

PERL

1. Power relations
 - Hasidim + Misnagdim vs. Maskilim or
 - Maskilim & Misnagdim vs. Hasidim?
 - Defeat the Hasidim thru civil Austrian authorities
 - Russians vs, Polish nobility
2. The frontal approach
 - Lefin urges the use of satire disseminated thru journals
 - Perl tries to republish Sefer Havikuah (1797)
 - Perl – 1st maskil to attack them openly
 - xxvi: Perl, the INFORMER
3. The critique
 - An utterly new sect, without Judaic precedent\
 - Blind faith in the rebbe
 - Devekut: communion w/God
 - Explicit sexual imagery to describe human-divine relations
 - Alternative Oral Torah
 - Medieval attitude to Jewish-Gentile relations
4. Structure
 - 151 letters
 - 26 correspondents
5. The intended reader?
6. Dispraise of the Besht
 - est. continuity between Shivjei/MT
 - demythologize the source
 - personalize the characters
7. Hasidic Style
 - epistolary
 - Loshn-koydesh-Yiddish-Slavic mishmash
 - Shivhei + Sipprie mayses
8. The new epistolary form
 - Author as mere editor
 - Multiple, contradictory perspectives
 - Letters juives (1730-36)
 - Footnotes = theory; fiction = fact
 - Denigrate Hasidism by defending it
 - Editor gets in his perspective as well
 - Every ltter seves strategic purpose; advances the plot
9. Character
 - the main characters who never speak
 - Mordecai Gold
 - The Polish price
 - Zelig = personal; secretary
 - Zaybv1 = always on the dole, ignorant, boorish coward
 - Freyde] 1st Jewish slut
 - Ovadye: changes as his language improves