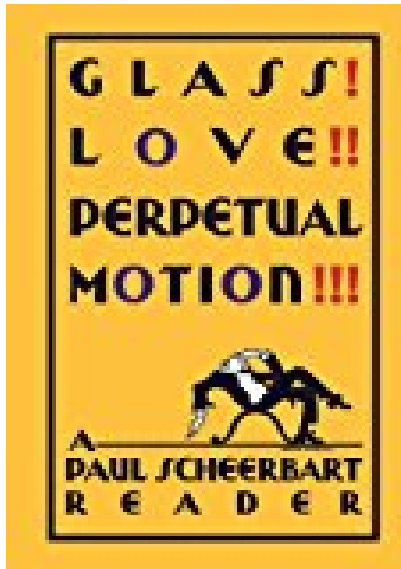


Glass! Love!! Perpetual Motion!!! A Paul Scheerbart Reader



BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Paul Scheerbart
- Pages : 320 Pages
- Publisher : University Of Chicago Press
- Language : English
- ISBN : 022620300X

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

First published in German in 1913 and widely considered to be Paul Scheerbarts masterpiece, "Lesabendio" is an intergalactic utopian novel that describes life on the planetoid Pallas, where rubbery suction-footed life forms with telescopic eyes smoke bubble-weed in mushroom meadows under violet skies and green stars. Amid the conveyor-belt highways and lighthouses weaving together the mountains and valleys, a visionary named Lesabendio hatches a plan to build a 44-mile-high tower and employ architecture to connect the two halves of their double star. A cosmic ecological fable, Scheerbarts novel was admired by such architects as Bruno Taut and Walter Gropius, and such thinkers as Walter Benjamin and Gershom Scholem (whose wedding present to Benjamin was a copy of "Lesabendio"). Benjamin had intended to devote the concluding section of his lost manuscript "The True Politician" with a discussion of the positive political possibilities embedded in Scheerbarts "Asteroid Novel." As translator Christina Svendsen writes in her introduction, "'Lesabendio' helps us imagine an ecological politics more daring than the conservative politics of preservation, even as it reminds us that we are part of a larger galactic set of interrelationships." This volume includes Alfred Kubins illustrations from the original German edition. Paul Scheerbart (1863-1915) was a novelist, playwright, poet, newspaper critic, draftsman, visionary, proponent of glass architecture and would-be inventor of perpetual motion, who wrote fantastical fables and interplanetary satires that were to influence Expressionist authors and the German Dada movement, and which helped found German science fiction.

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