

rigid nationalization, bureaucratic control and terrorism which has no more in common with socialism than with feudalism. It is not a wanton attack, for the myth of Russia as a left-wing country is probably the most dangerous single factor in post-war Europe. The European socialists (many even, of the European communists) are in the main current of European thought. Marx himself was consciously and proudly a European rebel from a great European tradition. *Stalinism*, on the other hand, is a blunt negation not only of every tested European value, but of every recurring impulse of European revolt. The last great political tragedy of our world may well be the exploding of the Soviet myth a decade too late.

PHILIP TOYNBEE

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of HORIZON.

Sir,

Mr. Philip Toynbee having made, last November, statements damaging to certain living French writers, I pointed out, in a letter you were good enough to publish in the following March, the inaccuracy of at least one of them. Whereupon, as Mr. Toynbee understood, there was no more to be said. Yet lo! in your May number up bobs Mr. Anthony de Hoghton to try to reopen the matter.

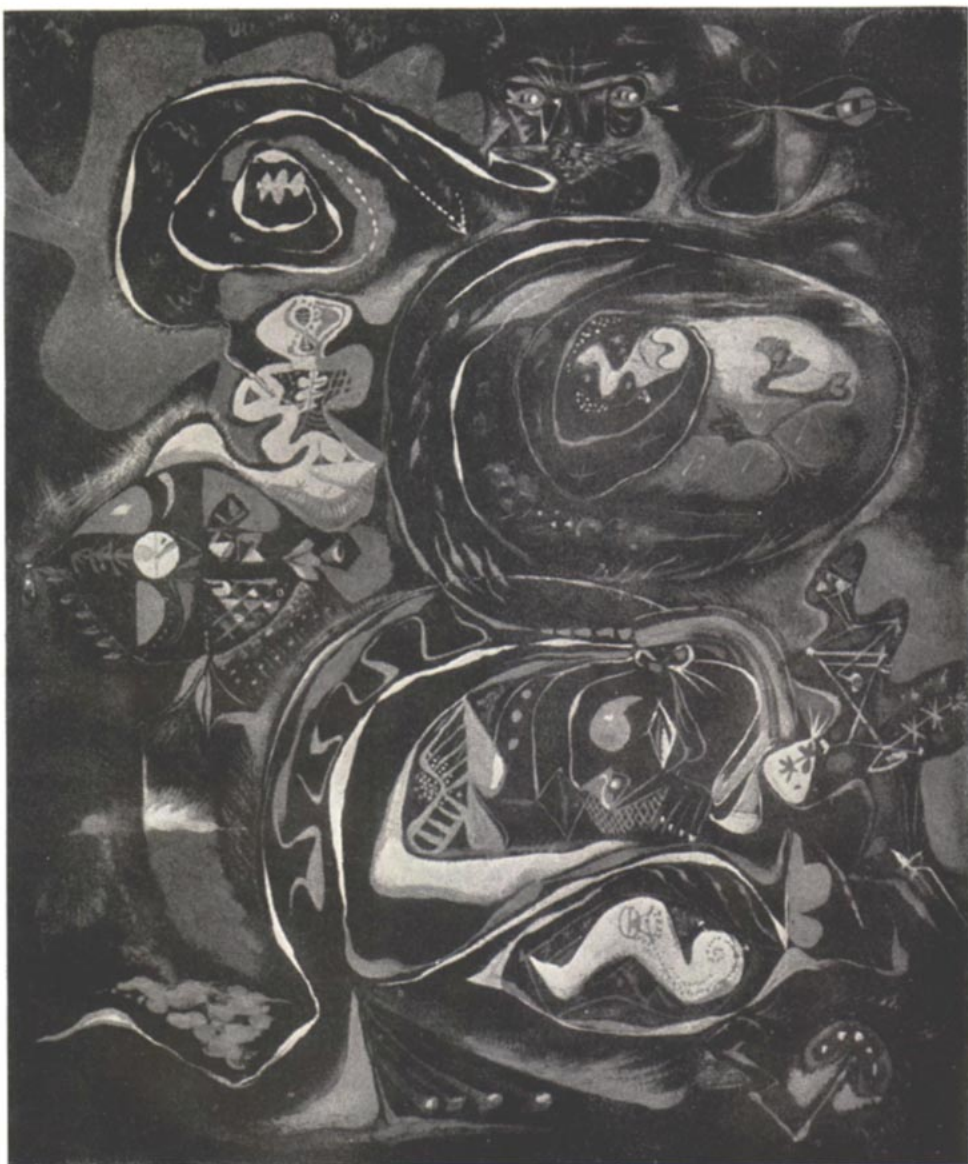
Could he read English, he would have grasped that if I appeared in the guise of a champion—to adopt his delightfully humorous expression—it was not of M. Henry de Montherlant, master of French prose as he is, but of decency and truth, and if I undertook the duty on my own initiative—as in a free country any one may—it was because nobody else came forward to do them reverence. Who, by the way, has briefed Mr. de Hoghton?

The question is one to which alone Echo can reply. Judging by the tone of the popular Press, he is a representative of the vast semi-literate section of the English public which, in its present mood, is indistinguishable from a lynching mob in Kentucky or Tennessee. Presumably M. de Montherlant has never harmed him in any way. But he has heard that a man-hunt is on, and like some animal he at once joins in the hue and cry. In this instance, however, it is a phantom man-hunt. *Le Solstice de Juin* is not a novel and it is not 'pro-Nazi'. It has not been banned by the only body qualified to ban books in France, the *Direction du contrôle militaire de l'information*. M. de Montherlant, its author, having been heard by the *Commission d'épuration* of the *Société des Gens de Lettres*, was declared by this body not to have offended during the German occupation in any particular.

By all means let Mr. de Hoghton quote from the lucubrations of M. Gide and M. Mauriac till he is blue in the face; he will not change those facts. And although we have travelled far from the time when the terms 'Fair play', 'Sub judice', 'British sportsmanship', and the injunction 'Don't kick a man when he's down', were taken seriously, even the Café de Flore is not yet a French court of law.

MONTGOMERY BELGION

[This correspondence is now closed]



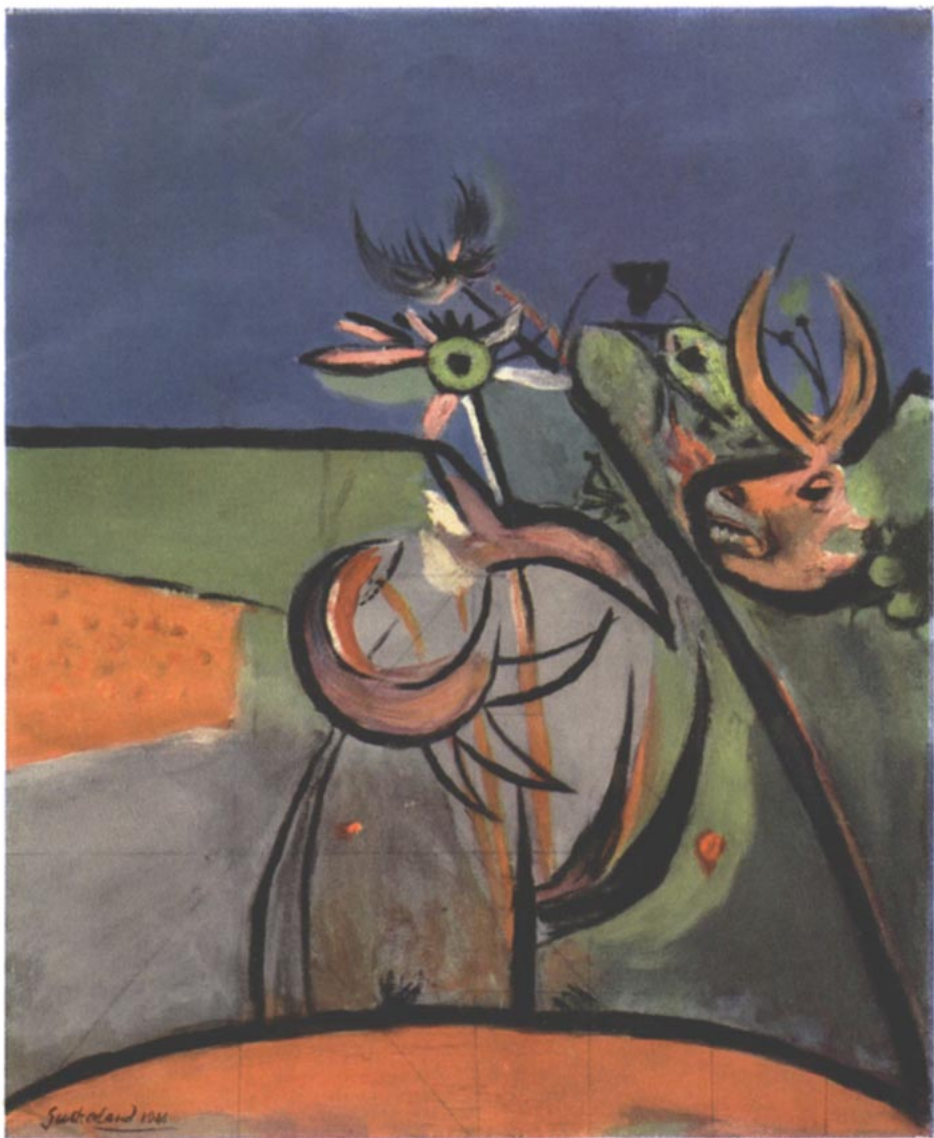
ANDRÉ MASSON. Meditation on an oak leaf. 1942. Oil

*Valentine Gallery, New York*



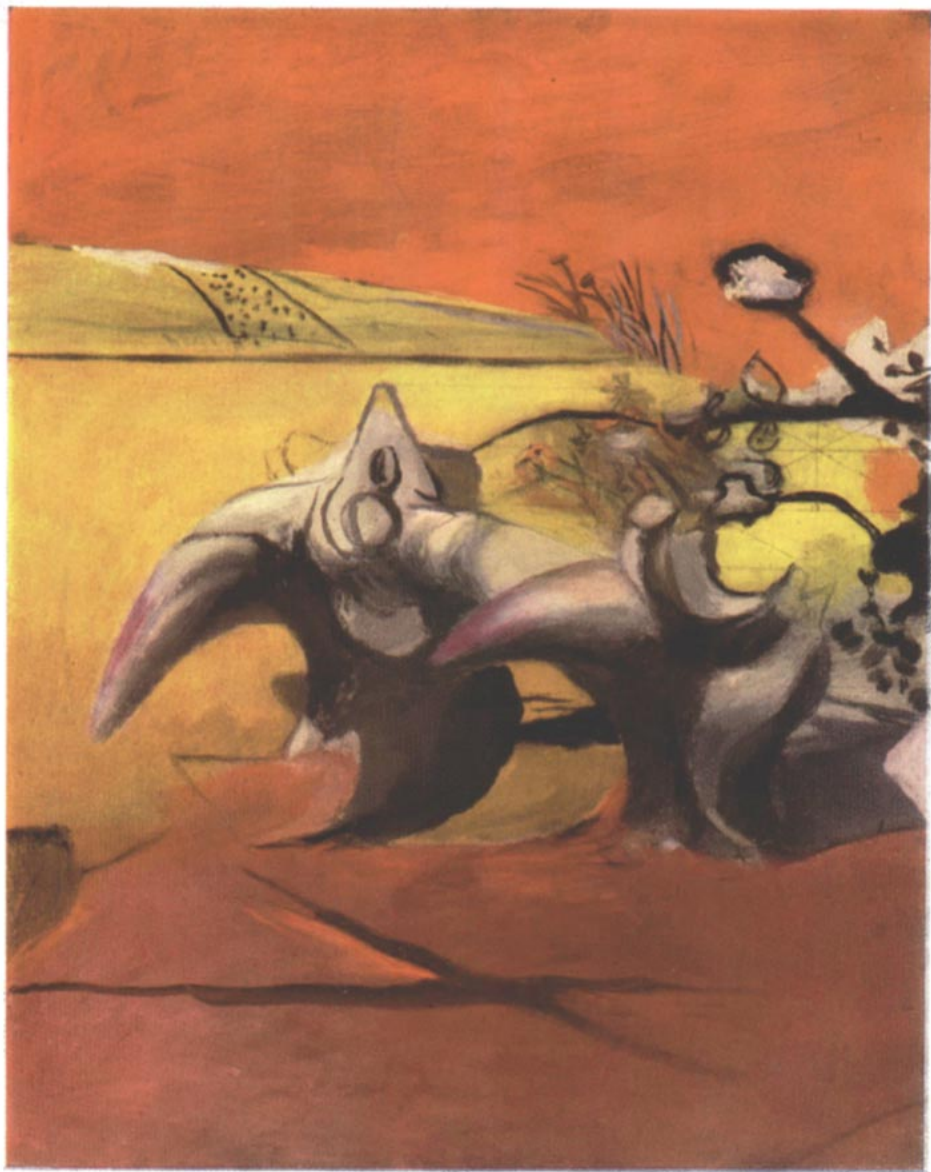
ANDRÉ MASSON. *Le Pain*. 1944. Oil

*Buchholz Gallery, New York*



GRAHAM SUTHERLAND. The Intruding Bull. 1944





GRAHAM SUTHERLAND. Horned Tree Form. 1944

*Coll. W. A. Evill*

# p o l e m i c

will be a symposium of philosophy, psychology, æsthetics and sociology. The name **polemie** has been chosen because it suggests that we intend to encourage an exchange of opinions and ideas rather than to make propaganda for any compact system or predetermined outlook.

We assume that if language is finite, and if existence is infinite, every verbal proposition will be limited in its truth; and also since speech is inherited from the unscientific and magical past, its whole structure and vocabulary must be suspected to be less than precisely accurate as a means of explaining the universe. It follows that certainty, expressed in words, may always be false and reactionary.

Difference of opinion will therefore be understood as a natural reflection of the unlimited intricacy of the world we live in, and articles from more than one point of view, on a given subject, will be printed in each number. At the same time, the editorial policy will not be quite unprejudiced; it will assume that separately during the last fifty years there have been four revolutionary developments which are significant for the future of human thought and behaviour:

- 1 The discovery of the unconscious by Freud
- 2 The tendency of philosophy, as a subject, to develop into a science of verbal meaning (semantics, symbolism, logical positivism)
- 3 The trend in the arts away from representation towards expression and construction
- 4 The evolution of marxism as the Faith of tens of millions of people in Europe and Asia.

**polemie** will be a medium for discussing these developments in relation to the theoretical issues of the day. Unfortunately the general election has postponed the production of the first edition until 1 September. **polemie** will be edited by Humphrey Slater, and published by Rodney Phillips at Premier House, Dover Street, London, W.1, at two shillings and sixpence a copy. The contributors will include:

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