# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements — V

Table of Contents — VII

Introduction — 1

Prolegomenon: the Messiah — 14

1  Isidore Isou: the Vanguard and Purlieuian Jew — 16  
1.1  Formative Years in Romania — 16  
1.2  Isou’s Parisian Jewish Avant-Garde — 33

2  Judaicities in Lettrism: Theory, Poetics, Praxis — 55  
2.1  Anti-Rational Philosophy and Subjective Doubt — 55  
2.2  Experientiality and Inner Language — 65  
2.3  Rien as a Poetical and Mystical Measure — 80  
2.4  Hypergraphics: Twentieth-Century Secret Writing — 98

3  Messianism and Temporal Poetics — 114  
3.1  Modern Messianism *devant la lettre* — 114  
3.2  The Messiah within and in Becoming — 127  
3.3  Messianism and Language — 136  
3.4  The Praxis of Messianic Secrecy: Textual Potentiality — 144  
3.5  Empty Book, the Skin of God — 152

Conclusions — 163

Epilogue: Towards a Quiescent Judaism — 168

Timeline — 174

Bibliography — 189

Index — 200