

## ***HOUSE ORGAN***

### **An Announcement**

“All things pass” is the most durable and true of aphorisms, and the most comforting. And just as we make history, not as we please but rather from circumstances handed down to us, so do we have some say in when and how passages will happen, for example, in the editorship of this journal.

About a decade ago I wandered into a panel at the Rethinking Marxism conference in Amherst, drawn by its title, which went something like, “new perspectives in ecological Marxism.” I wanted to see whether any of the panelists could be recruited for *CNS*. It was a happy impulse. Two of the four presenters indeed landed in our little roost—Eliza Darling and Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro. Both joined the New York editorial group I was at the time coordinating, worked well, and then passed on to other phases of life. Eliza moved to her home territory in the Adirondack region, and then out of touch; while Salvatore—or “Saed” as he acronymously prefers to be called—finished his appointment in Geography at Vassar and went off to the next stop on the academic local—the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point—which I am pleased to say he enjoyed because it’s far to the North and frigid in the Winter.

In September, 2003, I assumed the post of editor-in-chief and set about looking for associates capable of realizing the journal’s goals. The requisites include the generic traits of intellectual excellence and the skill set of an editor. . . and in the case of *CNS*, something more, because we have a larger purpose, to build ecosocialism in a world ravaged by global capital and where the word, “ecosocialism,” still hasn’t made it into the standard dictionaries. For this, one needs patience and tenacity, and also those qualities of mind demanded by the task at hand: a global perspective, freedom from political cant combined with a rigorous anti-capitalist perspective, and the imaginative breadth of mind to embark upon the rethinking of the human relationship to nature. Ecosocialism is not about reforming capitalism but building a new, ecocentric mode of production. As a journal of ecosocialism, *Capitalism Nature Socialism’s* job is to prepare a way for this within a world, and an academy, in which the radical spirit lies fallow even as numberless prefigurative processes spontaneously arise. *CNS* is about the vision that incorporates these hopeful gestures and gives them textual form.

Saed received his next appointment (with tenure in 2010) in Geography at the State University of New York at New Paltz. This placed him within our little upstate orbit defined by Managing Editor Karen Charman in the hamlet of Shandaken and my residence in the mountainous valley of Willow. And so we three became a kind of editorial troika: Saed focused on the recruiting and evaluation of manuscripts, Karen attended to the production of the actual journal, while I kept an eye on the process as a whole. It was in this context that I realized what a gift fortune had sent our way.

Born and raised in Northern Italy, relocated in Southern California, then Boston and Miami, thanks to the restlessness of his physician-father, Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro went on to study at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Rutgers, and also in England and

Hungary. Hence his cosmopolitan character. Skilled in multiple languages along with his native Italian and acquired English, Saed has played a role in developing contacts for *CNS* in India and attended our most recent, 2010, Paris conference of the Ecosocialist International Network. Of special importance is that he brings to our work the unusual dimension among ecosocialists in being partially trained as a natural scientist within the domain of physical geography, where he specializes in the immensely important, chronically neglected, and globally degraded matter of the soil from which so much life springs. His soil studies have taken him to Hungary, and have concluded, in a vein resonant with the ecofeminist motif of *CNS*, that soils cultivated under matricentric patterns of agriculture fare better ecologically than those submitted to the dominant agro-industrial model.

I see Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro as capable in all respects of advancing both the particular work of this journal and the transformative project of ecosocialism that *CNS* stands for. And so it is his time to steer *Capitalism Nature Socialism* onward. For the duration of this year, he and I will be co-editors; and as of the beginning of 2012, he will assume the post of Editor-in-Chief, and I will be Editor Emeritus.

What does this mean for me? Well, we will see. What I want and expect it to mean, and have no reason to doubt that it will mean, is that I will remain a presence in the life of *CNS*, will advise when asked to, and will continue to write as needed. Someday this will end—but then, someday everything ends. In the meantime we have a world to win and no time to lose.

—Joel Kovel