

50 - MONUMENT TO COOPERATION

COOPERATION

COOPERATION MEANS CONCERT FOR THE
DIFFUSION OF WEALTH. IT LEAVES
NOBODY OUT WHO HELPS TO PRODUCE
IT. IT TOUCHES NO MAN'S FORTUNE; IT
SEEKS NO PLUNDER; IT CAUSES NO
DISTURBANCE IN SOCIETY.....
IT CONTEMPLATES NO VIOLENCE, IT
SUBVERTS NO ORDER ...IT ACCEPTS NO
GIFT NOR ASKS ANY FAVOR; IT KEEPS NO
TERMS WITH THE IDLE AND IT WILL BREAK
NO FAITH WITH THE INDUSTRIOUS.....
IT MEANS SELF-HELP. SELF-DEPENDENCE
AND SUCH SHARE OF THE COMMON
COMPETENCE AS LABOR SHALL EARN
OR THOUGHT CAN WIN.....

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE
LONDON, ENGLAND - 1885

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Any text is woven entirely with citations, references, echoes, cultural languages, which cut across it through and through in a vast stereophony. The citations that go to make up a text are anonymous, untraceable, and yet already read; they are quotations without inverted commas. The kernel, the soul—let us go further and say the substance, the bulk, the actual and valuable material of all human utterances—is plagiarism.

For substantially all ideas are secondhand, consciously and unconsciously drawn from a million outside sources, and daily used by the garnerer with a pride and satisfaction born of the superstition that he originated them, whereas there is not a rag of originality about them anywhere except the little discoloration they get from his mental and moral caliber and his temperament, and which is revealed in characteristics of phrasing. Old and new make the warp and woof of every moment. There is no thread that is not a twist of these two strands.

By necessity, by prockvity, and by delight, we all quote. Neurological study has lately shown that memory, imagination, and consciousness itself are stitched, quilted, pastiched. If we cut-and-paste ourselves, might we not forgive it of our artworks?

– “The Ecstasy of Influence,” Jonathan Lethem, Dot Dot Dot #15, 2008

Will Holder,
Monument to cooperation, 2007,
brass rubbing of a monument found in the
Seward Park Social Housing Project,
New York City, wax crayon on paper,
153.2 x 127.2 cm