

מבית הגזרים
TREASURES
FROM THE REBBE'S LIBRARY

Mibeis Hagnazim p. 283, article 109.

THE FIRST SHTENDERS USED BY THE REBBE

In the early years of the Rebbe's *nesius*, the Rebbe davened at an ordinary table in the small *zal* and generally did not use a *shtender*. During the week, the Rebbe sat in the northeastern corner of the *zal* (near the door that opens to the lobby). On Shabbos, the Rebbe davened at the southeastern corner, sitting on an ordinary bench next to the table. For Shemoneh Esrei, however, the Rebbe used a *shtender* to hold his siddur.

This low *shtender* opened from the top, where there was a compartment to hold things. Reb Meir Harlig related that on Yom Kippur 5712 (the first year after the Rebbe officially accepted the *nesius*), the Rebbe brought piles of *pidyonos* with him to davening, and placed them in this compartment in the *shtender*. When the Rebbe left the shul for the break between Mussaf and Mincha, the Rebbe asked Reb Meir to keep an eye on the *pidyonos*.

A few years later, a taller *shtender* was acquired for the Rebbe, and then a third one. The third *shtender* had a compartment with two doors on the side, and a board that could be pulled out at the bottom upon which the Rebbe could place his siddur while seated.

Some time later, the students at Beis Sefer Lemelacha—the trade school in Kfar Chabad—built a fourth *shtender* for the Rebbe, similar in style to the third one that the Rebbe was using at the time.

WRITTEN BY:
RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

לעילוי נשמת
 ר' מנחם זאב בן ר' פנחס ע"ה הרמון
 נלב"ע כ"ה אלול ה'תשנ"ט

ולעילוי נשמת זוגתו
 מרת ח'ל' ריטא בת ר' מרדכי ע"ה
 נלב"ע יום א' דחג הסוכות ה'תשפ"ב

תנ"צ'ב'ה'

נדפס ע"י
 משפחתם שיחיו



THE SHTENDER BUILT BY STUDENTS OF BEIS SEFER LEMELACHA IS PRESENTED TO THE REBBE AT THE FARBRENGEN OF EREV ROSH HASHANAH 5723.

They sent the *shtender* as a gift to the Rebbe on the chartered flight to New York in Elul 5722, with Reb Berel Lipsker, who was a *talmid-shliach* in Tomchei Temimim of Lod at the time. Reb Berel brought the *shtender* up to the Rebbe during the Erev Rosh Hashanah farbrengen, and the Rebbe dedicated an entire *sicha* explaining the spiritual significance of a *shtender*.¹

For a while, this *shtender* stayed in the Rebbe's room. In those years, the Rebbe would daven Kabbalas Shabbos, Shacharis, and Mussaf of Shabbos in the newly built shul downstairs, and Mincha Erev Shabbos and Shabbos in the small *zal*. Each week, the one *shtender* in use was transported up and down the stairs for the Rebbe. About half a year after receiving the gift, on Pesach 5723, the Rebbe instructed that the new *shtender* be brought from his room and kept permanently in the small *zal*, while the old *shtender* would remain downstairs.

1. Toras Menachem vol. 34, p. 325

THE REBBE'S SHTENDERS DISPLAYED IN THE EXHIBITION ROOM OF THE LIBRARY.

