

3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
March 4, 1991

Ms. Bonnie Fetterman
Schocken Books
201 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Bonnie,

Lisa Omps inquired about sales figures for my other books. Putting in a call to Harvard UP I discovered, to my surprise, that AGAINST THE APOCALYPSE sold 2531 copies in hardback and 1847 in paperback. They assured me that these figures were not reversed but that "books of this kind" normally sold better in hardback. I didn't bother calling JPS because their distribution is dreadful. They only sell to their own subscription list, so far as I can tell.

For stills from the 1937 film version of THE DYBBUK you should call Sharon Rivo or Miriam Krant at the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis, 617-899-7044. They put out a stunning poster in honor of the film's rerelease.

In 200 words or less, here's how I would describe THE DYBBUK AND OTHER WRITINGS BY S. ANSKY:

This volume brings together for the first time the turbulent life, the ethnography, the fiction and the celebrated "dramatic legend" by S. Ansky (1863-1920). As no other writer before or since, Ansky lived "between two worlds": the world of revolutionary politics in Tsarist Russia, Paris, Geneva, and St. Petersburg and the life of a committed Jew fighting to preserve Jewish life and lore in the heartland of Yiddish. Much of his prose fiction was originally written in Russian and only translated into Yiddish decades later. It documents the fateful struggle between mothers and sons, rebels and traditionalists against the backdrop of the East European shtetl. Ansky's discovery on the very eve of World War I of a vibrant Jewish folk life in these otherwise impoverished shtetlekh opened the way to his artistic synthesis of tradition and modernity. One such synthesis was Between Two Worlds or The Dybbuk, which drew on Jewish mysticism and superstition, on hasidic melodies and legends, to bring shtetl lovers together against all earthly odds. Another was Ansky's one-man rescue mission along the Eastern Front which, when chronicled in The Destruction of Galicia, added a new and terrible chapter to the Library of Jewish Catastrophe.

Ruth and I are meeting this Sunday to work through the manuscript which is now complete. Then the rest will be up to me (gulp!).

Yours,