



Re-: An Errant Glossary, ed. by Christoph F. E. Holzhey and Arnd Wedemeyer, *Cultural Inquiry*, 15 (Berlin: ICI Berlin, 2019), pp. 121–28

HANNAH PROCTOR 

Resistance II

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ABSTRACT: A litany of terms drawn from Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker's *Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* and placed together in an attempt to create a sense of collective possibility.

Resistance II

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The air is alive with the possibilities of assembling, gathering, congregating. At any moment, the promise of insurrection, the miracle of upheaval; small groups... and strangers threaten to become an ensemble, to incite treason en masse.

Saidiya Hartman, 'The Terrible Beauty of the Slum'

The summer I moved to Berlin I read *The Many Headed Hydra* by Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker. The book is a rousing work of 'history from below' that criss-crosses the Atlantic, charting rebellions, rebellious movements, and the movement of rebellious ideas that emerged with the expansion of trade and colonization in the early seventeenth century. The 'hydra' was a pejorative term used by the ruling classes to describe the new motley groups and collectivities that attended capitalist expansion.¹ As I read

1 Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Boston: Beacon, 2013).

the book I created a list of the groups, subjects, and figures that the authors mention. These are the hydra's very many heads detached from their contexts of struggle to create a giant amorphous mass. In reading this list out loud I was intrigued by what effect the sheer proliferation might produce — if it might capture something of the possibilities of 'assembling, gathering, congregating' that Hartman describes or whether it rather slips into fatigue or meaninglessness. I'm also interested in what some of the somewhat anachronistic professions or descriptions of groups might mean when thought in relation to on-going struggles in the present. Could the list be constantly expanded?

dispossessed commoners, transported felons,
 indentured servants, religious radicals,
 pirates, urban labourers, soldiers, sailors,
 African slaves

rogues and beggars
 entertainers, sex workers
 the chapmen, the tinkers, the peddlers
 the discharged or wounded
 The entertainers of the day — the jugglers, fencers,
 minstrels, keepers of dancing bears, athletes,
 and players of interludes
 fortune-tellers
 all those outside of organized wage labour
 swarms of idle persons
 peoples who lived without property, work, masters,
 or kings
 many different kinds of people, with many different
 kinds of work experience: sailors, labourers,
 craftsmen, and commoners of several sorts,
 including Native Americans
 a motley crew
 the amorphous labouring class
 hewers of wood and drawers of water
 spade men, brick men, carpenters

the dispossessed, the strangers, the women, the
 children
 orphans, vagrants, petty offenders, disorderly
 women
 The Gypsies
 the radical protestant, the sturdy rogue, the redun-
 dant craftsman, the Catholic recusant , the
 wild Irishman, the commonist, and the cut-
 purse
 heretics and thieves
 servants and fugitives of many languages and col-
 ours
 the lumpenproletariat
 the proletariat
 the land rovers
 all those who rejected wage labour: the Abraham-
 men, palliards, clapperdudgeons, whipjacks,
 dummerers, files, dunakers, cursitors,
 Roberds-men, swadlers, prigs, anglers,
 fraters, rufflers, bawdy-baskets, autem-
 morts, walking morts, doxies, and dells
 assassins, Amazons, Anabaptists
 religious radicals, indigenous Americans, Africans,
 commoners
 the vagabonds, the master-less
 mechanics, watermen, apprentices
 the lowly and the base
 the Levellers and the Diggers
 the urban rioters and the rural commoners
 The Ranters
 the witches
 sailors, clowns, mechanics, and radical sectaries
 roarers, ranters, swearers, and bell-ringers
 antinomians
 mechanic preachers
 independent women
 West Indians
 market gardeners, and river workers such as the
 watermen, ferrymen, and fishermen
 market women, carters, porters, sailors, weavers,

silk winders, and all the other poor discontented persons
 Tribeless, landless, nameless,
 Wealthless, hostless, fameless
 the sailor of the European deep-sea ship and the
 boatman of the African canoe
 a multilinguistic, multiethnic crew
 mutineers
 Quakers
 renegades
 European and African American slaves (with
 and without indentures), felons, landless
 paupers, beggars, pirates, and rebels of all
 kinds
 London Levellers, Irish soldiers, Barbadian ser-
 vants, and Virginia slaves
 saltwater vagabonds
 coopers, gunners, sailmakers
 outcasts of all nations
 the convicts, prostitutes, debtors
 men of unfortunate and desperate condition
 peasant rebels, demobilized soldiers, dispossessed
 smallholders, unemployed workers
 Brethren of the Coast
 banditti of all nations
 a mix't multitude
 cross-dressing female warriors
 the outcasts of the nations of the earth
 arsonists
 the dispossessed of all colours [who] feasted,
 danced, sang, took oaths, and planned their
 resistance
 obscure people with no visible way of subsistence
 a mass of desperate but necessarily creative proletari-
 ans being forced to work for wages
 the Papa, from the Slave Coast near Whydah; the
 Igbo, from the area around the Niger River;
 and the Malagasay, from Madagascar
 Shamans of Gold Coast origins
 haters of the Army
 rioters

Afro-Hispanic sailors
 radical itinerants
 heretics
 conspirators
 maroons
 whalemens
 a mini-diaspora
 malefactors
 rogues
 insurgents
 mobs
 agitators and organisers
 the most degenerated, and abandoned
 scum and dregs
 outcasts
 malcontents
 gangs of the tobacco and sugar plantations
 armed agglomerations
 refugees, boat people, evacuees, and prisoners
 strikers
 hoisters of the red flag
 sons of Jamaica
 runaways
 a motley rabble of saucy boys
 wretches, with tethered garments
 traitors
 the vanguard
 Turbulent people of all Nations engaged in illicit
 Trade
 the disenfranchised
 shoemakers, hatters, clockmakers
 visionaries
 dockers
 friends and comrades
 mass cultivators of the soil
 avengers
 the oppressed
 multiethnic gangs of labourers
 housekeepers, lovers, and nurses
 freedom fighters
 sappers, miners, pick and shovel workers

the half-clothed and the half-drunk
the volatile and the frolicsome
castaways
millenarian dissidents
ignorant turtlers
Sheffield cutlers
an injured and exasperated people
artisans, Jacobins, Jews
heterodox thinkers
abolitionists
the vanquished
lunatics
agrarian communists
poor disinherited earth worms
jack tars, coal-heavers, dustmen, women of colour,
old and young
the factory worker
food rioters; army agitators; barbarians of the commons
aquatic labourers, free thinkers and striking textile
workers
the forgotten, the utopian
multitudinous, numerous, and growing
numbered, weighed, and measured
cooperative and labouring
motley vulgar planetary
self-active, creative
Alive

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- Hartman, Saidiya, 'The Terrible Beauty of the Slum' (2017) <<https://brickmag.com/the-terrible-beauty-of-the-slum/>> [accessed 20 December 2018]
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