



2019 YIDDISH CIVILIZATION LECTURE SERIES

MONDAY
JUL 08

אַשְׁכְּנַזִּישׁוּר פָּאַלְקָלָאָר The Folklore of Ashkenaz

ITZIK GOTTESMAN | דֵּר אַיצִיךְ גָּטוּסְמָן | Delivered in Yiddish

אין דער לעקציע וועט באָהאנדעלט ווען מיט זיך אַשְׁכְּנַזִּישׁוּר (דער עיקה: יידיש-שפֿראָכִיכער) פָּאַלְקָלָאָר ציינט זיך אויס מיט אַנדערשקייט לגביה דער קולטור-יירושה בי אַנדערע פֿעלְקָעָר און זאָסערע שטריך, ווֹידעה, ציינען פֿאַרְאַלְעַלְעַל אַיבָּעָר דער וועלט. עטלעכע פָּאַלְקָלָאָר-זַשְׁאַגְּנָעָר וועלן דינען פֿאַר אַנדערע דוגמאות: פָּאַלְקָוְלִיך, פָּאַלְקָס-מְעֻשָּׂה, פָּאַלְקָס-גָּלוּיכָן אַונְהָמָה. מיר וועלן אַנְהָיָבָן מיט אַן אַרְיֶינְפּֿרְאָר אַן דער פָּאַלְקָלָאָרִיסְטִיך - אַ מְאַדערענָר פֿעַנְאַמְעָן מיט וואָרְצָלָעָן אַין 19 טָן "ה". סְיוּוּט אַונְדָּחָתָן ווער סְהָאָט גַּעַזְמָלֶט. יִדִּיש פָּאַלְקָלָאָר, מיטן טראָפ אַוְיף דער צענְטָרָאלָעָר רָאָלָע פֿוֹן דער עַטְנָאָגְרָאָפּוּשָׂר קָאַמְּיסִיעָ בִּים יְיָוָא אַין דִּי 1920 עָרָא אַון 1930 עָרָא יָאָרָן. בִּזְלַעֲצָטָנוּ אַט פֿאַרְנוּמָעָן דָּעַם אַוְיבָּאָן אַין יִדִּישׁוּר פָּאַלְקָלָאָר-זַאְמָלָגָעָן דָּעַם מְאַטְעָרִיאָל אַילְיָן אַון נִשְׁטָן אַזְּיוּ דִּי קְוּלְטוּרְ-טוּרְעָגָעָת. מיטן לְעָבָן אַיְיָן פָּאַלְקָלָאָרִיסְטִיך הַיְבָט אַחֲרָיו דָּאָס חִשְׁבָּות פֿוֹן קְאַנְטָעָקָט וּ אַגְּרָם פָּאַר אַוִּיסְטִיטְישָׂן דָּעַם פָּאַלְקָלָאָרְטָקָטָן. מיטן לְעָבָן אַיְיָן פָּאַלְקָלָאָרְזִינְגָּעָרָן וועלן מִיר עַמְּדִיקָן דָּעַם אַיבָּרְבִּילִיך כְּדִי צָו בְּאַוְוִיזָן וּ אַזְּיוּ אַזְּאָ צְוָגָאָנָג שְׁפִיגָּלָט אַפְּ דָעַם אַרט פֿוֹן דִּי לִידָעָר אַין אַיר בְּאַגְּרָאָפּוּ.

This talk will examine how Jewish folklore, and Ashkenazic (Yiddish) Jewish folklore in particular is different from other folklores around the world, while at the same time, discussing how it shares many of the same characteristics. Several folklore genres will be presented to demonstrate this idea: Yiddish folksong, Yiddish folktale, folk belief and humor. We will begin with a brief introduction to the field of folklore study which is a rather recent development of the 19th century. Then we will look at who collected Yiddish folklore emphasizing the central role of the YIVO Ethnographic Commission in Vilna in the 1920s and 1930s. Until recently Yiddish folklorists had collected much valuable material but ignored collecting information on the tellers of tales, the singers of songs and the joke tellers themselves. Contemporary folklore study attempts to do both and place the performance of folklore in context, since much of the text's meaning is dependent on the folk performer, the listener/audience, place and time. As an example of this approach, the life of a Yiddish folksinger and how songs fit into her biography will conclude the talk.

Bibliography and Resource Guide

ITZIK GOTTESMAN

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES, COLLECTIONS AND HISTORY OF THE FIELD

Vanvild, M. *Bay undz yidn*. 1923

Bar-Itzhak, Haya. *Pioneers of Jewish Ethnography and Folkloristics in Eastern Europe*. 2009

Bar-Itzhak, Haya. *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions*. 2 volumes. 2013

Ben-Amos, Dan. "Folklore" entry in "Jewish Studies", Oxford Bibliographies on-line resource.

CONTINUED ►

Gottesman, Itzik Nakhmen. *Defining the Yiddish Nation: The Jewish Folklorists of Poland*. 2003

Yassif, Eli. *Jewish Folklore An Annotated Bibliography*. 1986

FOLKLIFE, CUSTOM AND FOLK BELIEF

אנ-סְקִי, ש. , ד' יִדְישׁ עַתָּנָגָרָאָפִישׁ פֿרָאָגָרָם

Annotated English translation by Nathaniel Deutsch: *The Jewish Dark Continent: Life and Death in the Russian Pale of Settlement*. 2011

רַעֲכֶתְמָןָן, אַבְרָהָם. יִדְישׁ עַתָּנָגָרָאָפִישׁ אֹוֹן פֿאָלְקָלָאָר 1958

Roskies, Diane K and Roskies David G. *The Shtetl Book*. 1975

לִיטּוּיִי, א. יִדְישׁ נְשָׂמוֹת, עַקְסָוּ בְּעֵנד. 1917

Trachtenberg, Joshua. *Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion*. 1939

Zborowski, Mark and Herzog, Elizabeth. *Life Is With People: The Culture of the Shtetl*. 1952

YIDDISH FOLKSONG AND MUSIC

Rubin, Ruth. *The Ruth Rubin Legacy: Archive of Yiddish Folksongs*. On-line resource at YIVO NYC

כהן, ל. שְׁטוּדְיָעָס וְעַגְן יִדְישׁ שְׁעָרָ פֿאָלְקָסְפּֿאָגָג, 1952

כהן, ל. יִדְישׁ שְׁעָרָ פֿאָלְקָסְלִידָעָר מִיטּ מַעְלָאָדְיָעָס 1957

Feldman, Zev and Lukin, Michael. "East European Jewish Folk Music" on-line resource at Oxford Bibliographies

Feldman, Zev. *Klezmer: Music, History and Memory*. 2016

Gottesman, Itzik. "Yiddish Song of the Week." On-line blog sponsored by Center for Traditional Music and Dance.

Slobin, Mark. *Old Jewish Folk Music: The Collections and Writings of Moshe Beregovski*. 1982

YIDDISH LANGUAGE FOLKLORE

עלְזָעַט, יְהוָדָה. דָעַר וּוּנְדָעַר אָוֹצָר פֿוֹן דָעַר יִדְישׁ שְׁפָרָאָך. פֿיר בְּעֵנד, 1920

קָאָפְּלָאָן, יִשְׂרָאֵל דָאָס פֿאָלְקָסְמוּיל אַיִן נְאַצְּיָקְלָעָם: רַיְדָעָנִישָׁן אַיִן גַּעֲטָא אַיִן קָאָצָעָט 1982

Matisoff, James A. *Blessings, Curses, Hopes and Fears*. 1979

JOKES

Olsvanger, Immanuel. *Royte Pomerantsen* (1947) and *L'Chaim* (1949). Yiddish jokes printed in Roman alphabet.

Von Bernuth, Ruth. *How the Wise Men Got to Chelm*. 2016

Ravnitski, J. Ch. *Yidishe vitsn*. 2 volumes. 1922.

PROVERBS

Bernstein, Ignacy. *Yidishe shprikhverter un rednsartn*. 1908

FOLKTALES

Dauber, Jeremy. *In The Demon's Bedroom: Yiddish Literature and the Early Modern*.

Gaster, Moses ed. *Ma'aseh Book*. 2 vol. 1934. Translation of 1603 collection of Yiddish tales.

Ben-Amos, Dan. *Folktales of the Jews: Volume 2 Tales from Eastern Europe*. 2007

Weinreich, Bina. *Yiddish Folktales*. 1988

Cahan, I. L. *Yidishe folksmayses*. 1931, 1940