

S. An-ski (pseudonym), real name Shloyme Zanvl Rappoport, was born in Chashniki near Vitebsk, Russian Empire in 1863 and died in Otwock, Poland on November 8, 1920. He was a Jewish author, researcher of Jewish folklore, cultural and political activist. He was writing in the Russian and Yiddish languages.

Under the influence of the Russian *narodnik* movement, An-sky became interested in ethnography. In 1894 he emigrated to Paris and resided there until 1904. In 1919, he established the History and Ethnography Society in Vilnius. He is best known for his play “The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds” (“Der dibek: Tsvishn tsvey veltn”), written in 1914. It is still performed today in theatres around the world and widely considered the jewel of the Jewish theatre. An-ski was also the author of the popular song Di Shvue (The Oath), which became a famous anthem of the Jewish Workers Union *Bund*.

After the Russian Bolshevik revolt of 1917, he fled to Vilnius in 1918, where he rehearsed “The Dybbuk” with the actors of *Vilner Trupe*. After the pogrom of 1919, the whole theatre company moved to Warsaw. He died there of heart attack after taking part in an organising meeting of the Jewish Ethnographic Society of Warsaw. The premiere performance of “The Dybbuk” was staged by *Vilner Trupe* with the director Dovid Herman on December 9, 1920 as soon as the 30-day mourning period after the author’s death was over.

During S. An-ski’s stay in Vilnius, he resided and worked in this building for some time.

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