

Louis Bec*

Vilém Flusser 1920 / 1991

This text tells the story of a long and productive friendship: the first encounters between Flusser and Bec, their ritualized Saturday afternoon conversations, their common interests. It also tells the story of their trip to Prague in 1986. The text ends with a description of Bec's and Flusser's most important project – *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* (1987) – thereby introducing the reader to the following two essays.

Les gestes prolongés. Postface

Bec explores the significance of gestures in Flusser's work, linking them to Flusser's writing activity as well as to Flusser himself. Through his gestures, his gesticulating, he moved to move others. The world manifests itself in gestures. New gestures may appear, influencing and changing how we relate to reality. The new gestures of photographing, filming, and videotaping will alter our ways of existence in that they anticipate a new cybernetic form of life.

Vampyroteuthis infernalis. Postscriptum

Vampyroteuthis infernalis is perhaps the most important, certainly the most public, result of Bec's and Flusser's collaboration that lasted for more than fifteen years. Bec here presents the starting points of the publication and what the different zoosystemic plates included were supposed to signal. Each one of the abysmal creatures invented by Bec is supposed to mirror a different aspect of Flusser's thinking.

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