Contents

Introduction: Eppur Si Muove 1

PART I. THE DRINK BEFORE

1 “Vacillating the Semblances” 23
   What cannot be said must be shown 23
   Idea’s appearing 33
   From fictions to semblances 42
   Dialectical gymnastics? No, thanks! 48
   From the One to den 53
   “Nothing exists” 60
   Gorgias, not Plato, was the arch-Stalinist! 69

2 “Where There Is Nothing, Read That I Love You” 79
   A Christian Tragedy? 80
   The big Other 86
   The death of God 96
   The atheist wager 112
   “Do not compromise your desire” 121
   Lacan against Buddhism 127

3 Fichte’s Choice 137
   From Fichte’s Ich to Hegel’s Subject 140
   The Fichtean wager 145
   Anstoss and Tat-Handlung 151
   Division and limitation 156
   The finite Absolute 160
   The posited presupposition 168
   The Fichtean bone in the throat 171
   The first modern theology 179

PART II. THE THING ITSELF: HEGEL

4 Is It Still Possible to Be a Hegelian Today? 193
   Hegel versus Nietzsche 194
   Struggle and reconciliation 199
   A story to tell 207
Changing the destiny 213
The owl of Minerva 219
Potentiality versus virtuality 226
The Hegelian circle of circles 232

Interlude 1: Marx as a Reader of Hegel, Hegel as a Reader of Marx 241

5 Parataxis: Figures of the Dialectical Process 265
In praise of Understanding 269
Phenomena, noumena, and the limit 280
The differend 286
Negation of the negation 292
Form and content 305
Negation without a filling 311

Interlude 2: Cogito in the History of Madness 327

6 “Not Only as Substance, but Also as Subject” 359
Concrete universality 359
Hegel, Spinoza ... and Hitchcock 367
The Hegelian Subject 379
Absolute Knowing 387
The Idea’s constipation? 394
The animal that I am 408

Interlude 3: King, Rabble, War ... and Sex 417

7 The Limits of Hegel 455
A List 455
Necessity as self-sublated contingency 463
Varieties of self-relating negation 473
The formal aspect 480
Aufhebung and repetition 491
From repetition to drive 496

PART III. THE THING ITSELF: LACAN

8 Lacan as a Reader of Hegel 507
The Cunning of Reason 508
The Lacanian prosopopoeia 513
Lacan, Marx, Heidegger 520
The “magical force” of reversal 529
Reflection and supposition
Beyond intersubjectivity
Drive versus Will
The unconscious of self-consciousness

Interlude 4: Borrowing from the Future, Changing the Past

9 Suture and Pure Difference
From differentiality to the phallic signifier
From the phallic signifier to objet a
Sibelius's silence
The pure difference

Interlude 5: Correlationism and Its Discontents

10 Objects, Objects Everywhere
Subtraction, protraction, obstruction ... destruction
The objet a between form and content
Voice and gaze
The grandmother's voice
The Master and its specter
The two sides of fantasy
Image and gaze
Presence
"The picture is in my eye, but me, I am in the picture"
Leave the screen empty!

Interlude 6: Cognitivism and the Loop of Self-Positing

11 The Non-All, or, the Ontology of Sexual Difference
Sexual difference in the disenchanted universe
The real of sexual difference
Formulae of sexuation: the All with an exception
Formulae of sexuation: the non-All
The antinomies of sexual difference
Why Lacan is not a nominalist
Negation of the negation: Lacan versus Hegel?
"There is a non-relationship"
PART IV. THE CIGARETTE AFTER

12 The Foursome of Terror, Anxiety, Courage ... and Enthusiasm 805
  Being/World/Event 805
  Truth, inconsistency, and the symptomal point 815
  There is no human animal 819
  Badiou against Levinas 827
  From terror to enthusiasm 831
  Badiou and antiphilosophy 841

13 The Foursome of Struggle, Historicity, Will ... and Gelassenheit 859
  Why Lacan is not a Heideggerian 859
  Hegel versus Heidegger 865
  The torture-house of language 869
  An alternative Heidegger 878
  From will to drive 882
  The non-historical core of historicity 890
  From Gelassenheit to class struggle 896

14 The Ontology of Quantum Physics 905
  The ontological problem 906
  Knowledge in the Real 918
  Agential realism 931
  The two vacuums 944
  Y'a de den 950

  Conclusion: The Political Suspension of the Ethical 963
  Index 1011