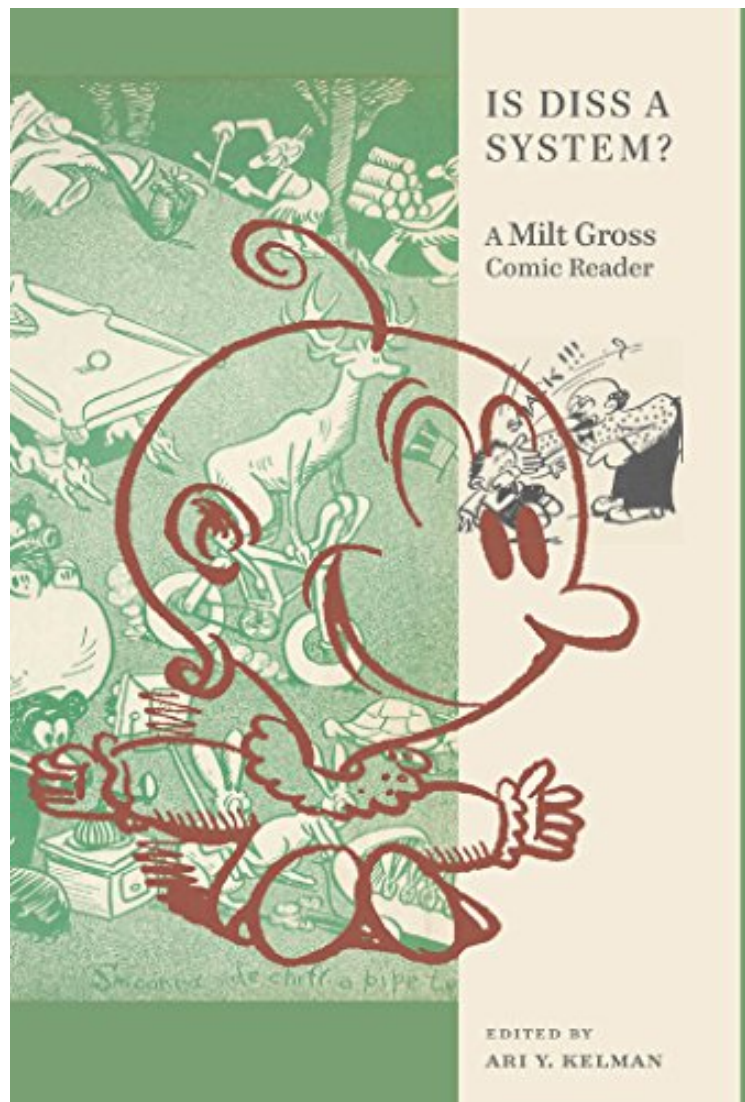


[Mobile book] Is Diss a System?: A Milt Gross Comic Reader (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History)

Is Diss a System?: A Milt Gross Comic Reader (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History)

From Ari Kelman

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#1701050 in Books Ari Kelman 2009-12-09 2009-12-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .81 x 5.511, 1.05 #File Name: 0814748236308 pages Is Diss a System A Milt Gross Comic Reader | File size: 52.Mb

From Ari Kelman : Is Diss a System?: A Milt Gross Comic Reader (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Is Diss a System?: A Milt Gross Comic Reader (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Was almost by us a calumny By Ignatz Shmigelski When I read this

to people they get great enjoyment, but if I show them the text, their eyes will bug out and they just shake their heads. This is a book that is written in dialect, that of an immigrant in the early part of the last century. It will frustrate some, but once you get it, it is fabulously funny. It is full of malapropisms common to a non-native speaker of English, and therein lies the humor. "De baby ate opp all de pills" -- later you will find out those were potato peels. You should really enjoy the retelling from the immigrant stand point many classic tales, like the "tuttis wit de hare," and others. Also included are "Famous Fimmales from heestory, witt odder ewents." If you would like to hear a reading search for Milt Gross on YouTube, I am there reading about "Heddem und Iv in de godden from Iddin." This is not a book to read cover to cover, small doses will leave you laughing, and will make for fine entertainment for friends and family. Pick it up anytime open it anywhere, and you will have a good laugh. Beware: there are jokes in here from another era, and some of the material is not politically correct, but don't let that stop you, this is great stuff. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Wayne A. Simpson Genius 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Soch a nize, dollink book By customer Anyone who likes the quirky artwork and exaggerated Jewish vocabulary of Milt Gross is going to want this book! Full of wacky characters with their equally wacky dialect, it begs to be read aloud. I did this, and I am still walking around talking like Mrs. Feitlebaum: ("Mowriss, not in de head"). The book contains many of Gross' comic strips and newspaper columns from the 1920's. These are well organized and illustrated. Included are "Nize Baby" from 1926; "Dunt Esk!" from 1927; and "De Night in de Front from Chreesmas" also from 1927. Plus many more. The editor gives us a solid introduction to Gross' work which was very helpful in understanding how the cartoonist's work evolved. He also takes on Gross' critics, and as well, gives us a sense of what life was like for many immigrants in the 1920's. This book is a lot of fun. Loved it!

Milt Gross (1895-1953), a Bronx-born cartoonist and animator, first found fame in the late 1920s, writing comic strips and newspaper columns in the unmistakable accent of Jewish immigrants. By the end of the 1920s, Gross had become one of the most famous humorists in the United States, his work drawing praise from writers like H. L. Mencken and Constance Roarke, even while some of his Jewish colleagues found Gross' extreme renderings of Jewish accents to be more crass than comical. Working during the decline of vaudeville and the rise of the newspaper cartoon strip, Gross captured American humor in transition. Gross adapted the sounds of ethnic humor from the stage to the page and developed both a sound and a sensibility that grew out of an intimate knowledge of immigrant life. His parodies of beloved poetry sounded like reading primers set loose on the Lower East Side, while his accounts of Jewish tenement residents echoed with the mistakes and malapropisms born of the immigrant experience. Introduced by an historical essay, *Is Diss a System?* presents some of the most outstanding and hilarious examples of Jewish dialect humor drawn from the five books Gross published between 1926 and 1928—*Nize Baby*, *De Night in de Front from Chreesmas*, *Hiawatta*, *Dunt Esk*, and *Famous Fimmales*—providing a fresh opportunity to look, read, and laugh at this nearly forgotten forefather of American Jewish humor.

From Booklist Before becoming a forefather of the graphic novel with the wordless romance-adventure parody *He Done Her Wrong* (1930; unexpurgated ed., 2006), Gross forged a huge reputation as a verbal as well as cartoon humorist. His newspaper column "Gross Exaggerations" presented four families of immigrants in the same New York tenement via the conversations shouted up and down a common airshaft. They spoke a dialect of Gross' invention, heavily Yiddish-accented and inflected but using English loaded with malaprops that were then twisted by wholesale mispronunciation. Though Gross regularly employed it in parodies of chestnuts by Poe and Longfellow as well as, via a mother's storytelling to her baby, famous folk- and fairy tales, he didn't write jokes or banter but made comedy primarily out of funny-sounding speech. In a long, invaluable introduction, editor Kelman emphasizes that Gross' writing is best read aloud (in fact, that's often the only way to make it comprehensible), that it aroused mixed feelings, offending assimilating Jews while delighting hoards of Gentiles, and that it almost never trades in ethnic, especially Jewish, stereotypes. Magnificent Americana. --Ray Olson "Nearly thirty years before my birth, Milt Gross had already turned the kind of English that I heard every day into great and significant art, delighting kids like me as much as he offended the Pecksniffian alte kakers who sought to purge American Jewish culture of every trace of real Yiddish and real Yiddish life. Gross was the bomb under Molly Goldberg's tukhes. *Is Diss a System?*, a book that needs to be spoken as much as it needs to be read, makes some of his best work available to an audience that might never have suspected what it's been missing." --Michael Wex, author of *Born to Kvetch* and *Just Say Nu* "*Is Diss a System?* brings back Milt Gross with a bang. Artist, tongue-twisting language humorist, Gross was a great figure of American popular culture in the first half of the twentieth century, sadly forgotten . . . until now! Kelman has given us all a gift by selecting, annotating and celebrating a multiculturalism that rings with humor, humanism and a spirit we all need as much as ever. Hurrah!" --Paul Buhle, editor of *Jews and American Comics* "Milt Gross is a lost wonder of the American literary funhouse. A blessing on the head of Ari Y. Kelman for bringing him, roaring, back to mad and vivid life." --Michael Chabon, author of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union: A Novel* "It is Gross's good fortune, and ours, that a most recent generation of Americans has reclaimed him as its own or, at the very least, brought his talents to the fore once more. *Is Diss a System? A Milt Gross Comic Reader* is a case in point, a showcase of his many gifts. . . . In his

championing of Milt Gross, Kelman assumes his rightful place as a cultural archaeologist of American Jewry's vernacular culture. He belongs, in fact, to a new generation of American Jewish intellectuals who are determined to recover—and to celebrate—what their forbears had consigned to the attic or dismissed as a curiosity.' -The New Republic

About the Author Ari Y. Kelman is Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. He is the author of *Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States*.