

Revson 25
Academic Conference and Celebration
May 23-25, 2004

Speechless Delegation

1. Arrest of the GNL = typical wartime libel

- + Yekhel is still the Mayor
- Germans cannot be bribed
- Delegation under duress - headed by the Rabbi + Rabbines
- + In praise of his [martyred] wife
- tank rendered speechless vs. tank
- met by Commandant's stand-in
- whole delegation thrown into prison
- the world gone crazy

2. Story about the New Moon

- + inspiring speech before the Commandant
- taken out under guard
- + portrait of the RABBI
- being led to the New Cemetery
- join the GNL - forced to dig their own graves
- tries to rationalize his death in wartime
- + Miraculous intervention: Russian counter-offensive
- + Ecstasy of Thanksgiving - 2/27 1947
- + railroad, multi-site
- + GNL reached too

3. The Pogrom

- invokes Kishinev - pales by cf
- Russians level the town
- perfidy of locales Poles
- Russians order their arrest
- Rabbi refuses to flee
- systematic looting of Jew. homes = reverse Exodus
- mass hanging
- Rabbi's martyrdom
- 2/27-2/28 1947



I. The 2 Kasrilevkes

A. The Little People with the Little Minds (1901/2)

Town of the Little People

Dreyfus in K. (1899)

barely affected by outside world: no electricity, sewage

usually tight plots

B. Gants Bardichev (1901) = Alt-nay K.

Guide to K.

The Great Panic (Pesach 1904)

intrusion of history & trains

rich vs. poor

Zionism, immigration, antisemitism, pogroms

Kasrilification of his oeuvre = 1 "human comedy"

C. Stock characters

Reb Yuzifl & his parables

Fishl the Correspondent

Zeydl reb Shayes the intellectual

The postmaster

the local anti-Semite

I. The Literary Ecology of the Shtetl Image

A. Chelm

B. Dik's Heres

C. Abramovitsh's Tuneyadevke

Happy paupers

Benign bathhouse

D. Gogol's *Dead Souls* ("Poema")