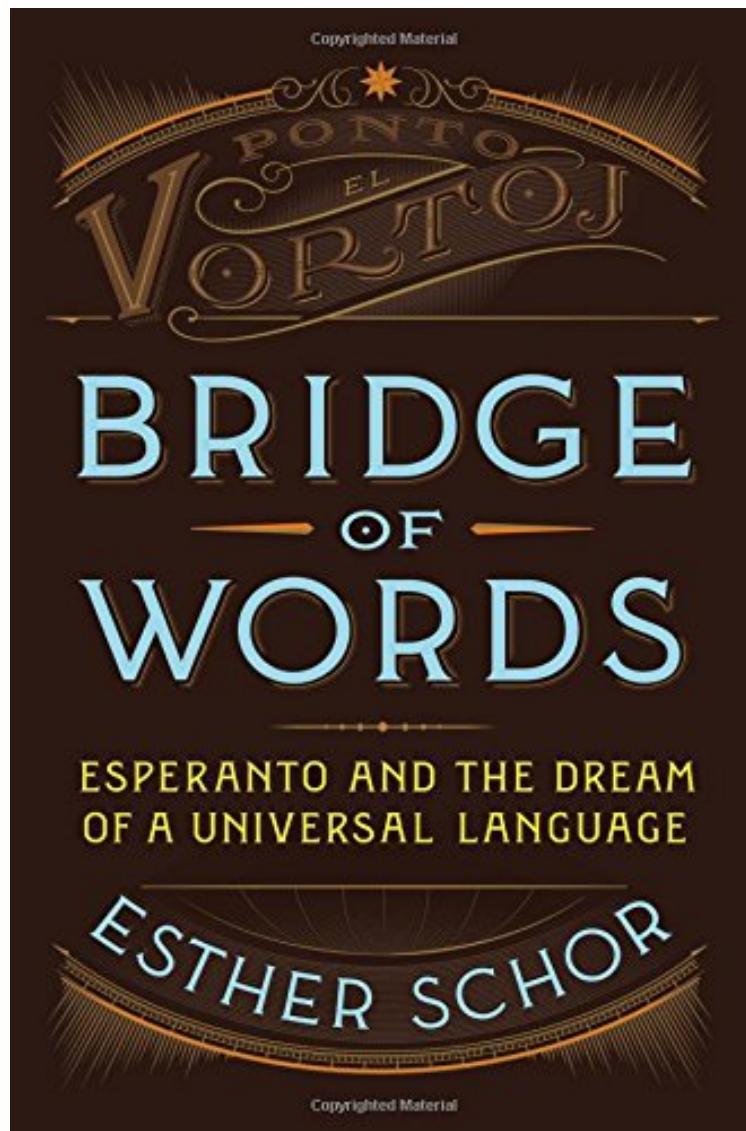


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Bridge of Words: Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language

Esther Schor

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#403860 in Books Esther Schor 2016-10-04 2016-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 238.00 x 1.22 x 6.30l, 1.00 #File Name: 0805090797384 pagesBridge of Words Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language | File size: 43.Mb

Esther Schor : Bridge of Words: Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bridge of Words: Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Best History of EsperantoBy PeterNo matter the language this is

without a doubt the most complete history of Esperanto and its founder Zamenhof. Almost everything about this artificial tongue is written in this lovely language, so the author had to learn it, kudos to her. What this book is not: Is not an hagiography, Esperanto is NOT perfect and neither are the esperantists, so don't expect a sycophantic book. Is not an introduction to the language, this is not a learning book, is a serious history of a very neglected topic. It doesn't compare Esperanto (the 800 pound gorilla of the artificial language movement) with the plethora of other created languages. It doesn't go into a polemic attacking any person or language. What this book is: A well done history that touches on most of the main points of the hundred plus years of Esperanto. Is not comprehensive, the subject is too vast to have a "full" history in any single book. It sheds new light in the mentality of the people of the book (Jews), in the end of the XIX beginnings of the XX centuries, I believe that this was in the beginning the main interest of the author, the amount of different ideas, ideals, etc. of the early Zionists is outstanding. The language of the future state of Israel, an apparently simple decision, was not at all clear at the time. So what do I think about it: This work gives the Esperanto community an excellent opportunity to make this movement better known. So congratulations to the author, hope to see a more detailed (bigger) second edition, I really like Esperanto and I have read a great deal in and about it, so for me the more information the better, of course for most people it might not be so. The book is well written and a good read. I wish there were more books like this about Esperanto, the community is isolated and having good intentions is not enough. The presence of Esperanto in the ebook market is too small, as is in the "real" world, so having a wonderful creation is not enough if no one knows about it. You can learn a lot reading this book. Peter0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. But I need a summary in esperanto. By Customer Excellent. But I need a summary in esperanto. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Read if you are at all curious about Esperanto and its very real, living world. By Harold Goodman If you love language, ideas, meeting others and broadening your world then Esperanto is a joy. If not, then, no problem, there are plenty of other ways to spend your valuable life. Schor loves Esperanto. She is a truly good soul whom I met at an Esperanto gathering several years back in Washington, DC. Besides being a scholar and lover of language, she is in love with life. This is obvious from her book. Many people criticize Esperanto without ever having studied it or attempting to understand the idea and ideal that is behind it. This book, in part, might help remedy this ignorance for those who are curious to learn more. Esperanto is based on an ideal, that of the individual bypassing governments, organizations and reaching out to a fellow human being to communicate and get to know one another, to learn from one another. I love this ideal and know that while the majority of mankind may never embrace it, even if only a few do, that is truly beautiful and something which we can all be thankful for. Zamenhof, the creator of Esperanto, lived in a nasty world where group was pitted against group. Their language differences made it hard for them to even get to know one another. He used the device of a very easy to learn and profoundly beautiful language as a tool to bring people closer. That made him and his work a threat to those who want to keep us separated, filled with ignorance and hate for the other. He gave the world a gift and those who want it need only reach out and receive it. I am reading an amazing book, in Esperanto, written by an Israeli and published in Japan by Esperantists there. It is entitled *La vivo kaita de Zamenfor*, the hidden life of Zamenhof. This book, the result of quite a lot of research regarding the life of the creator of Esperanto, shows how his Jewish roots influenced this language. It is a tour de force and has helped me to better understand this phenomenon. Like thousands of other books, it only exists in Esperanto. I have books in this language written by people of every background, nationality. Most are really interesting. Many are translations of works in obscure languages (Icelandic, Yoruba, etc.) and not so obscure ones (Chinese, Japanese, Bulgarian, Swedish, etc.) of material that has never been translated but is beloved by the people in whose language it was written. In this way, I get a truly intimate entree into many other worlds, cultures. In this day when there is so much cynicism, hate, distrust of the other, Esperanto is a G-d send. And this book helps to introduce it to the world.

A rich and passionate biography of a language and the dream of world harmony it sought to realize. In 1887, Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, a Polish Jew, had the idea of putting an end to tribalism by creating a universal language, one that would be equally accessible to everyone in the world. The result was Esperanto, a utopian scheme full of the brilliance, craziness, and grandiosity that characterize all such messianic visions. In this first full history of a constructed language, poet and scholar Esther Schor traces the life of Esperanto. She follows the path from its invention by Zamenhof, through its turn-of-the-century golden age as the great hope of embattled cosmopolites, to its suppression by nationalist regimes and its resurgence as a bridge across the Cold War. She plunges into the mechanics of creating a language from scratch, one based on rational systems that would be easy to learn, politically neutral, and allow all to speak to all. Rooted in the dark soil of Europe, Esperanto failed to stem the continent's bloodletting, of course, but as Schor shows, the ideal continues to draw a following of modern universalists dedicated to its visionary goal. Rich and subtle, *Bridge of Words* is at once a biography of an idea, an original history of Europe, and a spirited exploration of the only language charged with saving the world from itself.

Esther Schor's lovely book describes how a tenacious group of people have dedicated themselves to an optimistic vision of harmony. It is a meditation not only on Esperanto, but on idealism itself, and it is written with resonant

clarity, abiding kindness, and great compassion. Andrew Solomon, author of *Far From the Tree* Esther Schor has crossed continents, tunneled under the Tower of Babel, brooded over the twentieth century's darkest traumas and brightest dreams, and spoken endless Esperanto in an effort to understand how a language freighted with human tragedy still lives like a kiss on the lips of its speakers. This is a beautiful, mysteriously moving book by a fearless writer who set out to find the soul of a language, knowing full well that it was her own soul she was after all along. Jonathan Rosen, author of *Joy Comes in the Morning* Esther Schor brings a scholar's rigor and a poet's ear to the astonishing, century-long story of Esperanto, from its Jewish inventor in nineteenth-century Poland to its fractious, worldwide devotees today. Tracing this utopian tale philosophically, politically, and personally, like a sympathetic yet clear-eyed analyst, she interprets the recurring dream of a universal language, revealing its meaning for our lives today. Alisa Solomon, author of *Wonder of Wonders* About the Author Esther Schor is the author of *Emma Lazarus*, which received a 2006 National Jewish Book Award, and *Bearing the Dead: The British Culture of Mourning from the Enlightenment to Victoria*. A poet and essayist, she has written two volumes of poems, *Strange Nursery* and *The Hills of Holland*, and a memoir, *My Last Date*. Her essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New Republic*, *Tablet*, *The Jewish Book*, and *The Forward*, among other publications. A professor of English at Princeton University, Schor lives in Princeton, New Jersey.