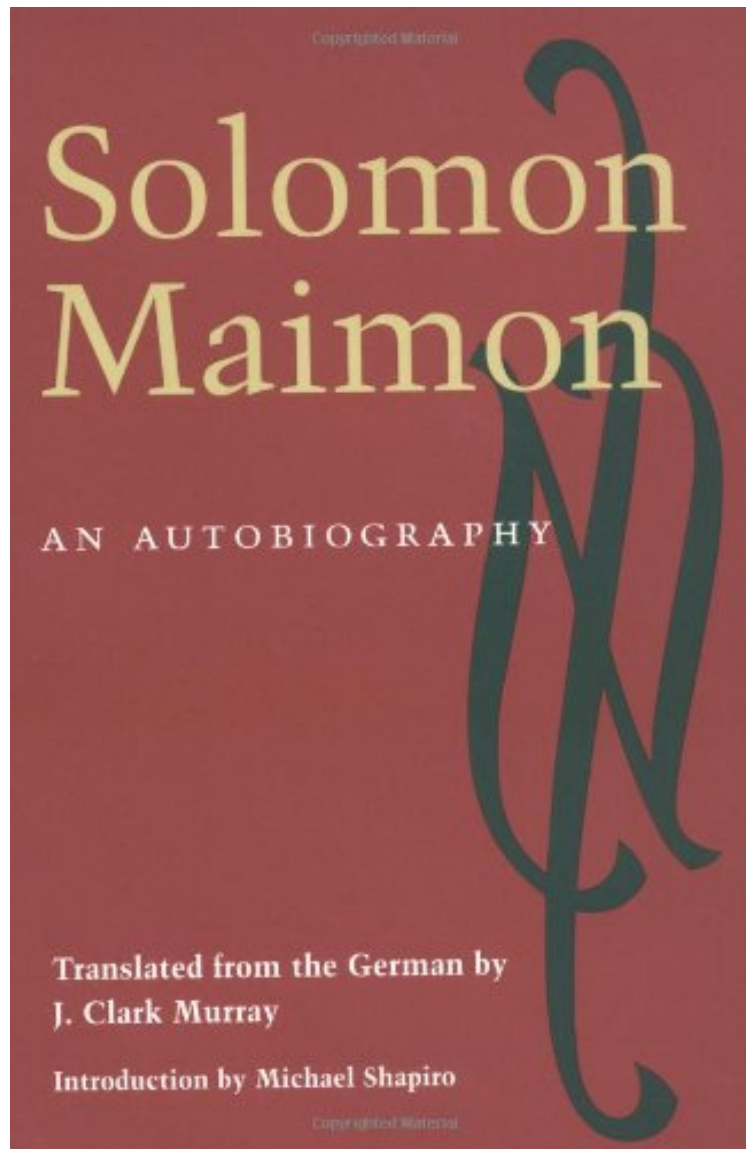


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Solomon Maimon: An Autobiography

Solomon Maimon, J. Clark Murray

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Solomon Maimon, J. Clark Murray : Solomon Maimon: An Autobiography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Solomon Maimon: An Autobiography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating tale of an eccentric of the first order.By Paul D ConnuckA Fascinating and oftentimes amusing account of a profoundly eccentric thinker. It is reminiscent in a strange way of Apuleius's Golden Ass (Metamorphoses) and Cervantes's Don Quixote. Maimon, now largely forgotten, was an important figure of the German Enlightenment and this work offers valuable insights into his life and thought.6 of 6

people found the following review helpful. An innocent abroad
By Charles Meyers
If Gimple the Fool had an IQ of 180, he would be like the subject of this autobiography--an oddball, out-of-it Polish-Lithuanian Jew, taken advantage of by many, including his wife. This guy can do the math and is an amazing scholar, but he is a perennial loser. Actually, the Maimon of the Autobiography reminds me more of an ancillary Saul Bellow character than one by I. B. Singer, wonderfully gifted, but disorganized and self-defeating, a brilliant but unworldly schlemiel. Maimon emigrates from medieval shtetl to enlightenment Berlin (last quarter of the 18th century), pursuing philosophy and truth, teaching himself as he goes, trying (unsuccessfully) to earn a living with his pen. He writes well and logically, but is a social naif. He follows his arguments where they take him, impressing strangers, affronting friends, collecting enemies. He is also a slob and a schnorrer. His story is funny and poignant, both intentionally and unintentionally, as self-referential stories told by very smart people who lack a practical bent can be.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Good translation makes all the difference
By Eve B.
This is an autobiography of a troubled genius. In it the differences in cultures and temperament between Jews in Poland and Jews in Germany can be clearly seen. Life in Poland was wretched, largely due, it would seem, to the fact that it had a monarchy and was mostly rural. Reading the book, one cannot help but agree with the American Founding fathers about the evils of monarchy and be immensely grateful for the liberty and freedom from anti-Semitism that we have in the USA. The autobiography itself is, with the exception of a few of his philosophical musings, very interesting and fast moving. The sections which include the philosophical musings are necessary for fully understanding the author. Some translations leave them out and the autobiography suffers for it. The translation of this book, unlike the Schocken publishing's translation, is classy and enhances the reader's pleasure and understanding.

Now available for the first time in paper, the classic translation of the autobiography of one of the great thinkers of the eighteenth century

About the Author
Salomon Maimon; (1753 22 November 1800) was a German-speaking philosopher, born of Jewish parentage in present-day Belarus.