

Appendix I

Excerpts from the Phenomenology of Tools

H. G. Brack

July 1982

Pennywheel Press, West Jonesport, Maine

Myth of Atlantis, battle of Troy;

Lost and Found history

Uncovers dasein always aggrandizing.

Iron tools, steel swords,

Revolutionary smelting.

Empire, conquest, slavery;

Reappearing images of violence.

Celtiberic and Gaelic sailors

Left inscrutable runic marks

In sleepy Vitramannaland.

Ship's compass, gunpowder,

Revolution with a printing press.

Bedazzled Renaissance dasein wielded

illusions

Of an ideal order of nature.

Cooper, Sawyer, Blacksmith, Tinsmith

Welded hand-made hand tools;

Conventional, essential,

Everyday equipment;

Metaphors of craftsmanship,

Icons of Freedom and Unfreedom

Inundated by the cacophony

of technology.

The industrial revolution

Was that widening gyre

Of one technology begetting another.

Myth lost ritual, gained method;

Technique as totem,

Nature a concept of power.

The new economic serfdom of dasein

Premonition of a final conquest of nature.

American individualist

Consumes resource as birthright,

Competition is a ritual,

Expertise as Initiation.

Growth is a sacrament:

Wealth is lumber, coal, oil, gold.

Narcissistic dasein dissipates

Biosphere as bankaccount.

Oil as tool is found biomass;

Car as tool drives dasein.

Inner directed industrial dasein

Is short-circuited by electronic anxiety.

Telescoping technology disconnects

Generation from generation;

New energy idioms

Dissociate dasein from nature.