

[Old Russian Customs]

Duplicate

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Herman Spector

ADDRESS 4121 Third Ave. New York City

DATE December 23, 1938

SUBJECT OLD RUSSIAN CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

1. Date and time of interview

2. Place of interview

Mrs. Gussie Spector 4121 Third Ave. New York City.

3. Name and address of informant

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

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FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Herman Spector

ADDRESS 4121 Third Ave. New York City

DATE December 28, 1938

SUBJECT OLD RUSSIAN CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

Dey used to say it a person took sick mentally he had in him a gilgil —such a spirit; so instead of taking to a doctor dey said somebody's sitting in de person. So dey went to a rabbi, and de rabbi talked to de person, and he said: "Gilgil, go away." it's also a psychology. I tink dere must be something to it, because sometimes dey got better.

Dey say if you see de leaves turning around in de wind, de devil is dere so you ain't allowed to step in it. Once a woman stepped in it and it turned around her face on one side. When I man a child, I believed it.

When it comes de fair so all de farmers bring eggs, fruits, cakes. If you bought a cow you had to be on good terms wid de farmer odderwise he could do to de cow someting so she wouldn't give milk. You shouldn't boggin too much needer; so maybe de cow could die.

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At de time of pesach dey say an Elencovie (spirit) comes in to drink de wine. You sit and sit and imagine how it get lower in de glass de wine. I remember when I was a girl, so my heart used to beat, I was afraid I would see when dey opened de door. Evvyting was still; so we watched and tought de glass got a liddle bid less.

Couple of days before Yom Kippur (Wot, tree day! one day! never mind, couple of days, I remember better,) before Yom Kippur I'm talking; frinstance you're a boy I gotta got a rooster, I'm a woman I hafta get a chicken; you take a chicken, before you kill it, say in de book de pray, den you turn it tree times and den de shoiket makes like dis:

Zay chalafusy, Zay tomerusy: Zay attona-goilis, Aylich lamissey! If anyting should happen to you in your life so de chicken takes it to him so you're safe.
