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PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY

MERLIN COVERLEY

NEW EDITION

SALES POINTS:

- The first guide to explore the origins, precursors and contemporary influence of psychogeography in a comprehensive and accessible manner.
- Interest is rising both in the media and academically as well as through the popularity of writers such as Iain Sinclair and Stewart Home.
- There is a proliferation of internet sites dedicated to psychogeographical ideas with links to other avant-garde and politically radical movements.

DESCRIPTION:

Psychogeography. Increasingly this term is used to illustrate a bewildering array of ideas from ley lines and the occult, to urban walking and political radicalism. But where does it come from and what exactly does it mean?

Psychogeography is the point where psychology and geography meet in assessing the emotional and behavioural impact of urban space. The relationship between a city and its inhabitants is measured in two ways - firstly through an imaginative and literary response, secondly on foot through walking the city. PG creates a tradition of the writer as walker and has both a literary and a political component.

This book examines the origins of Psychogeography in the Situationist Movement of the 1950s, exploring the theoretical background and its political applications as well as the work of early practitioners such as Guy Debord and Raoul Vaneigem. Elsewhere, psychogeographic ideas continue to find retrospective validation in much earlier traditions from the visionary writing of William Blake and Thomas De Quincey to the rise of the *flâneur* on the streets of 19th century Paris and on through the avant-garde experimentation of the Surrealists. These precursors to Psychogeography are discussed here alongside their modern counterparts, for today these ideas hold greater currency than ever through the popularity of writers and filmmakers such as Iain Sinclair and Peter Ackroyd, Stewart Home and Patrick Keiller.

From Urban Wandering to the Society of the Spectacle, from the *Dérive* to *Détournement*, Psychogeography provides us with new ways of apprehending our surroundings, transforming the familiar streets of our everyday experience into something new and unexpected. This guide conducts the reader through this process, offering both an explanation and definition of the terms involved, an analysis of the key figures and their work as well as practical information on Psychogeographical groups and organisations.

DESCRIPTION:

'A short, but valuable book.' - **Niall Griffiths, *The Daily Telegraph***

'A short guide to psychogeography for beginners.' - **Sukhdev Sandhu, *The New Statesman***

'Helps explain why psychogeography has become such a buzzword in Britain...an insightful examination' - **Machenalia**

'A fascinating read.' - **Buzz Magazine**

'It would be a fitting tribute to Coverley's unfussy and informative book if it encouraged people in other cities to try psychogeography.' - **Stuart Kelly, *Scotland On Sunday***

'All these theories have done my head in. I'm going for a walk.' - **Jah Wobble, *The Independent on Sunday***

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr Merlin Coverley is a writer and bookseller. He is the author of the Pocket Essentials, *London Writing*, *Psychogeography*, *Utopia* and *Occult London*.