

# Contents

## Preface

ix

## Introduction

1

Palestine in the First Half of the Twentieth Century, 4

Recapturing Past Reading, 10

## CHAPTER 1

### Literacy and Education

16

Education: Phases of Development, 19

The Impact of Education: Profile of the "Literate" Community, 39

## CHAPTER 2

### Texts: Imported, Produced, Viewed

43

Traditional Stocks: The Augury of Change, 43

Impact of the Neighborhood, 48

Local Production, 57

Texts in the Public Domain, 69

## CHAPTER 3

### Texts Accessed and Afforded

79

Conduits of Dissemination, 79

Buying One's Own Book, 87

Accessing without Buying: Libraries, Clubs, Reading Rooms, 93

Accessing without Buying: Open Public Places, 103

CHAPTER 4  
Individual Reading

109

Individual Reading: Past Legacy, 111

*Mutala'ah* in Twentieth-Century Palestine: The Comfort of Home, 117

Private Reading in Public, 124

CHAPTER 5  
Collective Reading

131

The Old, Familiar Conduits, 132

Vocal Reading: Bridging across Illiteracy, 138

Vocal Reading: The Extra Benefit of the Collective Experience, 145

Conclusion

154

Notes	Sources	Index
161	185	201