PATRICK J. KEARNEY

A CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS AND JOURNALISM OF PETER FRYER (1927 - 2006)

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Despite the political slant of what follows – a marked departure from the other pages on my site – I have to confess that its compilation has been one of my more pleasurable undertakings for Scissors & Paste Bibliographies.

It’s not altogether surprising that the first of Peter’s books I encountered was *Private Case–Public Scandal*, to which my attention had been drawn by the late Gershon Legman. At 160 pages it’s not a long book, and I read it, appropriately, in the British Library, at one sitting. Despite its brevity, I was impressed by the amount of information Peter had managed to include. Furthermore it was reliable and written with wit and a fine sense of irony, qualities not commonly associated with books dealing with erotic literature.

*Private Case–Public Scandal* was almost certainly the single biggest factor in the decision made by the British Library to abandon a century of secrecy and finally include their erotica in the General Catalogue. It was also what spurred me to try and catalogue their collection, a project that resulted about ten years later with *The Private Case* (London: Jay Landesman, 1981).

Several other books touch on my interests and will be easily recognized, but I have to say that *Hungarian Tragedy*, which I was only able to read toward the end of 2001 (on a Socialist website in Norway of all places), and the more recent *Staying Power*, both proved to be extremely educational, and I have little doubt that Peter’s other books that I’ve yet to read will prove of equal interest and value.

Peter’s initial reaction to my suggestion that I compile a catalogue of his works was not what might be called enthusiastic,
but after I sent him a draft of what I was able to pull together from the usual sources – the online catalogues of The British Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Kinsey Institute, &c. – he warmed to the idea, and the credit for much of the bibliography must more properly be given to him.

Entries are arranged chronologically by date of first publication, under five headings: Separately published works; Contributions to periodicals etc. (omitting writing published in daily newspapers and, with four exceptions, in weeklies); Editions; Translations; and Anthologies.

Patrick. J. Kearney
I. SEPARATELY PUBLISHED WORKS


   The section on Education, pp. 3–4, was written by Molly Davenport, afterwards Rotheray.


Includes reprints of a letter of resignation from the *Daily Worker* (published in that paper and in the *Manchester Guardian* on 16 November 1956) and of 2, 13, 50, 52, 54, 60, 61 and 65.


Reprinted in 4.


Reprinted from The Newsletter, I/32 (14 December 1957), pp. 255–9. The ETU was the Electrical Trades Union; the national headquarters of the British Communist Party were situated in King Street, Covent Garden, London.


   On the ‘Private Case’ collection of erotic books in the British Museum’s Department of Printed Books.


The texts of talks given by the authors on 14 June 1990 at a public meeting called by Wellingborough District Racial Equality Council.


The revised and expanded text of a series of lectures given in the Conway Hall, London, in May and June 1988.


The edited text of a talk given at the Mandela Centre, Leeds, on 10 September 1998 and at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton, on 20 November 1998, with the discussion at the latter meeting.


II. CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS, &C.


Reprinted in 4.


An editorial on the British Communist Party’s 25th (Special) Congress (1957), held in Hammersmith Town Hall, London.


The text of the speech that would have been delivered to the British Communist Party’s 25th (Special) Congress (1957) if an appeal against expulsion to the full Congress had been allowed. Reprinted in 4.


An editorial.


An editorial.


An editorial.


An editorial critical of E. P. Thompson’s refusal to discuss with Trotskyists.


Part of this editorial was written by Peter Fryer and part by Brian Pearce. The portion written by the former is reprinted in 4. Imre Nagy (1896–1958) was a Hungarian politician, appointed Prime Minister of Hungary on two occasions. Nagy’s second term ended when his non-Soviet-backed government was brought down by Soviet invasion in the failed Hungarian Revolution of 1956, resulting in Nagy’s execution on charges of treason two years later.


An editorial.


67. **The Challenge of the Socialist Labour League.**


An editorial.


On the attempted legal suppression of Herbert Selby, Jr, *Last Exit to Brooklyn* (London: Calder & Boyars, 1966). Encounter is generally thought to have been bankrolled by the CIA.


73. **[Untitled contribution].** In: *Authors take sides on Vietnam. Two questions on the war in Vietnam answered by the authors of several nations*. Edited by Cecil Woolf and John Bagguley (London: Peter Owen, 1967), p. 27.

74. **‘Last Exit’ & the Law.** *Tracks*, 3 (Spring 1968), pp. 3–6.


The book under review was published in Chicago by the University of Chicago Press, 1979.


An abridged excerpt from 36.

Text of a lecture given to the South Place Ethical Society on 17 January 1988.


The book under review contained the verbatim record of meetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain on 25 September and 2–3 October 1939. Edited by Francis King and George Matthews, and with an introduction by Monty Johnstone, it was published in London by Lawrence and Wishart, 1990.


Includes a ‘Selective bibliography of Tom Kemp’s writings’, pp. 353–9.


Reprinted from *Workers Press*, 9 May 1987, 10 March 1990, and 20 May 1995. The third of these ‘personal columns’ was a review


III. EDITIONS


Acton’s *Prostitution, considered in its moral, social & sanitary aspects, in London and other large cities: with proposals for the mitigation and prevention of its attendant evils*, was first published at London by John Churchill in 1857; the above was an abridgement of the second, greatly expanded edition: *Prostitution, considered in its moral, social, and sanitary aspects, in London and other large cities and garrison towns: with proposals for the control and prevention of its attendant evils* (London: John Churchill, 1870).


96. *Forbidden books of the Victorians*. Henry Spencer Ashbee’s bibliographies of erotica abridged and edited,

Ashbee’s bibliographies, compiled as by Pisanus Fraxi, were: *Index librorum prohibitorum* (1877), *Centuria librorum absconditorum* (1879), and *Catena librorum tacendorum* (1885). Privately printed, they bore the shared subtitle: *being Notes Bio- Bibli- Iconographical and Critical, on Curious and Uncommon Books.*
IV. TRANSLATIONS


On the marriages of Vincent I, Duke of Mantua. The original was published at Paris by Flammarion in 1963.


The original was published at Paris by A. Michel in 1964.


I am indebted to Keith Mitchell for drawing my attention to this reprint, of which I was unaware.


On J. R. Archer (1836-1932), Britain’s first black mayor.


On William Cuffay (1788-1870), son of an African slave and one of the leaders of the Chartist Movement.

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