

Library of Congress

[The Aristicratca]

NOT FOLKLORE

Accession no.

W 8117

Date received 10/10/40

Consignment no. 1

Shipped from Wash. off.

Label

Amount 3p. (incl 2 forms)

WPA L. C. Project Writers' Unit

Form-3 Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title The aristicratca

Place of origin N.Y. Date 3/16/'39

Project worker Terry Roth

Project editor

Remarks Form C with text [?] Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff [16?]

FOLKLORE

Library of Congress

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ————— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street 152 W. 13th Street

DATE March 6, 1939

SUBJECT THE ARISTICRATCA

1. Date and time of interview April 4, 1939
2. Place of interview Furriers Union 250 West 26th Street New York City
3. Name and address of informant Mrs. Sarah Cohen
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Miss Spiro, Educational Director
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Sam Schwartz

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

FOLKLORE

Library of Congress

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ————— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street 152 W. 13th Street

DATE March 6, 1939

SUBJECT THE ARISTICRATCA THE ARISTICRATCA

This is about a lovestonite, a Mrs. Rabinowitz, a very active worker. We used to give her a name "the aristicratca." She wanted to take me over there. They made up their mind that I belong there. But they made a mistake. When you come over to a new shop you may be a very experienced worker, but every shop is a new system. When I came over there I had the same work but a different system. This "aristicratca is working in this shop and lunchtime we went to the bathroom to clean ourselves, she came over. "See, Mrs. Cohen, see? Now the united front. Don't you remember we told that we don't want any politics in the union. You remember?"

"Sure I remember. If you don' want polities in the union so you want in the toilet? Where do you want to talk polities — in the butcher? Shul? Toilet? I know I'm a worker. I should talk in the union about Gefilte Fish? About Kigel? The union should be something to learn they should talk."

"Oh, but Mrs, Cohen you are not right."

"Not much." I keep quiet like "all dus Baze" (devilish spirit)

2

Library of Congress

Comes pay day, the boss made a little mistake in my money, so I saw the leader in the shop about it. I told him. "Listen, Baritz, I want you should tell Mrs. Rabinowitz not to bother on me about your group, and so and so." So he said. "I don't know if I'll see her. "Well, I said, "you might see her tomorrow, next week. I want you should tell her. Please, Baritz, don't think that I belong to your group. Please don't make any mistake."

A couple days later I see that Mrs. Rabinowitz come over to the union. "Good, Mrs. Cohen, you are here. I came to see somebody but you are here, I'll talk to you."

We went over and sat down on the chair.

"I'm so surprised you are feeling that way." And so and so. And so and so. And so and so. I am quiet.

"And you should help out with your brains with this group." And so and so. And so and so.

First of all I have an opinion, just the same opinion of Bernard Show, who said. "As many people talk English, that many dialects are." How many accents has a dialect. So many as many people are talking. So many dialects are. The same I told her. "I have my opinion."

"No, Mrs. Cohen, we told you and we told everybody here."

"Alright," I said, "If you think you told us —"

"Mrs. Cohen. The same thing that you are having in the united front, we told them a couple years ago."

"Well, that's very good. That time the fruit was green and now, maybe, the fruit is ripe."

Library of Congress

By the way, when she started so, she came out with all kinds praises. “And you are so and so, and you are the most of the most.” But I told her when you took that fruit a couple years ago so the [fruit wasn't ripe?].”