

RESEARCH

1) Anarchism and Co-operatives: An on-going general interest with a mostly contemporary bias. I am interested to show that the decision-making process, federative tendencies, and ideological awareness of the "new age" co-ops are essentially anarchist. I would also like to integrate this interest in co-ops with theories and practice of decentralized economic development in both rich and poor countries.

2) Mysticism and Anarchism: This is an eternal project in which I am attempting to find ways of integrating notions which are more spiritual or mystical (and usually deemed useless by most anarchists) with anarchist theory (usually deemed useless by most "religious" figures). The basic notion is to recover some notion of "soul" or "spirit" for anarchism...give it a bit more depth in some way.

3) Revolution: I am interested in helping devise a fairly comprehensive theory integrating, in particular, the experience of feminists, co-operators, hippies, greens, leftists and a few more. In the end I would want to claim that there actually is a revolution going on in this world and that those groups are the ones which are conducting the R and D on that revolution.

4) Communities: I am slowly accumulating data on a group of youngish German immigrants to an area in Portugal. A sort of reverse migration, mostly escapees from the overwhelming nature of German life. There are similar cases elsewhere in the world, and I am particularly interested in seeing how the community develops and decisions are made.

5) I have a number of less active interests which I might reveal so as to find others interested in the same matters. They are very briefly: Landauer, Goldman, critiques of Bookchin, and utopian thinking (e.g. science fiction).

Tom Cahill

Bill Berkowitz : Community Dreams : Ideas for Enriching Neighbourhood and Community Life, Impact Publishers, San Luis Obispo, California, 1984, \$8.95

"Someone decides to start a bank of dreams...He will track down small-scale, local-level, non-technical, low-cost community ideas from his imagination and his experience and from his friends and from around the country and deposit them in a bank of vignettes, fragments, thought-starters, sparks...The idea is to give all his assets away". Arranged under topics such as food, street life, economic development, housing, libraries and 30 others, this book is fodder for the utopian and idealist who believes that small changes are practical and necessary. Although not an anarchist per se, there is little doubt that the suggestions are just what a small scale dreamer needs. The style is accessible and sometimes more like a novel than anything else. I found it useful for teaching purposes and for fun. It is so rich and varied there is little point in summarizing the notions or giving examples. Well worth ordering for anyone interested in "practical utopianism" at the local level.

Tom Cahill

H E L P

Reviewers Needed

The editor of Social Anarchism has asked me if there is anyone about who can review two items: Apter's "Against the State", a book on the struggles of the opponents of the Narita Airport in Japan needs reviewing, and also H. Oliver "International Anarchist Movement in Late Victorian London". The best thing to do would be to drop a note to Howard Ehrlich at the address given for Social Anarchism in this issue. I might add that they are interested in more articles and reviews in general.

T.C.

Bulletin of Anarchist Research 1985 issue2 20p

INSTEAD OF AN EDITORIAL

What do we want in the Bulletin ? As yet, we have no "editorial board" nor do we have an editor. So nearly anything relating to "anarchist research" should be acceptable. A number of specific suggestions have been made and my task is merely to enumerate such notions :

1) Active Research Projects. The purpose of these items is to promote links between those of us doing similar work, and to give us all a notion of the variety of research going on in the U.K. (and elsewhere ?). You could report on your own work or that of others.

2) Book Reviews. These could be reviews of virtually any book: old or new: obscure or famous. There seems no good reason to limit books to only one review, so any review, so long as it is not excessively long, would be welcome.

3) Obscure Publications. Here is the spot for a short note on some of your favourite anarchistic periodicals, old or new. Since they are meant to be moderately obscure, a method of obtaining copies should be mentioned.

4) News Events. This is harder to define, but would include any short description of current events or projects that might be of interest to "anarchist researchers".

5) Papers. Mention might be made of any papers you are aware of, or are giving at conferences. Perhaps a method of getting copies would be useful here.

6) Any ideas for gatherings or conferences that our group (the readers) might organise.

All of this material should be sent to Richard Alexander, 55, Dupont Road, London SW20 8EH. It would be helpful if submissions to the bulletin were in camera-ready form, as the Bulletin will be photocopied for the first few issues. Please could submissions be typed on 3 and half inch strips (max.) preferably on a new ribbon, to save the production team time and energy.

Tom Cahill

ANARCHIST RESEARCH GROUP MEETING 12TH OCTOBER 1985

Being somewhat over-optimistic with regard to London Transport's ability to get me from one end of London to the other in a reasonable time, I missed the first 20 minutes or so of the meeting. My apologies if this report is incomplete or inaccurate.

The first part of the meeting was taken up with a report on the progress on arranging the anarchist stream of the History Workshop in Leeds, this November. A full list of the speakers should appear elsewhere in this issue. Mention was also made of this bulletin, but modesty forbids a detailed report. Suffice to say that the Bulletin is launched and that there are already enough subscriptions to ensure its continuing. More subs are, as ever, welcome.

There was also a discussion of other publishing initiatives that the A.R.G. could undertake. The meeting felt that to print in book form all the contributions to the History Workshop would not be economically viable. On the other hand this bulletin, although open to a limited expansion in size, would not be able to print any essay length contributions. This meant that the only options, given that none of the existing movement papers seemed suitable for the printing of essay length contributions, (5,000-20,000 word) were :

- 1) allowing interested parties to obtain photocopies at cost of relevant papers;
- 2) financing a series of pamphlets with "commercially" viable print runs - but only if the topics were of "mass" interest;
- 3) starting a proper Journal of Anarchist Research, printed regularly, which could feature sizeable extracts from essays, for international distribution;
- 4) collecting essays around "themes" for publication in book form.
- 5) Where is the Cienfuegos Press Review now that we need it !!!!

Whilst nothing definite was decided upon, I feel we should take the opportunity afforded by both the Anarchist Book-fair and the History Workshop, to take soundings from those comrades who have experience in publishing anarchist books and papers to see what they feel is viable. Certainly, if the Anarchist Research Group is to avoid accusations of pure academicism we would do well to find out what people in the movement actually want to read, although I wouldn't want that to be the only criterion for research.

The second part of the meeting was given over to a presentation by Mike Malet on Nestor Makhno and the Ukrainian Revolution 1918-1921, based on the work published in his book. Mike outlined Makhno's background, the changing course of the Civil War and of the alliances made and unmade in those turbulent times. Particular attention was paid to the relationship between the Makhnovisti and the rest of the Anarchist movement. Mike finished with a brief discussion of what happened to Makhno in exile. The quality of Mike's research was appreciated by those present, it is a shame that it is only accessible in a very expensive hard-back edition. (I must confess to not having the exact title to hand. Shame!!!)

Following Mike's talk, we had a general discussion on Makhno and the revolution. This encompassed the nature, or even the impossibility, of an anarchist "army"; we refuted the Bolshevik slur of anti-semitism, and noted the treacherous nature of the Bolsheviks towards both the Makhnovists and the anarchist movement in general. The discussion ended with an attempt to extract an aesthetic element from the Makhnovist Revolution, which was not entirely successful.

For those who missed Mike's talk, I'd recommend getting his book from your local library. Also available from Freedom Bookshop is Archinov's "History of the Makhnovist Movement, 1918-1921" (at a cost of £5.50).

As Mike's book is so expensive, his talk, published in pamphlet form, would seem to be an excellent introduction to the subject. Should Mike find this proposal to his liking we would then need to discuss ways of getting it printed.

Richard Alexander

ANARCHIST

To show that I am not biased towards my own publications, I hope to do a series of short articles on new and reprinted pamphlets. As I will be writing these notes soon after seeing the pamphlets in shops, I hope that all information will still be current when you read it. If you can't get these titles from your local bookshop, try the Anarchist Book Service, BM Bookserv, London, WC1N 3XX, or, of course, the publishers. One final point, these notes should not be regarded as definitive reviews or seen, necessarily, as commendation of the views, accuracy or value of any publication.

Alexander Berkman : The Bolshevik Myth, Diary 1920-22 (extracts). Virus, c/o Freedom Bookshop, 84b Whitechapel High St London E1. ii, 64pp : 60p. A5 pamphlet
This pamphlet is made up of six chapters from Berkman's book : i.e. Yossif the Emigrant; Nestor Makhno; Odessa: Life and Vision; Early days of 1921; Kronstadt; Last Links in the Chain. The pamphlet uses the original typesetting, with the pagination altered to the 64 page format. Published as a reminder to Anarchists of the futility and dangers of attempting to co-operate with Communists, especially in a revolutionary situation. As such it is both a useful historical document and a handy polemical pamphlet. One hopes that the resources exist within the movement to allow the re-printing of the whole of Berkman's book.

R.A.

Emma Goldman : Trotsky Protests Too Much. Virus, c/o Freedom Bookshop, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1. i, 7pp : 40p : A4 pamphlet
This pamphlet is a "modified" reprint of the 1977 publication. Judging from the typesetting, this must have been a Freedom supplement. The cost is less of a bargain than the Berkman pamphlet above from the same publishers. Nevertheless it is useful to have Emma Goldman's demolition job on Trotsky back in circulation.

R.A.

REPRINTS

Errico Malatesta : Towards Anarchism. Drowned Rat Collective, Box 010, Full Marks, 110 Cheltenham Road, Bristol 6. i, 8pp : 15p : A6 pamphlet
This is a reprint of the Black Cat Press version of the article that first appeared in English in MAN! Although it is unlikely to convert anyone, there is a definite need for a range of very cheap introductions to anarchist ideas, and this little pamphlet can still be a useful addition to any bookstall. These publishers also have republished several other pamphlets recently.

R.A.

Errico Malatesta : Anarchy, translated with an introduction by Michael de Cossart. Janus Press (Liverpool), 82, Verdala Towers, Liverpool L18 3LD. 59pp : £1.25 : A5 pamphlet (ISBN 0 9509630 3 8)
I found this attractively produced pamphlet listed in the Bookseller and sent off for it. What puzzles me is that having gone to some expense and effort to produce the pamphlet, it hasn't found its way into the very shops where it would find its audience. The translation reads quite well but I cannot comment on its accuracy. Certainly one that bookshops should try to get to sell.

R.A.

Organisational Platform of the Libertarian Communists. L.C. Discussion Group, Box 5, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1. 28pp : 20p : A5 pamphlet.
At our Makhno discussion the question of the Platform came up, and I must confess that, along with everyone else present, I only had the vaguest idea of what the Platform actually says, despite having several editions of it in my library. The Platform represents a reasoned reaction to the experience of anarchists during the Russian Revolution. Whether or not the movement would have fared any the better if they had been organised along the lines outlined in the Platform is something which can be argued over elsewhere. Nevertheless it is still of historical importance and can still be read with profit by anyone considering a programmatic approach to anarchist praxis.

R.A.

ONGOING

(The first part of Keith's letter discussed his uneasiness with the label of "anarchist". Suffice to say that he is still within certain anarchist traditions but finds current practice by some so-called anarchists incompatible with his position regarding authority, law/lore and respect for other cultures. As it's rather long I've omitted this section.) The letter continues...

For two years I've failed to get my Marx-book taken seriously by any publisher (except, for a time, Heretics Press). That is doubtless partly to do with poor presentation, draft incomplete as regards footnotes (I have a 12 page bibliography). And partly to do with the swing away from Marx generally, Marx-books don't sell. But also to do with the style in which it is written (non-academic as a point of principle) and the position it articulates which doesn't easily fit into established camps. Those who dig it are many but either women (who don't publish men - even though I want to resign from being a man and become a son !) or impoverished greens, gays, PN-ers, etc.

The last year I've been working with a friend, Val Remy, on a book on the bombing of Dresden which has three levels : a) a tale of the erosion of non-combatant immunity in technologised war; b) origins of the Cold War - the work by Chomsky on the State Dept. planning for "world domination" will be known to you, but do you know Higham's "Trading with the Enemy" (Robert Hale, 1983) - basically episodes like Dresden help to fill in the line from Wall Street support for Trotsky /German High Command support for Lenin, Intervention with Churchill as chief whip, to 1933 jumped up corporal seizes the baton of anti-communism, to Munich, to de facto separate Peace (soft-peddalling of de-nazification, de-cartelisation, etc, roping West Germany into NATO), through to Bitburg which was NO MISTAKE, but represents where Reagan as political representative of that same Bank of America group which in WW2 was making parts for Focke-Wulf and doing the security and telex, etc systems for the SD and SA etc.

RESEARCH

c) putting exterminism in context of depth-historical Goddess-feminist world-view, racism and total war and sons breaking unfree of matricommunal restraints, pogroms, war against heathen, infidel, slaves (slav-trade in Mediterranean gave rise to Atlantic slave trade), witches, pagani, etc - rebounding from bombing rebel villages in Third World to Dresden, Hiroshima, etc....

My friend, Val Remy, is amazingly knowledgeable about the debate in Germany 1900 - 1945 concerning sexual politics, is writing a book on "The Erection of the Nazi Men's Hut". We form a little mini-school with some feminist researchers (inc Denise Arnold currently doing anthropology in Peru) which reckons Reich got it skewed when he quotes Hitler as saying "The family is the basis of civilisation". Most Nazi ideologues said Mannerbund/Men's Hut/Fraternity was the basis and there was a very complex developed debate in reaction against Bachofen, starting with Heinrich Schurz studying New Guinea (etc) men's huts and initiation process into "manhood" in 1902 to a whole host of ethnologists in the 20's and 30's who said that the Men's Hut (Mannerbund) was still alive and well in e.g. Bavarian villages. Secret societies of masked men terrorising women, softies, in scapegoat processions were being lauded by the SS wing of Nazism, in the Ahnenerbe (Ancestral Heritage) mag, really heavy academic "science" behind the SS Einsatz-gruppen hunting Slavs and Jews like animals, like some unmarried pregnant mother or jew-marrying old woman or suspect "queer" being ceremonially whipped, tarred and feathered, Klu Klux Klanned, Death Squadded in 17th century Swiss villages. The power of the "Father" is socially guaranteed by his being a member of the all-Men gang, and "man" is just as much a hallucination induced by terrorism as "God the Father", it is in the evolution of the all-male group and its rites and rights (to burn, to steal, to kill) that we see the origins of the State. We feel we are really getting some where and are keen to talk about our work and the concept of Fratriarchy versus Matrisphere - it is time to step beyond Kropotkin and co. (Mumford is a great help).

RESEARCH (CONT'D)

So that gives three areas: Marx and Socialist Tradition; Dresden/Non-Combatant Immunity/Cold War/Origins of Exterminism; and sexual politics of Consciously theorised Male Supremacy in Weimar and Nazi Germany and its battles with Bachofenism (left and right) (though Bachofen was still hailed for a) death cult and b) symbol power). The FRAT, not the FAM, as basis for Civilisation.

Keith Motherson

PRACTICAL

PARASITE

PUBLICATIONS

As well as publishing this bulletin and Black Chip - an anarchist journal of computing - I have started publishing, in small print runs, two series of pamphlets of interest to anarchists. The first series will be bibliographical in nature. The first, and only title, so far, being "A Bibliography of Anarchist and Related Pamphlets, 1970-1985". The first, and rather incomplete, edition of this has sold out of its initial print run, and I was hoping that the second edition would be available shortly. However certain technological constraints have intervened to deprive me of the fruits of six months labour, which will inevitably delay the publication of the second edition. Needless to say, when it is available, you will all be informed in this journal. I am interested in any other bibliographical projects people are doing, with a view to possibly publishing them.

Among the projects that I would like to see established is an abstracting / indexing service, along the lines of the British Alternative Press Index I helped produce in the 70's, but exclusively anarchist in orientation, and possibly available on-line on a libertarian network, which is currently under discussion by certain Black Chip comrades. We would also like to make texts of articles available on-line.

P.P.P. (CONT'D)

The second series of pamphlets are reprints of out-of-print pamphlets and magazine articles. At present I am totally re-typing the texts, but could also, and more simply photocopy existing texts. This is already a service I offer with the bibliography, where possible. My aim is to keep the body of anarchist texts not only extant, in an archival sense, but also freely available. Whether the texts "deserve" to be kept alive is a matter for debate, certainly I won't put myself out for texts I think are rubbish. This series has only one title currently available, Elisee Reclus' "On Vegetarianism" (30p inc p&p), which is a reprint of an article first published 85 years ago. I have also done Reclus' "Anarchy - by an anarchist", but this needs re-typing due to too many errors in the text. When this is complete, I hope then to do Reclus' "The Great Kinship". Suggestions for new titles are welcome, provided that they don't involve me in too much typing.

Richard Alexander

HELP

Gustave Landauer

A student of mine, for entertainment during a boring summer job, undertook an initial translation of Landauer's work, "The Revolution", which has not been translated into English by anyone as far as I know. The translation is not all that good, but perhaps it's the only one there is. Anyone who wishes to have a copy is welcome to write to me and enclose £2.00 for a photocopy. Further, anyone who has any interest in publishing it is welcome to write and see if something can be made of the text : T.V. Cahill, Dept of Politics, University of Lancaster, Lancaster.

T.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like to receive this bulletin regularly, please subscribe by sending £2.00 to : Richard Alexander, 55 Dupont Rd London, SW20 8EH. (cheques payable to R.Alexander please, and in sterling).

PERIODICALS

FIFTH ESTATE

An idiosyncratic and moderately outrageous newspaper (more like a journal really) published from Detroit for many years. Although they may deny being anarchists, there is no doubt that there is a very strong anti-authoritarian flavour present. There are often quite long and controversial articles on topics such as technology, violence, religion, as well as a very active and fascinating letters page, in addition to a fairly critical and detailed analysis of some political events in America and abroad. It's one of the very few magazines I read pretty sharpish after I get it. Copies have been seen in London, at Freedom and Compendium as I recollect. The best method of getting it, is to write to Fifth Estate Newspaper (ISSN 0015-0800), P.O. Box 02548, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, USA. (\$7.00 per year).

T.C.

SOCIAL ANARCHISM

In my view the finest English language theoretical journal published. There have been seven issues and number 8/9 is now on its way. There are reviews, articles of all sorts, poetry and a wide variety of American anarchist intellectuals acting as editors. They are quite keen on reviews and articles from abroad. Since the breadth of the journal is so great I will not give a long list of recent articles. There is nothing like it in the U.K., although I suppose it looks a bit like the sort of thing that might come after this bulletin. It costs about \$3.00 per issue and Housmans are meant to be distributing it in this country. Some people have found no joy there however, so back issues and subs can be had from Atlantic Centre for Research and Education, 2743 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218, USA.

T.C.

LOBSTER :

Intelligence/Parapolitics/State Research

O.K., I'm biased in this choice, as they have been known to print contributions from me. Even so it is the only British journal that covers the ground of the much-lamented "State Research" together with some level-headed discussion of the multitude of "conspiracies" that underlie much of contemporary politics and economics. They've recently gone into A4 format and the latest issue has the start of an A-Z of British Spooks, which looks very comprehensive. Like many of Tom's papers, they are not themselves anarchists, but they do produce a paper whose information we disregard at our peril. They have produced 9 issues so far, and no4 onwards are available for 90p each.

Single issues are 75p in the shops, subs are £3.50 for 6 issues (\$12.00 in U.S.A.) (Institutional rates double). Cheques should be payable to Steve Dorril. Address : Robin Ramsay, 17c Pearson Ave, Hull, HU5 2SX, UK.

R.A.

HERE AND NOW :

A magazine of radical ideas

Although there have only been two issues of this magazine produced, they have both been excellent theoretical works. They, like many "modern" political groups and publications, carefully refuse to be classified according to traditional labels. Anyone familiar with Solidarity, Autonomists, Situationists and Anarchism will find much food for thought here. The latest issue features articles on computers, "community", authenticity and Cardan. All good stuff indeed, and they welcome provocative articles.

Single issues are 50p in shops, subs are £2.00 for 3 issues (£2.50 abroad). Cheques should be made out to G.P.P. and addressed to Here and Now, Box 2, c/o 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G4 9HF, UK.

R.A.

PERIODICALS

SYNTHESIS

A newsletter and journal for social ecology. Its been published for many years turning a bit "green" in the recent past. Some say it is actually "Bookchin-ite". Perhaps they are liberatarian green socialists. A lot of reader participation, short essays on the concerns of contemporary America. They are quite clearly networkers for green groups, keeping a sort of watchful eye on the excesses of American political marketing. \$10.00 for ten issues from League for Industrial Democracy, P.O. Box 1858, San Pedro, California 90733, USA.

T.C.

HERETICS JOURNAL FORUM

The last two issues were labelled "The Post New Age Magazine" and "The Magazine of Hard Core Utopianism". I immediately recognised the twinkle in the eye of the American West Coast nutters so dear to my heart. The editor (one Ron Heresy) publishes a low budget attempt to be concerned with spiritual and social liberation. The magazine is a wonderful example of R and D on the frontiers of some sort of theoretical effort. As with all R and D there are a lot of failed experiments in the Heretics mix. But I look forward to the next issue. \$10.00 will bring you one year's sub, \$8.00 if you write something for the journal, and \$5.00 if you deliver some camera ready art work. Heretics Journal, P.O. Box 12347, Seattle, Washington 98111, USA.

T.C.

HARBINGER :

The Journal of Social Ecology

I am not certain this journal still exists, as I can only find the first number from Winter 1983. However, perhaps someone else knows of its fate. Number 2 definitely appeared. It's the house journal for Bookchin's mob. The first issue contains articles on Socio-biology, utopias, MX missiles, as well as various stories and poems. Its general bias is what you would expect and it is rather well produced. The price was \$10.00 for 4 issues and the address given is 211 E. 10th Street, New York, 10003, USA

T.C.

COMMUNITIES :

A Journal of Co-operation

An American periodical with no equivalent in the U.K. The sorts of subjects covered by this smartly produced magazine are communes, communities, co-operatives, gatherings of new age figures - the sorts of things sometimes labelled "fragments" in this country. There are also reviews, analytical articles on the problems of co-operation, reports of federations in various areas, land ownership in various areas, workplace democracy, local economic development, as well as adverts for individuals looking for somewhere or something. Each year there is a Directory of Intentional Communities. In general there exists no better source of grass roots information in these areas. The magazine comes out regularly, six times a year. It costs \$14.00 per year and can be obtained from Communities, 126 Sun Street, Stelle, Illinois 60919, USA. Back issues can also be obtained at the incredible price of £1.00 per issue from Monkey and Dragon, Tweed Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HW.

T.C.