

New pieces on the Kate Sharpley Library website

Paradox: Anti-Militarist, yet Fought in Three Wars by Imanol

‘If we have to begin, let us start with those who made the Pyrenees their home. The smuggler teams, trekking mostly northwards or mostly southwards, depending on the times, but at all times keeping the Pyrenean paths to freedom open. The best known among them would have been the people-smugglers of the Ponzán Network, among them *José Borrás Cascarosa*, former Durruti Column militiaman; as part of the Network, he fought the Nazis and Francoists alike.’

<https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/jwswc6>

“And now, return to your homes” – Spanish Republicans in the French Resistance: An interview with Evelyn Mesquida

‘the homes of those men, ever since they had arrived in France, had been the concentration camps, huts in the work camps, shacks and caves in the mountains and forests across the country ... The vast majority had no homes or could not go back to them, neither in France nor in Spain ... That was what prompted my choice of title...’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/12jndh>

The 1918 flu pandemic in the CNT media by Miguel G.

‘...the epidemic struck a Spain that was barely surviving poverty levels. The contemporary press highlighted the good work of the authorities in, say, organizing clean-up squads or shutting down the schools. But to be realistic, most of the children scarcely set foot in a school, as they had to work from a very early age. The labour organizations were unable to concern themselves with the disease and used to chalk it up to the dire hygienic conditions in which the working class lived.’

<https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/k6dm37>

Roberto Ambrosoli, 1942-2020 by Paolo Finzi and Centro Studi Libertari

‘A karate master, he was tireless as a cartoonist and was especially known as the creator of the renowned Anarchik, enemy of the state, a character replicated by anarchist cartoonists internationally.’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/6q58fh>

The Tragedy of the Political Exiles [1934] by Emma Goldman

‘No matter how great their suffering in pre-war times, they had their faith and their work to give them an outlet. They lived, dreamed, and labored incessantly for the liberation of their native lands. They could arouse public opinion in their place of refuge against the tyranny and oppression practiced in their country, and they were able to help their comrades in prison with large funds contributed by the workers and liberal elements in other parts of the world.’

<https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/cc2h58>

The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón by Claudio Lomnitz [Book review]

‘Having been a bohemian law student, Ricardo became a militant intellectual, fully committed to revolt to provoke social change. You could describe this (in a metaphor of the time, though not one Ricardo used) as “poking the social volcano”: it’s ready to go off, neither education nor compromises are necessary.’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/rfj8gt>

The death of Ricardo Flores Magon by William C. Owen

‘Ricardo Magon was one of the most powerful writers the revolutionary movement has produced. Except when he allowed himself to be allured into deplorable polemics he did not waste himself on minor details. He struck invariably the major chords, and with extraordinary firmness.’

<https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/d7wnm9>

Letter of protest by Yakov Moiseyevich Voykhanskiy to the Political Red Cross. (1927)

The response I received was that all anarchists are gangsters, to which I answered: “If I’m a gangster, then you’re ten times more a gangster.” <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/1rn9v2>

See also biographies of: Izrail Abramovich (Fishelevich) Shornik by Anatoly Dubovik

<https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/pk0qsg>

Sofia Izdebskaya by Sergei Ovsianikov <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/b8gvzm>

A. V. Maksimov by Sergei Ovsianikov <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/v6wzhd>

Three articles by Albert Meltzer

Social Revolution – Genuine Brand (1941)

‘Since we understand by “social revolution” the complete expropriation of the means of life by the working class, it is natural that we cannot make the easy promises of the left-wing politicians about a better world following the war; it is certainly impossible for it to be gained by collaboration with the State.’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/gb5p3z>

Objections to Anarchism: What’s in a name? (1947)

‘While some Anarchists believe in altering the word in the belief that this may dispel the prejudices which these who have been influenced by capitalist propaganda may have, I am of the opinion that more than ever to-day we need a slogan challenging the basis of State servility and capitalist greed...’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/z8wcbf>

Workers’ Control and the Wage System (Ideas: What is Anarcho-Syndicalism?) (1952)

‘When we declare our opposition to reformism, we do not mean that we oppose reforms, and obviously any crumb is better than no bread at all. What we oppose is the devotion of the labour movement to the reformist principle, thus gradually taking over from the middle-class do-gooders, and even (as has happened above all in England) letting those people in turn take over the direction of the labour movement politically, on the grounds that they will thus manage to achieve a few parliamentary and other reforms here and there. The result of this action is that in the end we get some reforms, but no social change-over such as the labour movement was originally created for.’ <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/08kqwp>

Elsewhere

AK Press

Have some new books out: Luigi Galleani, Oscar Wilde, *Revolution and the state* by Danny Evans in paperback (review: <https://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/vdnf90>) <https://www.akpress.org/>

Audio: Barry Pateman on Anarchist History and Challenges

The Final Straw Radio Podcast have put up a long conversation with Barry Pateman in which they ‘talk about anarchist history, community, repression, defeat, insularity, popular front with authoritarian Marxists, class analysis and how to beat back capitalism.’ You can listen at: <https://thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/post/2020/04/26/barrypateman2020/>

Naples 1884

Our comrades at Crimethinc have written a (not solely) historical piece on ‘The Anarchists versus the Plague: Malatesta and the Cholera Epidemic of 1884’

“The city also posted notices everywhere—in the north Italian idiom, rather than the local Neapolitan dialect—explaining that people could protect themselves from the disease by living in clean and airy rooms, adhering to a healthy diet of high-quality food, drinking purified water, and avoiding both public restrooms and emotional stress... in short, by being part of the ruling class.” <https://crimethinc.com/2020/05/26/the-anarchists-versus-the-plague-malatesta-and-the-cholera-epidemic-of-1884>

Bristol 2020

Our comrades at the Bristol Radical History Group report the toppling of slave trader Edward Colston, with quote from an eyewitness ‘Surely it can’t be this easy we thought? But with what seemed like just a couple of tugs, Colston came down with a crash. People were jumping on the broken bastard. Utter pandemonium, and not a single cop in sight.’ Equally important, links to research on who Colston was, and an account of exactly why no ‘corrective’ plaque went up. <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/2020/06/kick-over-the-statues-colston-is-going-going-gone/>

Still going

Research on The 1945 split in British anarchism

<http://katesharpleylibrary.pbworks.com/w/page/139511268/The%201945%20split%20in%20British%20anarchism>

Kate Sharpley Library, June 2020. Visit www.katesharpleylibrary.net – plenty to read on there.