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Date: 28 December 2003
From: Leonard Prager
Subject: Books and Journals Received

a. Yisroel Kaplan. Fun folks-moyl un mayn. mit der bateylikung fun Avrom Zimarni . Tel-Oviv: H. Leyvik farlag, baym fareyn fun yidishe shraybers un zhurnalistn in yisroel, 2003. [English title: Israel Kaplan. Jewish Folklore and My Own] ISBN 965-90108-6-9.

A personal collection of recollected oral Yiddish humor of more than a half-century ago (anecdotes, definitions, puns, etc.) by the recently deceased (at age 101!) author of the valuable, twice reprinted Dos folksmoyl in natsi-klem (Munich 1949), who also edited Fun letstn khurbm; tsaytshrift far geshikhte fun yidishn lebn beysn natsi-rezhim 1-9 (Munich 1946-1948). Unlike Druyanov [<http://yiddish.haifa.ac.il/reference/druyanov/>] in an earlier period, Kaplan does not censor his material (though it is hardly ever risqué).

b. Yerusholaimer almanakh; tsaytshrift far literatur, kultur un gezelschaftlekhe problemem 27 [tashsa"g (2002/2003)], redagirt: Dov-Ber Kerler. aroysgegebn beshutfes mit dem vilner yidishn institut baym vilner universitet un dem yung-yidish tsenter in yerusholaim, 320 zz' [ISSN 0334-9594].

Printed by Jerusalem's Tsur-Ot , Israel's leading Yiddish printing house, this graphically notable issue (the twenty-seventh) -- of one of Israel's last remaining literary journals is variegated and rich in content. Memorial tributes to the journal's first editor, the poet and well known former refusenik, Yoysef Kerler, open the volume. An entire section, including an essay by Hirshe-Dovid Katz on the Vilner Gaon's Yiddish, centers on storied Vilna. The rest of this ample volume includes many of our best contemporary Yiddish authors, the enterprising editor having recruited them from far and near.