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more on
Language

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre's *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies* (2009) is published by Eerdmans. George Orwell's "Politics and the English Language" is included in the Orwell anthology *A Collection of Essays** (1970), published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. George Steiner's essay "The Retreat from the Word," in which Steiner reflects on the decline of the power of language because of the "mathematizing" of reality, is in the collection *Language & Silence: Essays on Language, Literature and the Inhuman** (Atheneum, 1970). That volume also includes Steiner's 1959 controversial essay "The Hollow Miracle," in which he reflected on the effects of "political inhumanity" on the life of language. "It is not merely that a Hitler, a Goebbels, and a Himmler happened to speak German. Nazism found in the language precisely what it needed to give voice to its savagery. Hitler heard inside his native tongue the latent hysteria, the confusion, the quality of hypnotic trance. He plunged unerringly into the undergrowth of language, into those zones of darkness and outcry which are the infancy of articulate speech, and which come before words have grown mellow and provisional to the touch of the mind." Steiner's book *Extraterritorial: Papers on Literature and the Language Revolution** (1971) is (in Steiner's words) "a preliminary essay of the history of the change in speech awareness, of the change in the ways culture inhabits language, as it has occurred since the 1890s." Among other books McEntyre cites are: Wendell Berry's *Standing by Words** (Shoemaker & Hoard, 1983, 2005); Barry Sanders's *A Is for Ox: Violence, Electronic Media, and the Silencing of the Written Word** (Pantheon, 1994); George Steiner's *Real Presences** (Chicago, 1989); and John McWhorter's *Doing Our Own Thing: The Degradation of Language and Music and Why We Should, Like, Care** (Gotham Books, 2003). For studies about how new technologies affect our life with language, see Naomi S. Baron's *Always On: Language in an Online and Mobile World** (Oxford, 2008); Gregory Edward Reynolds's *The Word is Worth a Thousand Pictures: Preaching in the Electronic Age** (Wipf & Stock, 2001); Neil Postman, *Conscientious Objections: Stirring Up Trouble About Language, Technology, and Education** (Alfred A. Knopf, 1988); John L. Locke's *The De-voicing of Society: Why We Don't Talk to Each Other Anymore* (Simon & Schuster, 1998); and Stephen Miller's *Conversation: A*

Disc 1

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Marilyn Chandler McEntyre**, on how the abuse of language creates distrust in the power of words and on how we can be better stewards of the gift of language
- 3 Paul A. Rahe**, on the heresy of progressivism, which abandons vital convictions about human nature and political order and invites the advent of "soft despotism"
- 4 James L. Nolan, Jr.**, on how European countries have adopted the American model of "problem-solving courts" (and what they also get in the bargain)

Disc 2

- 1 Andrew J. Cherlin**, on why the twin American commitments to marriage and to expressive individualism hurts families
- 2 Dale Kuehne**, on the faulty assumption that intimate relationships demand sexual involvement, and on how the essentially relational nature of the Gospel is ignored
- 3 Alison Milbank**, on how the fantasy writings of G. K. Chesterton and J. R. R. Tolkien are intended to reconnect readers with reality

*History of a Declining Art** (Yale University Press, 2006). They are sadly out-of-print, but the books in John Ciardi's delightful *Browser's Dictionary* series provide fascinating examples of how various metaphoric trajectories inhabit our slang, jargon, and other idiomatic expressions. For some pure fun exploring the way words feel in your mouth, you can do no better than Roy Blount, Jr.'s *Alphabet Juice: The Energies, Gists, and Spirits of Letters, Words, and Combinations Thereof; their Roots, Bones, Innards, Pitbs, Pips, and Secret Parts, Tinctures, Tonics, and Essences; with Examples of Their Usage Foul and Savory** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008).

Other Works Mentioned

Paul A. Rahe's *Soft Despotism, Democracy's Drift: Montesquieu, Rousseau, Tocqueville, and the Modern Prospect** (2009) is published by Yale University Press, as is his companion book, *Montesquieu and the Logic of Liberty: War, Religion, Commerce, Climate, Terrain, Technology, Uneasiness of Mind, the Spirit of Political Vigilance, and the Foundations of the Modern Republic* (2009). James L. Nolan, Jr.'s *Legal Accents, Legal Borrowing: The International Problem-Solving Court Movement** (2009) is published by Princeton University Press. Andrew J. Cherlin's *The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today** (2009) is published by Knopf. Dale S. Kuehne's *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationship beyond an Age of Individualism** (2009) is published by Baker. Alison Milbank's *Chesterton and Tolkien as Theologians: The Fantasy of the Real** (2009) is published by T & T Clark.

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** *Journal* is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The *Journal* is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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