a philosophy of life; 10 Pavel Kogan (1918-42): poet of romantic adventures; 11 Pinn Vintman (1918-42): the |

poetry of death in war; 12 Boris Smolensky (1921-41): mature poetry of a young genius

13 Vsevolod Bagritsky (1922-42): the Second World War as a child's game

14 Zakhar Gorodissky (1923-43): valor and hope in the heart of a young man; 15 Leonid Rosenberg (1924-44): affection for dear Mama as a refuge from death; Conclusion: the genre of "death poetry";

Bibliography; Index

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## Sommario/riassunto

This book deals with the work of fifteen young Jewish poets who were killed, died of wounds, or were executed in captivity while serving in the Red Army in the Second World War. All were young, all were poets, most were thoroughly assimilated into Soviet society whilst at the same time being rooted in Jewish culture and traditions. Their poetry, written mostly in Russian, Yiddish, and Ukrainian, was coloured by their backgrounds, by the literary and cultural climate that prevailed in the Soviet Union, and was deeply concerned with their expectation of impending death at the hands of the Nazis.

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