Corinne PEUCHET

THE UTOPIAN TERRITORIES OF DECOLONIZATION : THE CASE OF CISJORDANY

The recent and extensive visits which the author has been paying to Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, to the cities in the Territories, and her peregrinations along the roads running from the Dead Sea to the Golan, have convinced her that the patrimonial dimensions were at the heart of identity, human, and geopolitical problems in the region. Starting from her observations, she analyzes some of the current, international as well as national, “preservation policies”. Alternatively, she reports on the endeavours of some architects who have recently raised the question of “decolonizing architecture”: their reflexions about the choices which would have to be made between destruction and recycling in the wake of a hypothetical evacuation of the occupied territories, are a contribution to utopian propositions for tomorrow.

Édith WEBER

THE CONTRIBUTION OF JEAN CALVIN TO THE HUGUENOT PSALMBOOK

The article traces the genesis of the « Psautier huguenot », a famed collection of psalms book written in French, still of contemporary use. It finds its origin in a move by Jean CALVIN, the Reformer, who, in 1538, had found a refuge against prosecutions in the city of Strasbourg. There, he took his inspiration from local practices which were in accordance with the new ideas of the Reformers: the use of the language of the people (rather than latin), the participation of the laity in the performance of the cult, and the practice of collective (assembly) singing. Accordingly, a new organization of the cult, a new liturgy and a new hymnology had to be designed. For assembly singing, Calvin had recourse to the psalms of the Old Testament, some of which have been attributed to King David. These texts were not used in their literal translations, however, but in the form of rimed and strophic paraphrases in French language, easier to sing and to memorize. Their melodic shaping was borrowed for one part from religious or profane traditions, for another part it was the result of original creations.

Jean-Luc METZGER

FROM MICRO-CREDIT TO MICRO-FINANCE : TOWARDS A MANAGERIAL RATIONALIZATION OF INFORMAL PRACTICES ?

In the author’s view, microcredit is a social institution which represents one mode of adjustment of the poor to the weakening of public infrastructures. The super-actors try to rationalize it so as to make it more effective. In so doing, they are threatening the very existence of microcredit in its current operating mode (in the sense that it rests on trust between individuals, reciprocal engagements, solidarity…). They want to keep the flexibility of the system (but simultaneously to control it with quantitative indicators), and to increase the economic effectiveness of this autonomous system, while suppressing its social and informal dimensions. In his conclusion, the author analyzes the policies of encouragement and development of microcredit by the international institutions as adding up to a process of “gestionnarisation” of popular practices in the countries of the South, a process which replaces public forms of action and contributes to their demise. **Keywords:** microcredit, Africa, dispositifs de gestion, international institutions