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NO MORE!

WHILE SPIN DOCTORS are busy battering time junkies with their mind bending ‘Millennium’ psycho-assaults, the Neoist Alliance is fine-tuning the ModernKhemetic Year as early as 1 MKE. Surprisingly, some of those who’ve adopted the MKE still count 1st January as New Year’s Day.

According to the English version of the Julian Calendar, New Year’s Day fell on 25th March, with the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar 11 days were lost but in many cases the movement of dates was rounded up to an imperial dozen. Thus in the English Gregorian Calendar, Old New Year’s Day became 6th April and New Year’s Day...  Continued on next page.

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is traditionally a more important festival than the birth of the Toad of Nazareth, it seems appropriate to look for inspiration in the ‘far north’. There are a number of Scottish fire festivals that kick off just before midnight on 31st December. For example, at Biggar in Strathclyde there is a ritual known as The Burning Out Of The Old Year – a huge bonfire is built in the middle of the main street and after a torch lit parade through town it is set ablaze. The fire is kept burning until fast light in the New Year, when herrings are grilled in the embers. In the north-eastern coastal towns a giant cat is built, the herrings being thrown off evil spirits with their Fireballs Ceremony. Wire balls filled with paraffin soaked wood and cloth are whirled around the heads of those engaged in the ceremony before being thrown into the sea. In the Flambœus Procession at Comrie in Tayside, ten foot long bonfires, poles crowned with flaming hessian sacks are paraded behind a pipe band.

In Scotland, 11th January is Old New Year’s Eve and this is still celebrated with a fire festival known as Burning The Clavie at Burghead on the Moray Firth. A half-barrel is attached to a fisherman’s pole. Beneath this a cage is constructed through which the Clavie-carriers stick their heads. The half-barrel is filled with wood and tar before being set alight at six in the evening. Carrying the Clavie is a sweaty and potentially hazardous task. But members of various local families enthusiastically take a turn. The superstitious believe that ill luck will fall upon the residents of Burghead if the Clavie stumbles. Therefore the Clavie is brazierly carted up Doone Hill, where it is installed in a stone receptacle and the flaming contents thrown down at the assembled townsfolk. Spectators scramble for pieces of the burning Clavie, since its remnants are said to bring good fortune while simultaneously warding off evil.

There are, of course, many other fire festivals that take place at different times of the year and some of these might also provide inspiration for New Year ceremonies kicking off late in the evening on 23rd March. These propagating the Modern Khemetic Calendar in different parts of the world will have to look for suitable locations for these festivities. In mainland Britain the psychogeographical researches of the Neoist Alliance have already uncovered an extremely ambient site. This is in the area immediately around the Nascent Lion stones in Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen. The local council uses this park as a dump for much of its unwanted street furniture and these dressed stones were acquired in the 1930s so that the artist D. O. Pilkington-Jackson could sculpt them into lions for a planned road bridge. Due to war economies the bridge was built without decorative railings and three of the four stones purchased for this purpose have been arranged in an ensemble at Hazlehead Park.

A sign beneath the Nascent Lions states that they are not druidical stones. The Aberdeenshire area is famous for its abundance of recumbent stone circles which pre-date the Druid religion by hundreds of years, so it is difficult to explain why Aberdeen council is concerned that the curious might mistake the Nascent Lions for Druid Stones. Close to the Nascent Lions is the Hazelhead Maze which was laid out in 1935 by Sir Henry Alexander in its remnants are said to bring good fortune while simultaneously warding off evil.

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Having fixed New Year’s Eve as 24th March, it is perhaps useful to look at some of the ways in which the event might be celebrated. Since Hogmanay in Scotland...  Continued on back.
"Myth makes track in the hoof-prints of place. Longest quest for that unreachable singularity - to be reborn, reenergised by touch, by mutual ecstatic recognition of place & self. Myth is what place says. And it does lie. It scaffolds a seductive field of pits & smears. You go mad if you try to pursue place through myth: your path will disappear over the nearest cliff. Place is fed by sacrifice of the annul – though the truly innocent, those born to innocence, according to myth, survive. Place, finally, can be only one thing: where you die..." - Iain Sinclair Suicide Bridge.

In an recent months, Stewart Home has been circulating an open letter to The Fifth Estate dated 23/12/98. In the letter Home criticises Watson for conflating Neoism with the Neo-Anarchist movement. Since Watson reiterates a number of Neo-Anarchist slurs already reprinted and responded to in ‘As well as the Right’ (The Thin Man, January 1998) into printing an English translation of an article about Neoism from the Berlin publication Entropy (Edition Selene, Vienna 1997). Home's letter runs as follows:

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The notion of approval is a completely inappropriate description of the way in which the Bookchin quote is used, and it is simply a barren, unexamined defence of industrialism and mass-technology. In pseudo-political terms, Watson's book might be described as a guide to the Neoist Alliance, but the Alliance does not exist as a political organisation. In an article entitled ‘Swamp Fever’ in the Fall 1997 edition of The Fifth Estate, David 'Cakehead' Watson not only pretends that the Neoist Alliance is a political organisation, he treats it as though it actually exists! Likewise, Cakehead Watson rather too self-consciously confuses the non-existent Neoist Alliance with the Neo-Anarchist movement of the 1980s through the indiscernable manipulation of individuals who have nothing to do with the non-existent Neoist Alliance - such as ENTIRELY A CONVENIENCE, Blaster Al Ackerman and John Berndt. Indeed, it is extremely likely that Cakehead is working hand in glove with Stewart Home in a bid to further Home's career as a novelist and penny dreadful pornographer.

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TIME IS, TIME WAS, TIME SHALL BE NO MORE!

While spin doctors are busy battering time junkies with their mind bending ‘Millennium’ psycho-assaults, the Neoist Alliance is fine-tuning the Modern Khemetic Calendar. The office of the Year was traditionally celebrated on 25th March, but in many cases the movement of dates was rounded up to an imperial dozen. Thus in the English Gregorian Calendar, New Year’s Day became 6th April. But the Neoist Alliance has decided to make the Nascent Lions in Hazelhead Park the focus of its 399 MKE New Year celebrations.

WHILE SPIN DOCTORS are busy battering time junkies with their mind bending ‘Millennium’ psycho-assaults, the Neoist Alliance is fine-tuning the Modern Khemetic Calendar (MKE). This calendar is based on the 365 day year developed by the ancient Egyptians. The Khemetic Calendar is based on cycles of 1,460 years, the end of the last cycle being marked by the Calabrian Revolt which according to addicts of apocalyptic time occurred in 1599 AD. This depending on where one places the New Year within the MKE, we are currently right at the end of 398 or just entering the second quarter of 399. While England switched from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, Scotland began treating 1st January as New Year’s Day as early as 1 MKE. Surprisingly, some of those who’ve adopted the MKE still count 1st January as New Year’s Day.

‘The Celts… seem to have dated the beginning of the year from… (Samhain) rather than from Beltane. In the Isle of Man, one of the fortresses in which the Celtic language and lore longest held out against the siege of the Saxon invaders, the first of November, Old Style, has been regarded as New Year’s Day down to recent times. Thus Manx mummers used to go round on Halloween (Old Style), singing, in the Manx language, a sort of Hogmanay song which began “Tonight is New Year’s Night, Hogmanay!” In ancient Ireland, a new fire used to be kindled every year on Halloween, or the Eve of Samhain, and from this sacred flame all the fires in Ireland were rekindled. Such a custom points strongly to Samhain or All Saints’ Day (the first of November) as New Year’s Day; since the annual kindling of a new fire takes place most naturally at the beginning of the year, in order that the blessed influence of the fresh fire may last throughout the whole period of twelve months…’ J. G. Frazer The Golden Bough.

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THE EGO HAS LANDED

Stewart Home continues to churn out drivel. Not content with issuing two novels last year - Come Before Christ & Murder Love followed by Blow Job both on Serpent’s Tail – news has reached us that he’s just released two CDs. Stewart Home Comes In Your Face features the hapless novelist trotting out his punk rock tunes some of which are twenty years old. Talk about shameless recycling of material! Worse is Home’s Cyber Sadism Live! This is a spoken word CD featuring readings and stand-up routines (ha ha!). Both are distributed by Overground and should be avoided at all costs. Far better is The House Of Nine Squares: Letters on Neonism, Psychogeography and Epistemological Trepidation ( Invisible Books). In this Home supplies the bulk of material while supplementary contributions from Florian Cramer demonstrate that the experimental novelist is on a hiding to nowhere as far as theoretical issues are concerned. You can order The House Of Nine Squares for £5.50 plus postage from Invisible Books, BM Invisible, London WC1N 3XX, UK.

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