



NON SERVIAM, ISSUES 1-17



In modern times, the philosophy of the individual's assertion of himself against gods, ideals and human oppressors has been most eloquently expressed by Max Stirner in his book "Der Einzige und Sein Eigentum".¹

Stirner, whose real name was Johann Kaspar Schmidt [1806-56], lived in a time dominated by German Idealism, with Hegel as its prominent figure. It is against this background of fixation of ideas that Stirner makes his rebellion. Stirner takes down these ideas from their fixed points in the starry sky of Spirit, and declares all ideas to be the ideas of an Ego,² and the realm of spirits and ideas to be the mind of the thinker himself. His heaven-storming is total. Even the idealist tool - dialectic, and the supreme ghost of Idealism, [Absolute] Spirit - are stripped of their status of intrinsic existence, and are taken back into the Ego himself. This is most clearly seen in Stirner's main triad: Materialist - Idealist - Egoist. And the triad stops at its last link. Any further progress cannot negate Egoism, for - progress has been taken back into the individual, as his - property.

For Stirner, the solution to the "alienation", or "self-alienation" of Idealism, is in self-expression, or - ownership. What cannot be one's own cause, the cause that is not one's own, is not worth pursuing. As Stirner says "Away then, with every cause that is not altogether my cause!"

This is the philosophical starting point of this newsletter. Formally, it will bear the name *i*, a journal of Stirner studies and personalist philosophy. Its focus is stirnerian personalist philosophy, but its scope includes any articles on topics relevant to adherents of a personalist philosophy.

¹English title: "The Ego and Its Own".

²Einziger - single individual.

Articles on literature through the ages will be very fine, stories will be welcomed if I see them fit, and I even think I might fall for an article on French cuisine made easy ... However: If in doubt whether the article will be accepted, contact me by email first. A waste of time is a waste of time.

I hope to be able to make each of the issues of the newsletter thematic, that is we have one main theme in each issue. The main theme is not meant to be the sole content, however, but more an inspiration for writing.

i /Non Serviam has been distributed through the Internet since 1993. Its focus is on *ownness* - *self-ownership* - and is, due to the interest of the editor, mainly centered around a dialectical egoism inspired by Max Stirner.

The late Sidney Parker has for a long time edited magazines with a similar scope, and when he told me he was going to stop publishing, we agreed that I would take over where he left off. Since then, the Internet has become ubiquitous, and all distribution is via the Internet: visit our web page to subscribe or download individual issues:

<http://i-studies.com>

Svein Olav Nyberg
(editor)

Postscript: This not just a preface to *i* but also a postscript to its first incarnation, *Non Serviam*. The old name came from RA Wilson's *Illuminatus* trilogy, to convey a sense of metaphysical rebellion. A very suitable name for an antithesis, but -as it has occurred to me over the years- somewhat unsuited to convey the positive affirmation of the Stirnerian synthesis. So as of 2010, the name change is official.

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Whoever is a complete person does not need - to be an authority!

-Max Stirner, The False Principle of Our Education