

The present selection (some of the more satirical & political pieces from the late 50s to late 60s) is taken from Paul Celan, *Mikrolithen sinds, Steinchen*, the collected posthumous prose, as edited by Barbara Wiedemann and Bertrand Badiou & published by Suhrkamp Verlag in 2005. In that edition the roughly 200 pages of Celan's writings (divided into sections of aphorisms, narrative fragments, dialogues, notes, theoretical-critical fragments, unsent letters & texts concerning the Goll affair) are followed by a 700-page apparatus of bio-bibliographic commentaries. The English translation by Pierre Joris of the texts with a reduced commentary section, from which the present excerpts are taken, will be published as *Microliths they are, Little Stones*, in late 2018 by Attem-Verlag.

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53 (...)

53.6 A time when books are no longer written, but made, resp. manufactured —: poiein... where the “poietes” is the publisher's editor — an early stage of the manufacturer. Thus also this new “lodge” of the book-managers, in obvious collaboration with other impotent subordinate literati — the holders of academic Leaching-chairs. Poetry's vacancy. Where it still maintains itself, it is suppressed.

53.9 The “fascism of the fatsos” —: what if this expression was fodder for flat-bellied fascists? (Already noted once in the “Counterlights” notebook)

53.10 The “jewishing” in “Conversation in the Mountain:” mais oui, il faut assumer ce qu'on nous prête! / yes indeed, one has to acknowledge the traits one is lent!

53.13 The Brecht-fashion: the Brecht hairdos...

53.14 No, not the double-faced — the twice half-faced. (The Janus-napes).

54.

54.1 The talk of clearcutting after the end of the war: the alibi of a few collaborators. Who then will reforest the soil — with teutonic-abstract gallows trees. The “brothers” from the re-awakened male associations, the Männerbünde, knot the hanging-plants onto them. — No, no longer: “Die, Jew!” But: “Dangle, dear Jew!”

54.2 The Ripoff-time of German post-war literature. Editor-approved fodder for non-readers. Blurbs with Poland- and Left-spin. Brown crackers from the salmon- to hangman-red Wirtschaftswunder-bag. Jewizied stuff in Nordic straightjacket. By the way, six of the one and half a dozen of the other. And Easter eggs for the whole deal. _____

3.25.62

56. Contemporaries, world companions, mirror-mountains

Some restore the facades, others the backyards. Those in the backyard are of course anti-restorative, I mean revolutionary and against the German Wirtschaftswunder: their shoes come from Milan, their faith from Warsaw; the persons they marry rave — during rave-hour — for the nouveau roman. Many use their electric typewriters with the left hand. During the holidays they even learn Albanian. They are skinny: they are against the fascism of the fatsos.

57.-i-To demythologize does not mean to displace myths with countermyths.

58. He who mythifies after Auschwitz is also a murderer.
6.24.62.

59./Counterlights — counter the lice/

THE HEGELBAHN

A writer and trapper, with a head like a Reich- and university-apple sunned to baldness under Californian knowledge-trees, took himself — the Far-West Prussian does indeed exist — for no one less than Hegel. And put on his glasses, not only with the upper apple on the write-track, — thus the long view came to be, across Atlantic, Either, Neiße and/or Oder. The Hegel game could begin, and — it began. Much was pushed around.

In a forming and confirming manner, the counter-image belonged to the desired image. It created a long view — in its image, as its counter-mug.

After which friends and students came in order to catapult the imagined into the real via bombardment with various projectiles — consisting primarily of well-commented gobbets of bad conscience — ideal — because there has to be dialectic!

A splendid game! New-Aged! Nothing like the twentieth century! And, despite all magyarish-pollak contributions, how German, how occidental-atlantic!

During the breaks they served world spirit with soda water.

8.7.62

60. To build houses, over and above despair. A roof. For that.

61.

61.1 The League of the Homeland-evicted. — The League of the World-evicted remains yet to be called into existence.

62.2 Counter-economy, Horatio

77 (...)

77.5 The hacked-off lips
approached

77.6 He made the dead into his chewing gum flavored with thought-spice

77.7 All their mentality-yatter, served at bellybutton level.

77.8 He too saw nature without patience. But unnature also, with growing impatience.

77.9 Posthumous Papers in Livid Times / in Gingerbread Times

77.10 This, his left- and bellshitting wind chimes.

78. -i-

The enlighteners who throw light on everything — more exactly: on that which they claim to be “everything” — that surrounds them, thus all the better to be able to stay in the dark.

Ffm 7.27.65

79.

79.1 -i- Put a zebra in the tank.

79.2 -i- Put the zebra into the Willy.

79.3 -i- Prominence as thought-crutch

79.4 -i- The straightjacket of Bequemlichkeit

82.

82.8 The book, gone astray, fingered-marked.

82.9 The treacheries — not: the tines — of such crowns.

82.10 On a quest for instinct

82.11 They asked the man dying of thirst if the dripping faucet in the next door cell didn't disturb him, and promised to quickly remedy this nuisance.

82.12 Complementary to the technocrats: the psychocrats.

82.13 Bold- and blonde-text

82.14 Not the measured verse, but the unmeasured, where the lyrical and the tragical meet and cut across each other, is what makes the poem a poem.

82.15 With unavailing greetings, I remain your —

96.

96.1 -i- 5.4.68

Dutschke: that one too has nothing to do with Marcuse, and he, for ex., gesticulates with the — so accurate — word of “repressive tolerance” in the — just as plague-ridden — air.

In order to get his Marx citation to this Marx-man, his thing gets pregnant not only with its contrary, but simultaneously with several of its counter- and back-parts.

96.2 5.4.68 Karl Marx.

On parviendra probablement un jour à transplanter les têtes, mais il n’est pas sûr qu’on saura faire repousser les barbes. / We’ll probably be able some day to transplant heads, but it isn’t certain that we’ll know how to make beards grow back.

97. 5.4.68

-i-

The right to alienness.

103.

103.11.28.69

-i- You have raised high the murdered — the murderers followed them, swimming upwards.

103.2 -i- Who goes into details, helps things to gain their rights.

103.3

La vulnérabilité est l’admirable contrepoint du courage. / Vulnerability is the admirable counterpoint to courage.

103.4

Our weaknesses: our strengths.

103.5 -i-

The dictators who subdue their peoples into innumerable accomplices.

103.6 -i- Reality hasn’t been indebted to Marx for a long time.

104. Truth is revolutionary. I believe that too, but when it is quoted at me, I do sniff a little around the quotation marks.

109.

109.1 with many green mountains and as many similar motivations
cordially (indeed) and absolutely not unthankfully
your diligently swissifying,

Paul

111.

Don't reveal the secret otherwise the secret will reveal you