

Paul Celan

Microliths They Are, Little Stones



Posthumous Prose

Translated with a preface
by Pierre Joris



Contra Mundum Press New York • London • Melbourne

Translation & preface
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Celan, *Mikrolithen sinds,
Steinchen: Die Prosa aus
dem Nachlaß, Kritische
Ausgabe*, Herausgegeben
und kommentiert von Barbara
Wiedemann und Bertrand Tr
Badiou © Suhrkamp Verlag Be^{1P}
Frankfurt am Main
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Verlag.

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Edition 2020.

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Some of these translations were first published in the following magazines &
blogs: *Poethead* (Ireland); *POETRY* (Chicago); *Poems & Poetics* (the Jerome
Rothenberg blog); *Dispatches from the Poetry Wars*; *Seedings #2* (Duration
Press), *Modern Language Notes* (German issue), & *Nomadics* (blog).

DLA Marbach holds the originals of the reproduced materials & produced the
reproductions on pages 214–224.

CONTRA MUNDUM PRESS gratefully acknowledges the financial support
received for this translation from the AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
ARTS, & CULTURE.

Library of Congress
Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Celan, Paul, 1920–1970

[*Mikrolithen sinds, Steinchen:
Die Prosa aus dem Nachlaß.
English.*]

Microliths They Are, Little
Stones / Paul Celan;
Translated from the German
by Pierre Joris

—1st Contra Mundum Press
Edition

330 pp., 6×9 in.

ISBN 9781940625362

- I. Celan, Paul.
- II. Title.
- III. Joris, Pierre.
- IV. Translator.
- V. Preface.
- VI. Joris, Pierre.

2019954218

o Preface

MICROLITHS THEY ARE, LITTLE STONES

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Fragments (§1–112)

+

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+

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+

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+

212 Illustrations

+

230 Commentaries

«Любовная лодка разбилась о быт» (Mayakovsky)

The love-boat has to shipwreck against existence

II. 3. 62

×

“You human brethren, who live after us”... Always (only?) after us... 48.4

2. 6. 62.

×

An old maximalist: he demanded a minimum of the obvious, the natural. 48.5

2. 18

×

“Workshop discussions” with the literary eminence: in the bel étage — on the upholstered lathe, with dialogical understatement-ho&humming, timely radio-lather. In the basement: the little spark’s final resting place. 48.6

3. 10. 62

×

Spirit of anarchy: actualized in the greatest, lonesome, for all. Royal “Communism of the spirits.” La Cité des Citoyens. 48.7

The City of the Citizens.

3.10.62

×

CHECKMATE TO POETRY!

49

It was a simultaneous display. All variations were played — White was set upon everywhere, the boards consisted of only black fields.

But White could not know this — White trusted in what’s assumed in such games, namely also in the whiteness of the fields.

201.2 —

On the language-borders: Danzig, Switzerland, Austria

201.3 —

Overcompensation: those things that should be talked about are passed over in silence, and what should be passed over in silence is being talked about. And thus we speak and remain silent passed each other.

202 Adorno: he also ascribed Jewishness to his unjewish half, and even the most high-minded of it all. That, reality-distant as it may be, was most likely the only hint of his Jewishness.

203

203.1 Il n'y a pas de littérature désespérée [there is no desperate literature]: in no other poetry as strongly as in the German — & even the ever so fragile semi-tough and one-and-a-half-times tough I count among it —

Language-borders — Danzig and Bern

like the Contergan-children
the spirit ♦ against the genes

Teratology / soul-flurry — particle-flurry
He сравнивай / the communism of the spirits
Love

♦ The unshakeable-moveable spirit against the mutations of the stagnating gene: the monad man

COLOPHON



MICROLITHS THEY ARE, LITTLE STONES
was handset in InDesign CC.

The text font is *Adobe Warnock*.

The display font is *Type Together Alverata*.

Book design & typesetting: Alessandro Segalini

Cover image: © 1966 Eric Celan & the Estate of
Gisèle Celan-Lestrange

Cover design: Alessandro Segalini & CMP

MICROLITHS THEY ARE, LITTLE STONES
is published by Contra Mundum Press.



Contra Mundum Press New York · London · Melbourne