

Forms of Thought for a Change in Times

In the early 1960's an international group of intellectuals (writers, philosophers, political theorists) sought to create a new form of journal whose task would be to respond to what Maurice Blanchot termed "a change in times". Individuals such as Maurice Blanchot, Roland Barthes, Marguerite Duras, Italo Calvino, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Antonio Moravia, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Günter Grass, and Ingeborg Bachmann sought a radically new vehicle of inquiry that would carry and provoke a form of "global critique" and a fundamental questioning of the role of literature and art in that moment.

At the University of Aberdeen, a group of intellectuals (writers, philosophers, political theorists...) will convene to consider new collective undertakings in the context of the creation of the Centre for Modern Thought. The latter group has designs perhaps more modest than those of Blanchot's "International Review", but they seek the grounds of literary and philosophical intervention no less insistently than did Blanchot and his associates. They will take Blanchot's account of the exigencies defining the form of his project as a starting point for a reflection on the directions thought must take today if it is to respond to our own change in times.

Participants in a roundtable discussion will include:

**Christopher Fynsk, Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Thought,
University of Aberdeen**

**Harry Harootunian, Professor of History and East Asian Studies,
New York University**

Alberto Moreiras, Professor of Spanish and Literature, Duke University

**Nicholas Royle, Professor of English,
Sussex University**

**Naoki Sakai, Professor of Asian Studies and Comparative Literature,
Cornell University**

**Michael Syrotinski, Professor of French,
University of Aberdeen**

The discussion will take place on May 18, 2005, 2:00-5:00 PM, in the King's College Auditorium. A reception will follow. For information regarding this event, please contact Profs. Christopher Fynsk (enl290@abdn.ac.uk) or Michael Syrotinski (fre034@abdn.ac.uk), University of Aberdeen