Jes Grew

* Virus or Anti-Virus?
* Jes Grew – “Just Grew” ; “Jazz Grew” ; “Just Groove”

“Us” vs. “Them”

* Atonists vs VooDooists

Setting

* 1920s
* Jazz becoming big in this age
* Prohibition
* Spanish Flu?
* Harlem Renaissance 🡪 Something outside the established order

Narrative Present

* 1960s and 1970s
* Making clear connections between 1920s and 1970s

“Jes Grew”

* Took over from nowhere
* Cannot be appropriated 🡪 “words were unprintable, but the tune was irresistible, and belonged to nobody.”
* Looking for the text

Moses

* Moses stealing Jethro’s music and giving him a little copyright fee
* Allusion to white people stealing black people music

Clash

* Wallflower vs Jes Grew
* Wallflowers are people who do not dance at a party
* Clash between races
* 1919 summer full of lynching (Black Veterans coning back after WWI and not given benefits). Period of peace during war is only shortly lived
* Tulsa Race Massacre
* “Red Summer”

Looking for a Text

* Hinkle Von Vampton 🡪 Librarian of Templar Knights who keeps the book; the Book of Thoth (Thoth the Egyptian God of writing is the one who writes Osiris’s’ book)
* Text is what does not belong to canonical development of society
* Page 84 – swearing in of Free Masons (descendants of Knights Templar); summoning of Hinkle Von Vampton by Wallflower Order

Gibbon, Edward. *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. 3 vols. New York: Modern Library.

* Very influential book 🡪 Says “Barbarians at the gates” are responsible for the fall of Roman Empire
* Directly relates to the idea of clash

VooDoo’s origin in Haiti

* Haiti has biggest population of slaves per capita
* Many of these being Nigerian who believed in animistic religion tradition
* VooDoo as a mash up of some Christian and animist tradition

Why emphasis on New Orleans

* New Orleans being French in 19th century 🡪 plenty of French slaves in Louisiana brining VooDoo tradition

Finding a text as a means of gaining a sense of establishment 🡪 “looking for a text”

Book of Thoth as the written text of Osiris (the “Jes Grew”); The book as been burned

Hubert Harrison

Gist as one way of organizing the world; Hegel discussing one idea that governs society or culture (thesis); but this idea clashes with another (antithesis); then this thesis synthesizes with this antithesis, starting a new “thesis” and so on.

- This includes the “shoving aside” of everything NOT synthesized into new theses.

THE END OF HISTORY

Free market capitalism governs the world; this is how society is going to be organized from this point on.

Cotton Club

* A real place in Harlem during 1920s

Chapter 52

* Oppression of Osiris by Set
* Atonism (Atenism) as a real religion
* Aton as “Egyptian Jehovah”
* *Moses and Monotheism* – Freud
  + Monotheism linked to Atonism
  + Monotheism stomping of Atonism as the history of Western Civilization and “Stomping out” all that doesn’t exist

Plot

- Jes Grew

- Templar Knights

- Hinkle Von Vampton (allusion to Carl Van Vechten and his book “N\*\* Heaven”; A white washing of Black Art)

- “The Text”

- Clash between Wallflower Order and Jes Grew

Plot being Juxtaposed on this history is Von Vampton looking for a talking android to speak for Black people

Historiographic Metafiction (Hutcheon 1988)

* History is the sublime
* History is no longer available to us, we can only write history from the present
* There is not such thing as capital H History.
* We can only write history, represent history
* What does Historiographic Metafiction do?
  + Reflets on the texts that shape our understanding of history
  + Reconfigures the reader’s relation with the past (intertextuality)
  + Redeems histories from historiography
    - The “completely” of history: no clear chains of cause and effect, no teleology
    - The “emplotment” of history: the degree of fictionality in all forms of historiography
    - The “politics” of history: the ways in which “history” is co-opted and factualized by the powers that be (“might is right” cf. status quo).
* Paranoia

Hayden White

* Tropics of Discourse: Essays in Cultural Criticism
* Critical of two ideas:
  + Christian Eschatology: Salvation – final destruction of the soul
  + Enlightenment: incremental progress
* History is something you can only define in the present.
* “Epistemic Shifts” 🡪 History is a series of disruption paradigms of knowing (WWI , WWII, etc.); you can no longer experience the world in the same way. EX; Cannot know what it was like before the birth of species, but can only rationalize it from the present

Thomas Kuhn’s “paradigm shirt” in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*