

## **The Yisroel Shtern Project: End of 2006 Report**

Much has been accomplished in the two years of this project. Not only have Shtern's scattered works been brought together, in most cases in their earliest published form, but many essays and poems have found excellent translation into English, thanks to a loyal band of volunteer translators on two continents. It has given me great satisfaction to work closely and cooperatively with them, even though sometimes there has been only email contact.

It is hoped that this demonstration of an effective yet inexpensive way of presenting Yiddish literature to a world audience may inspire others to follow suit.

Our site now offers copies of the original publications of every one of Shtern's poems that we have located, and this includes 29 previously "lost" poems ([SEE – newly found Shtern poems](#)). The Hebrew University's catalogue of Yiddish Periodicals, which became publicly available in 2006, has been invaluable - see <http://jnul.huji.ac.il/iyip/> A host of previously unlocated essays and a number of poems by Shtern are listed there. We are grateful to the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, and especially to Eliezer Niborski of the Index to Yiddish Periodicals ( IYP Jerusalem), for his technical assistance in delivering the additional poems unearthed by the Catalogue.

*Unfortunately we lack the funding for the technical work of placing about 140 additional Shtern essays on the site - please note that a specific donation, to Monash University's Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilization for that purpose, would be welcomed.*

Recently added translations have been Shtern's less wellknown but no less powerful hospital poem *They say about you what is said about the sun* (Trans. Miriam Leberstein) and the essay celebrating the Bund's support of literature, *Literature with a purpose* (Trans. Floris Kalman). Several more translations will be added in 2007.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks - and draw readers' attention to - two essays specially written by translators for the "About Shtern" section of the site : a commentary on the poem "Your eyes" by Miriam Koral - *The lover as mystic* - and the formidable essay on "Crowns" by Jon Levitow.

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