FRIENDSHIP IN THE GHETTO, THE FOREST, AND BEYOND: A STORY OF TWO YIDDISH POETS

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THE YIDDISH LITERARY GROUP "YOUNG VILNA" IN THE FRONT ROW: SHMERKE KACZERGINSKI (CENTER) AND AVROHOM SUTZKEVER (SECOND FROM RIGHT)













VILNA: A CENTER OF HEBREW AND YIDDISH PUBLISHING





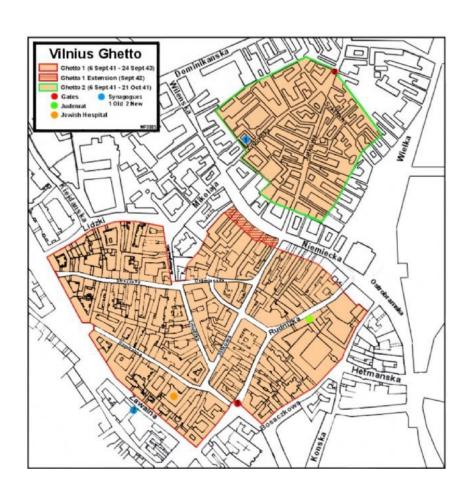
FRIEDA SUTZKEVER, BARBARA KACZERGINSKI







VILNA GHETTO, 1941-1943





SHMERKE AND SUTZKEVER IN THE VILNA GHETTO, JULY 1943



SHMERKE'S "YUGNT HIMEN" (HYMN OF YOUTH)

Hymn of Youth

Our song is filled with grieving.

Bold our step, we march along,
Though the foe the gateway's watching.
Youth comes storming with their song:

Young are they, are they, are they whose age won't bind them,
Years don't really mean a thing,
Elders also, also, can be children
In a newer, freer spring.

Those who roam upon the highways, Those whose step with hope is strong, From the ghetto youth salutes them And their greetings send along.

Young are they. . .

We remember all our tyrants, We remember all our friends, And we pledge that in the future Our past and present blend.

Young are they. . .

So we're girding our muscles, In our ranks we're planting steel, Where a blacksmith, builder marches, We will join them with our zeal!

Young are they. . .

This song written by S. Kaczerginski (see note about author in *Friling*), was dedicated to the children's and youth club in the Vilno ghetto. Composer is Bayse Rubin who is believed to have survived the war.



SUTZKEVER, "UNDER YOUR STARRY HEAVEN"

Under Your Starry Heaven

Under your white starry heaven
Offer me your pale white hand.
All my words are flowing teardrops,
I would place them in your hand.
Gone the luster from their brightness,
Seen through morbid cellar view—
And I no longer have my own space
To reflect them back to you.

My devoted God I offer
Everything that I possess,
As the fire that I suffer
Fills each fiery day I pass.
Only in the holes and cellars
With deadly rest my days I share.
I run higher — over spire
Searching where are you, oh where?

I am chased by phantom beings Stairs and courtyards goad me too. There I hang a broken bowstring -And I sing once more to you: Under your white starry heaven Offer me your pale white hand. All my words are flowing teardrops, I would place them in your hand.









SORTING BOOKS FOR THE "PAPER BRIGADE"



PASSING THE GATE TO THE VILNA GHETTO



THE BOOK BUNKER AT 6-8 SHAVEL STREET

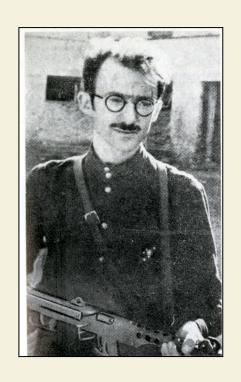


THE POETS AS PARTISANS

Shmerke

Sutzkever





SUTZKEVER IN FRONT OF THE RUINS OF THE YIVO BUILDING





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ABRAHAM SUTZKEVER, ISRAEL ZELIGMAN, AND GERSHON ABRAMOVITSH, WITH A WAGON OF RECOVERED MATERIALS AND OBJECTS, JULY 1944



THE MATERIALS ARE SORTED, JULY 1944. SITTING ON RIGHT: ABBA KOVNER (COMMANDER OF THE UNITED PARTISAN ORGANIZATION OF THE VILNA GHETTO), IN CENTER: ABRAHAM SUTZKEVER



SHMERKE KACZERGINSKI WITH RESCUED ART AND NEWSPAPERS



SUTZKEVER'S SUITCASE FOR TRANSPORTING DOCUMENTS OUT OF SOVIET LITHUANIA (IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL)





FROM LEFT: SHMERKE, SUTZKEVER, YITZHAK ZUCKERMAN (LEADER OF WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING), AND CHAIM GRADE (POET AND NOVELIST FROM YOUNG VILNA). WARSAW, 1946







THE RESCUERS

Abraham Sutzkever (in Israel)







SHMERKE KACZERGINSKI (IN BUENOS AIRES)





ער האט איכערנעלעבט די נאצי גרוילעו און איז אומגעקומען אין או עקסירענט. — שמערקע קאטשערגינסקי, דער כאוואוס־טער פאעט און קולטור־טוער, א פארטיזאנען־העלד פון דער טער פאעט און קולטור־טוער, א פארטיזאנען־העלד פון דער ווילנער נעטא, וועלכער איז גע'הרג'עט געווארען איז או ערא־פלאו־קראד אין ארגענטיגע פאראכטאגען דינסטאג ודעם 27טען אפריל). קאטשערנינסקי איז אלט געווען 46 יאר. ער האט זיד נעמאכט א נאמען אין דער אירישער ליטעראטור אלס איינער פון דער שרייבער־גרופע "יונג ווילנע", וואס איז אוופגעקומען מיט 25 יאר צוריק. בעת דער מלחמה, ווען ער האט זיך געפונען אין ווילנע, איז קאטשערגינסקי געווארען א פאר־ניואן און האט געקעמפט אין די ליטווישע וועלדער גענען טיזאן און האט געקעמפט אין די ליטווישע וועלדער גענען מיזאן און האט געקעמפט אין די ליטווישע וועלדער גענען





