The Communism of Thought

Michael Munro

Published by Punctum Books

Munro, Michael.
The Communism of Thought.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/76462

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2655072
Epistolarly Philosophy

The Communism of Thought

Michael Munro

If you don’t admire something, if you don’t love it, you have no reason to write a word about it. (Gilles Deleuze)

The Communism of Thought takes as its point of departure a passage in a letter from Dionys Mascolo to Gilles Deleuze: “I have called this communism of thought in the past. And I placed it under the auspices of Hölderlin, who may have only fled thought because he was unable to live it: ‘The life of the spirit between friends, the thoughts that form in the exchange of words, by writing or in person, are necessary to those who seek. Without that, we are by our own hands outside thought.’” What, in light of that imperative, is a correspondence? What is given to be understood by the word, let alone the phenomenon? What constitutes a correspondence? What occasions it? On what terms and according to what conditions may one enter into that exchange “necessary,” in Hölderlin’s words, “to those who seek”? Pursuant to what vicissitudes may it be conducted? And what end(s) might a correspondence come to have beyond the ostensible end that, to all appearances, it (inevitably) will be said to have had? And what is the proximity, here, between correspondence and commentary? To what extent might commentary approximate a kind of correspondence? (And with whom? The author of the source text? The source text itself? A future reader of that text? Or then again a third, or fourth, or nth party? And by way of what channels?)

Michael Munro practices philosophy in its absence in Edmonds, Washington.

dead letter office