Subject: Binem Heller

Date: Wed, 2 Apr 2003 13:02:45 -0500

From: "cmadsen" <cmadsen@bikher.org>

To: <audavstern@erols.com>

Dear Dr. Stern,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in answering your query regarding

Binem Heller. He is indeed one of the striking poets of the Holocaust, and

it’s good to know that his work is being appreciated.

The Leksikon fun der nayer Yidisher literature gives Heller’s birth date as

1908. Biographical details are sketchy, but he was born in Warsaw into a

poor Hasidic family; became a communist; spent the war in Bialystok and then

in Moscow; returned to Poland in 1947, where he became an active leader in

the official Jewish literary scene. After a visit to Israel in 1956 he

renounced communism and never returned to Poland; he lived in Brussels and

Paris (where he had lived for a couple of years before the war) and in

Israel.

As for permissions, I can’t give you a definitive answer; it is often quite

difficult to track down the facts of Yiddish copyright. One person who is

likely to know is the Israeli singer Chava Alberstein, who recorded Heller’s

poem “Mayn shvester Khaye.” You can reach her through her manager:

Aviv Productions, Inc.

4-23 Second St.

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201/791-8414

aviv@ix.netcom.com

If no hard facts are available, you can simply credit Heller and make a note

on the website (and on the back of the title page, if the book is published

in hard copy) that if anyone does hold the rights to his work they should

contact you.

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