

Synchrony, or How Do Dik /SA Deconstruct the Shtetl?

די שול / Shul [DIK, 162, 165, 169; **172-73**]

Besmedresh [SA x 2] / דער בית-מדרש

Shtibl / דאָס שטיבל

Bathhouse [Dik, 161; SA: Panic, **125-27**] / די באָד

Mikveh [DIK, H. ch. 4] / די מקווה

Heder / דער חדר(ים)

The home [SA: Panic, 102-5] / די היים

Tavern / אכסניה, איינפאָרהויז

Marketplace [Dik, 160; SA: **113-14**] / דער מאַרק

Well / דער ברונעם

Cemetery [DIK, SA: Panic **120-21**] / דער בית-עולם

Slaughter House / דאס שעכטהויז

Pharmacy / דער אַפטייק

Manor House [DIK] / דער פריצישער הויף

Jail [SA, Police chief, Panic 111-12] / די תפיסה

Town Hall / די גמינה

State [Parish] school [SA, 107] / די שקאַלע

Post Office [SA, Dreyfus; Panic, 108-9] / די פּאָסט

דער קאַטשטשיל / Polish Catholic Church [NONE]

די צערקווע / Ukrainian Orthodox Church [NONE]

Q: Is shtetl fiction primarily mimetic? Is it the go-to place if you want a panoramic-historic overview of the real shtetl? (Miron)

A: Obviously not! The better the writer, the more highly selective.

A: Dik begins/ends w/non-functional ethnography. Telling vs. Showing.

A: SA recycles Dik's plot—in ¼ as much space!

A: Not history per se but the impact of historical events on the life/perception of "shtetl" Jews.

Diachronic: HOW FACT BECOMES FICTION

The Panic

1835: law against juvenile marriages

Rumors spread that no more marriages would be allowed

Details published in April 1835

No males under 18, no females under 16

Rash of marriages to circumvent the decree

Dik living w/in-laws in Nesvitzh; 21 years old

Nesvitzh: home of the Radzivils

The Brick Building = pharmacy: 12

Government store: 6

Town hall, jail, post office

The main goals of the course is to appreciate **the divine economy of the shtetl imaginary**. So doing,

(1) we learn a shorthand that Jewish writers have developed to critique the social flaws and moral failings of Jewish society;

(2) we learn to chart the rapidly changing landscape of the modern Jewish and human condition; and

(3) we purchase an abiding icon of longing and loss.

JEWS/GOD: shtetl-as-Jerusalem; Covenantal Community

Shtiblekh: 5, 9, 10: Jews/God/Rebbe

Rizhiner = VIPs

Shul-and-besmedresh: 13-14; no centralized prayer

Khadorim: 18-21—in private homes

Zhamele's House: 17 [lamed-vovnik]

JEWS/JEWS

Station-houses for travelers; aynforhoyz: 1, 11

Soup kitchen

besmedresh

Bathhouse-BOD, outhouse

Cemetery:

JEWS/GENTILES

1. Jewish space

Tavern: 2

Marketplace x 2;

Slaughter house/Tanner's Street

horse trade & leather: mainstay of economy

best stores: 7

[Home]

2. **Temporal Rulers** I: Old Goyish

Shtetl = A private [noble] town.

<cf. Hundert, *The Jews in a Polish Private Town*>

der hoyf: Nobleman's manor

Catholic Church = tallest building = Polish nobility

3 Eastern Orthodox churches = peasantry

3. **Temporal Rulers** II: New Goyish