

Rolf Kailuweit*

Postmodern Nomadism and the Beginnings of a Global Village

This paper comments on Vilém Flusser's essay on new nomadism as an epochal change. The author takes a slightly critical viewpoint of Flusser's definition of nomadism as a practice of archaic as well as of media-centred life nowadays and discusses the rather traditional *sedentary* form Flusser adopts for his composition. The author bases his critique upon questions such as: is it really the Information Revolution and not the Industrial Revolution that leads to the end of the Neolithic Age? Is it only a virtual nomadism that came about in 1990 or does the epochal change concern also physical "nomadic" movement? In discussing Flusser's essay the author points out the differences of meaning evident in Flusser's original German text and the English translation. This leads to different possible interpretations of Flusser's essay. The author closes by discussing the concepts of the *idiot* and the *nomad*. He clarifies how these concepts are relevant in a post-modern society and presents the possibility that the wisdom of idiocy is a survival strategy.

Keywords: nomadism, media, archaism, information revolution

*Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg in Breisgau (Germany)

rolf.kailuweit@romanistik.uni-freiburg.de