

De : Thomas Hirschhorn

A: yraymond; kkivland; mwithko

Sujet : debrief ROMA

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dear yasmil, dear kelly, dear megan,

here is my debrief ROMA:

it was very helpful and interesting to go to ROMA because it gave me an understanding about the importance of gramsci in italy - which is truly important.

The visit at the Fondazione Instituto Gramsci in Rome was insightful,

it is a large institute, newly installed at this location, with about 20 persons working in several office-spaces. The center of the institute is a very large library-room with computers and many books, bright light and animated. While I was there, between 6 and 8 people were busy studying and consulting material. I met with the archivist Giovanna Bosman, who received me in a friendly and competent way, and explained the institute to me: essentially, the library has all the books by and about gramsci, but the "heart" of the institute are the original prison-notebooks. the originals are kept in a bank-safe and cannot be loaned, the other important thing they own (not in the safe) are the "Gramsci-Library", the books that antonio gramsci read and owned, and furthermore the books he read in prison (these books are specially marked with a prison-stamp), it was interesting to see that he read marx and engels but also céline and mussolini, these books can't be loaned either, I also could see the press-clippings and the revues that gramsci consulted and worked with in prison, I could take some pictures, Giovanna showed me a lot of interesting photos - I can ask for copies if I want to borrow them, by writing the director of the institute Silvio Pons (who I didn't meet),

later I met with Giuseppe Vacca, the president of the institute, he gave me important inputs, especially about a film "Gramsci and New York" - I must see it - and about important books. He thought my "force-and form-field map" concerning Gramsci does make sense, and gave me some addresses of people to contact (I think at this stage, more to inform about my project) and he thought it may be good to go for me to Ghilarza (Sardegna) to see the museum there - because they own some personal affairs and belongings of gramsci.

I think - if not too complicated - it could be interesting because I could get some ideas - because I already decided now - TO PRODUCE MYSELF "SOUVENIRS OF GRAMSCI", I think these could essentially be selfmade "QUOTATIONS" - I think this could be an efficient way to cut some OPENINGS into his very dense and very complex work, thesesouvenirs could then be exhibited at the "Gramsci-Monument" in a funny way in showcases.

the following day, I went to the gramsci-tomb in the beautiful "a-cattolica" graveyard, his tomb is nice and well maintained, and seems to be well visited (especially by young people), which is nice to see.

TO DO: please write to the istituto a letter of graceful-thanks in my name, please to giovanna basman and to giuseppe vacca, I am grateful for their input, their welcome, understanding and insight regarding the photocopies they let me have, I will keep them informed and get in contact later via the director - as advised.

take care - take care - take care,

thomas