

NEWLY FOUND SHTERN POEMS (2006)

The reader can now compare many first publications with the re-issues of Shtern's work which were already on this site. Mostly the emendations were to the standard YIVO system, but Di Goldene Keyt had its own rule, it seems, and every *nisht* became a *nit* - a minor betrayal of Shtern's chosen *Varshavo* locutions.

We have listed all 47 first publications in BLUE in the poem site index. Of great interest are 29 previously "lost" poems. (While over 140 of his essays must await funding to support their re-publication). The reader's attention is drawn to the following:

1. The longstanding impression that H D Nomberg brought Shtern to public notice, after the appearance in 1923 of "Friling in Shpitol", can only be partly correct. The *Haynt* newspaper was already publishing him regularly in 1920, and from 1921 he was appearing in *Moment* as well.

2. There are "new" illness poems:

A tog tsvishn kranke (1926)

Der Zilber Shmeltzt zikh – (March 1934, published by *Haynt* with a footnote that Shtern is currently very ill, and the poem has been written during this illness)

Kumt arayn amol a tog mit bloye oygn vi a nakht (April 1934)

Der Zibeter ' oddzial' oyf Tchiste (May 1934)

3. Shtern's poetry translations are now available:

Polish folksongs of Robert Walter (1925)

Kurt Heinke (1934)

Elsa Lasker-Schuler (1934)

Victor Hugo (1937)

Ibn-Ezra (1937)

4. The IYP catalogue provides a suggestive chronological account of gaps in Shtern's publications:

There is no record of a Shtern publication between May 1929 and Feb 1932, except for a single essay in Feb 1931, (*Dialog vegn zayn mayestet – Shund*). Then in Feb 1932 his essays resumed with "*Fun a nisht-konventsionaln emes vegn poezye*".

From Feb to Dec in 1933 again nil - then "*Hob ikh a bahaltene tir*" (*sic*) appeared.

After March 1934 Shtern is prolific once more, but from 1935 he is busy with prose, and no poems are listed until Nov 1937, and few poems before 1939.

5. For completeness we should mention that the IYP catalogue lists 5 Shtern poems which in fact could not be found at the locations named; presumably they do exist and await unearthing. All were listed for the Warsaw daily *Haynt* in 1934: *Shpiteler shrayen yede nakht, yede nakht*; *Yeder zunershtral iz a tsirkleshpitz*; *Zeyer friling*; *Un ver der mentsh zol nisht zayn*; *A plats oyf der erd*.

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