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MERCURIUS FUMIGOSUS
or the
SMOKING NOCTURNAL
communicating

dark and hidden newes

Of Speaking Trees , and Moving woods
Of Little John's , and Robbin Hoods,
Of growing ships and standing boats,
Of barking hoggs, and preaching goats
Of honest lawyers, and true killers,
Of blood Suckers, and men-killers
Of Mary Hambree , and Bess a Bell,
Of Wonders that no tongue can tell
Of News in jeast and jeasts in Print
If you'l not buy't , the Devill's in't!

the Weekly Intelligencer

a

Premonition

of sundry

Sad Calamities

Yet to
COME

the ripple press

1985

LONDON

"Their feet were no longer chained in order to prevent their escape , but their spirit was domesticated by comparative comfort."

The Death Instinct (Champ Libre)

Jacques Mesrine

Recently a pamphlet called Life and its replacement with a dull reflection of itself was published in Leeds (1984) by the Pleasure Tendency. First when that name was mentioned we thought it must be another Leeds "musical" (ie. noise) group for which that city is so infamous, all products of art school in search of a market. But no, it was a document worthy of our attention. Here some critical notes will be voiced against it, as we will see it is not a luxury to take apart this PT. One thing in favour of this pamphlet is its attractive cover, the contents inside are less so though. But nowadays it seems to be the customary practice to have books with attractive covers, precisely because what is inside is just plain garbage. But PT's "preliminary theses " are not all without use, we will concentrate our fire on what seems to us to be in need of being contradicted. As PT is holding a conference this weekend the critique that I pen will be of interest to those attending that service.

Here are some of the gems that sprung to my attention after reading PT's document. "Fascism is a big con. Hitler invented the Volkswagen -need one say more". Yes it seems we must. You would think you were listening to Tony Blackburn or Jimmy Young or some pop star who has just done a benefit against "the return " of that plague, or even Princess Michael of Kent. She would not disagree with such a ready-made statement, as long as it did not mention her father's involvement in the massacre of the Spartakists. For after all he was in Munich in 1923 , when the Freikorps surrounded that city to put down the Government of Councils. By the way Himmler, the ex-chicken farmer was already learning his trade, he was there too. So Von Reibnitz was in good company! The birth of fascism starts with the crushing of the proletarian revolution in Germany after the First World , just as "Lenin paved the way for Stalin" (Ciliga) . I remember a specialist on the subject (fascism) asking me "how did it start?", he who is an "authority " on that matter , and one of his books is required reading for students, with such professors , students are really badly off. So this historian cannot solve the enigma of the rise of fascism in Germany or elsewhere for that matter, precisely because he is against proletarian revolution. PT's thesis is just a flat statement, a Yorkshireman would say just like London beer! You could hear such ramblings in some "restaurant" where the punters talk

with a loud voice so that their neighbours can see that they are as well educated as Laurie Taylor . What a supermarket this society is! Then the PT author(s) comes out with another novelty namely "the effiminazation of the State", "in this effiminized tyranny , everything is done behind the scenes as today." Liars were in power as always . In any case the State is beyond gender. As Pierre Clastres said : "One cannot imagine power without the State, nor the State without power". (1) The dictatorship of the commodity is more insidious and it is more a misery than a conspiracy. What PT fails to talk about is that women are holding more and more executive positions in the modern economy and on the whole they are as inhumane as their male counterparts. "Getting things done the humane way " is just a bad PT joke, "the management of the future will be female" belches out the Leeds author. In fact management is getting tougher and tougher against those who don't want to sell their time. New techniques of management are constantly being tried on proletarians. And to make people work and buy is becoming more and more difficult. There is the key to understanding the crisis of the economy affecting every country on Earth. On this subject , a timely reprint has just come out to annoy many from the left to the right. (2)

Another gem is the following : " a true leader goes unprotected, without body-guard.." That is a contradiction in term, there are no true leaders, what is needed is a critique of leaders, whether true or false. A similar statement can be read in the current issue of Workers Playtime. They have adopted some Aims & Principles put forward by a Scottish organization called the Calderwood 15, it goes like this : "If Lenin existed it would be necessary to reinvent him". You cannot reinvent such a bureaucrat, but make sure that no such statesman creeps out of the neo-leninist woodwork. It is more than shameful for WP to have taken up such rubbish. They who think they are a cut above everyone else have yet to shed a few ultra-leftists skins. And it is worth remembering that Bordiga never condemned the Kronstadt massacre of 1921 orchestrated by Lenin and Trotsky. And one the WP contributors talks of something he does not know much about, situationism. As Guy Debord wrote

(1) French marxists and their anthropology. (1977). An English translation is available from : Case postale 282, Succ. "E" . Montreal, P.Q H2t 3 A7. Housman's Bookshop in London stock it.

(2) The Veritable Split in the International -public circular- of the Situationist International .(Paris , 1972), published in English in 1974. Recently reprinted by Chronos Publications , BM Chronos, London WC1 n 3 xx.

in the no 4 of the review Internationale situationniste : "there is no situationism". But some still try to confuse people's minds, a sort of pollution. As for PT "communism is capitalism without the good bits", beyond such a ready-made formula a critique of both systems is required, the bourgeois dictatorship and the totalitarian-bureaucratic one. And more and more these "two systems" need each other and yet they are rivals in the conquest for markets, raw materials and territory, and these two monsters are besieged at home by proletarians who are more and more fed up with their lot.

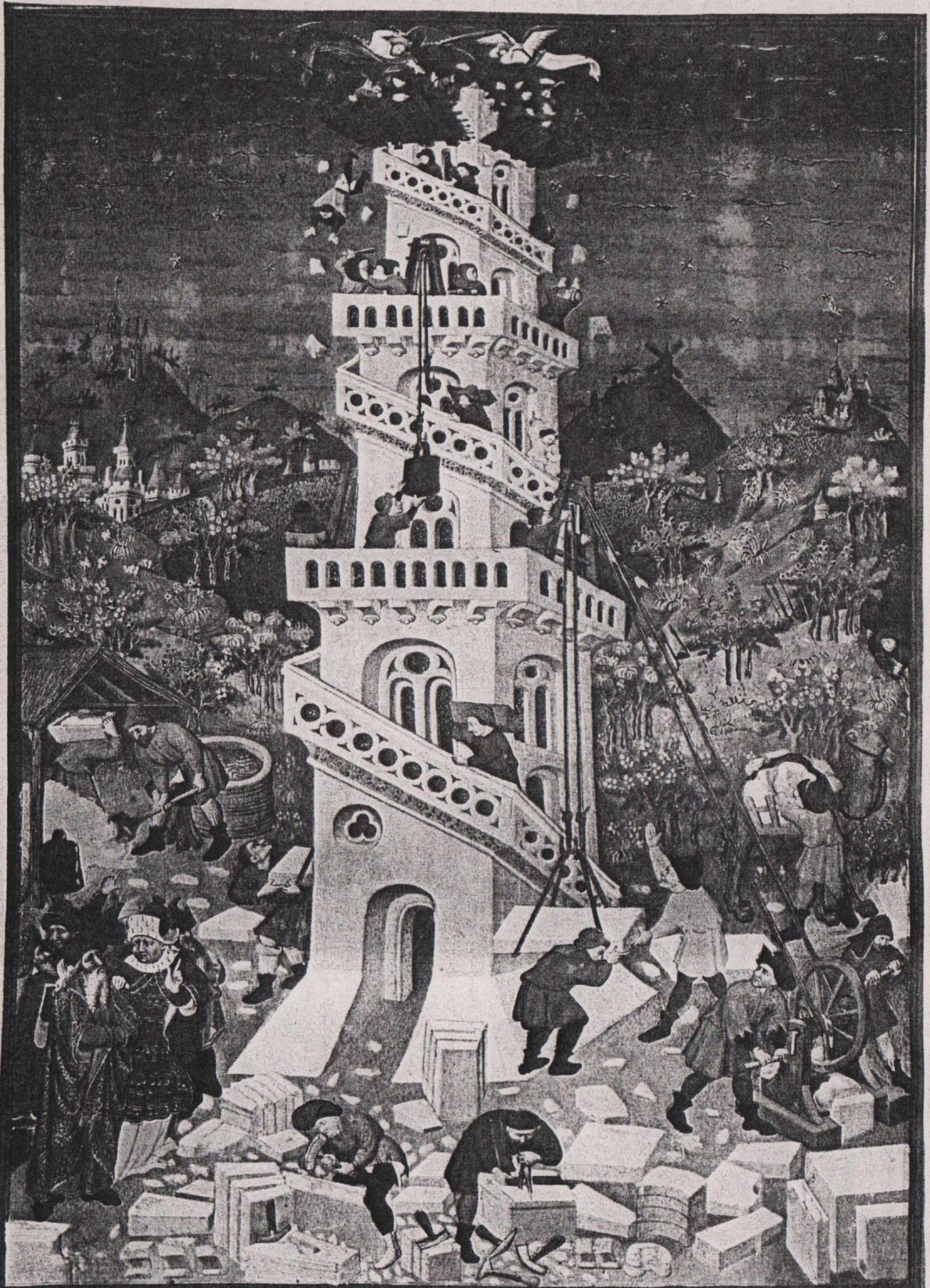
And then our PT author gives us his brand of egoism to look at : "the population of the world is forced to labour endlessly at unnecessary jobs; but not by me", our mini-Stirner cannot feel the pain and the suffering of others who sell their lives in order to live. He is beyond such trivia. And then he contradicts himself beautifully, people are "wasting roles necessary to continue this game that everyone wants to finish" and a few pages later we find the following : "there is no one left to stand up and challenge everything". Well at least here PT is challenged ! And he continues : "In the nineteenth century, the old socialists were certain who the enemy was. Now the ruling clique mutates, expands and shrinks according to its own seemingly -random logic. Opposition to it can no longer be personalized. There are no permanent villains." Who will believe this ? Of course class society has changed, you can no longer stick to a 19th century definition of classes, to which most of the left holds on to. It is really scandalous. Maybe because many members of these organizations are executives or cadres in the modern economy, that is the truth of the matter. But workers despise these people who think they are not workers, but still they too work for a wage. I can't remember reading anything on this subject in PT, City Limits-Time Out, or World Revolution or Socialist Worker & and the Newsline mess...

And then we read in PT that no funeral is a joyful event. Another ready-made answer. But Hegel, a bit more humane on this score, had this to say : death is the most terrible negation. And even if a jazz-band is there the tune is always a lament. They (PT) who want the Seizure of Destiny, - you almost think you were reading Ratgeb or Germaine Greer when they speak of such a demand -, might start dancing to a new tune when they receive this pamphlet.

Give my regards to Mr Thurloe and his crew and to David Dunbar and his giant peodle if they attend.

Written & Published on the 1st of May, 1985

By a friend of Junius for The Ripple Press in London.



Comme on edifia la tour de babilouie. et le langage fut mué en lxxij. langues. et les anges la despyrent.;