

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Fall 2006

Prof. David G. Roskies

LIT 5510x ***Yiddish Modernism and Anti-Modernism 1920-1980***

Wednesday 8:20-10:10; Kripke 512

Objectives: Eliezer Shteynbarg abandoned the sleepy Bessarabian town of Lipkan and headed for Czernowitz. Leivick reanimated Prague as the locus of redemption and Halpern turned Coney Island into the border of Exile. Markish, fresh from the front, took Jewish Warsaw by storm. Writing in New Haven, Anna Margolin imagined herself a pagan homosexual lover. Living in Vilna, Kulbak rhapsodized about the world entire. With everything up for grabs, in the wake of the First World War and the Bolshevik Revolution, how does one map the course of modern Yiddish literature? Why were the next sixty years its period of greatest flowering? One reason, this course proposes, was the fierce interplay between redemption and exile, the folk medium and high modernism, Prague and Coney Island, which produced, in the words of the Israeli poet Avrom Rintsler, a landscape of *rozhinkes mit Manger*.

Requirements: One midterm paper and a final, take-home exam.

I have scheduled office hours on Thursdays 9:30-11:30 in Unterberg 506, and may be contacted via e-mail (darsoskies@jtsa.edu).

6 Sept. **Eliezer Shteynbarg**

from: *Mesholim* (1931)

Miriam Udel-Lambert, "The Fables of Eliezer Shteynbarg and the Modernist Relocation of Ethics," unpublished paper.

13 Sept. **H. Leivick**

Der goylem (1921)
"Di—on traditsye," Inzl (1918)

Ruth R. Wisse, *A Little Love in Big Manhattan: Two Yiddish Poets* (Harvard 1988), PJ5129.A4B699 Z9 1988, chap. 3.

20 Sept. **Moyshe-Leyb Halpern**

from: *Di goldene pave* (1924); posthumous poems

Kathryn Hellerstein, "The Demon Within: Moyshe-Leyb Halpern's Subversive Ballads," *Prooftexts* 7 (1987): 225-48.

27 Sept.

Peretz Markish

Intro. To Khalyastre (1922)
Far mayn arumgeyn pust un pas
From: Di kupe (1921)
Maestoso Patetico
Af shtume vent fun leydikey gevelber
Shloft der mark mit di bukes vi shabenes
[Brokshtiker]
Sh. Mikhoels—a ner-tomid af zayn orn (1948)

Max Erik, "Di shprakh funem yidishn ekspresionizm," Albatros 2 (1922)
Ch. Shmeruk, "Yiddish Literature in the Soviet Union The Jews in Soviet
Russia since 1917 DS135.R9J47 1970

4 Oct.

Moyshe Kulbak

Velt! (1920)
Vilne (1926)
Zelmenyaner, part I (1931)

11 Oct.

Rokhl Korn

Leyve (1928)
Erd (1928)

www.rachelkorn.com

18 Oct.

I. J. Singer

**Yoshe Kalb* (1932) – NY 1956 ed.

Anita Norich, *The Homeless Imagination in the Fiction of Israel Joshua Singer*
(Indiana, 1991), chap. 2. PJ 5129 A4 S616 Z79 1991.

25 Oct.

Anna Margolin

**Lider* (1929) - Novershtern ed. (Jerusalem, 1991)

Abraham Novershtern, "'Who Would Have Believed That a Bronze Statue Can
Weep': The Poetry of Anna Margolin," intro. to *Lider*.

1 Nov.

Yankev Glatshteyn

Yidishtaytshn (1936)
A gute nakht, velt (1938)
Arn Glantz-Leyeles – Introspektivizm (1920)

Ruth R. Wisse, "1935/6 -- A Year in the Life of Yiddish Literature," *Studies in Jewish Culture in Honour of Chone Shmeruk* (Jerusalem, 1993). PJ5120.A4S7 1993
Idem, "Language as Fate: Reflections on Jewish Literature in America,"
Studies in Contemporary Jewry 12 (1996): 129-47.

8 Nov. **Itzik Manger**

Medresh Itsik (1935)
Di balade—di vizye fun blut (1929)
Folklor un literatur (1939)

David G. Roskies, *A Bridge of Longing: The Lost Art of Yiddish Storytelling*
(Harvard, 1995), PJ5124.R67 1995 chap.

15 Nov. **Yitskhok Bashevis**

Der yid fun Bovl (1933)
Zaydlus der ershter (1943)
Gimpl tam (1945)
Problemen fun der yidisher proze in Amerike (1943)

Roskies, *A Bridge of Longing*, chap. 8.

22 Nov. **Mani Leyb**

Sonetn

Wisse, *A Little Love in Big Manhattan*, chap. 8.

29 Nov. **Chaim Grade**

Musernikes (1938)
Mayn krig mit Hersh Raseyner (1951)

Ruth R. Wisse, "In Praise of Chaim Grade," *Commentary* (April 1977).
Justin D. Cammy, "Tsevorfene bleter: The Emergence of Yung Vilne,"
Polin 14 (2001): 170-91.

6 Dec. **Avrom Sutzkever**

Sibir (1936)
fun: Di festung (1945)
From: Lider fun togbukh (1977)

Benjamin Harshav, "Sutzkever: Life and Poetry," intro. to A. *Sutzkever: Selected Poetry and Prose* (Berkeley, 1991). PJ5129.A4S86 A2413 1991

Additional Reading

Malcolm Bradbury & James McFarlane, eds. *Modernism 1890-1930* (=Pelican Guides to European Literature) (Penguin, 1976), part one.

Justin Cammy, "The Politics of Home, The Culture of Place: "Yung-Vilne: Miscellany of Literature and Art" (1934-1936), forthcoming in *Judische Kultur(en) im Neuen Europa: Wilna 1918-1939*, edited by Marina Dmitrieva and Heidemarie Petersen. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

David E. Fishman, "The Musar Movement in Interwar Poland," *The Jews of Poland Between Two World Wars*, ed. Yisrael Gutman et al. (University Press of New England, 1989), pp. 247-71.

Benjamin Hrushovski, "On Free Rhythms in Modern Yiddish Poetry," *The Field of Yiddish* (1954).

Shirley Kumove, trans. *Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin* (SUNY, 2005).

Avraham Novershtern, *Kesem hadimdumim: apokalipsa umeshikhiut besifrut yidish* (Jerusalem: Magnes, 2003), chaps. 4-5.

David G. Roskies & Leonard Wolf, eds. *The World According to Itzik: Selected Poetry and Prose of Itzik Manger* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002).

Uriel Weinreich, "On the Cultrual History of Yiddish Rime." *Essays on Jewish Life and Thought presented in honor of Salo Baron* (New York, 1959), pp. 423-42.