Contents:

- Basic biographical data
- Biographical sketch
- Selective bibliography
- Note on archives

Basic biographical data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Georg Moltved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and place of birth:</td>
<td>April 23, 1881, ? (Denmark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and place of death:</td>
<td>March 6, 1971, Copenhagen (Denmark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality:</td>
<td>Danish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupations, careers:</td>
<td>Physician (Dr. med.), writer, literary critic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of activity in Trotskyist movement:</td>
<td>1956 - 1971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Biographical sketch

Georg Moltved was widely known in Denmark as an outstanding Marxist literary critic who frequently appeared on Danish radio and TV in discussion panels and features, as a lecturer on a variety of political, literary and cultural topics and as a contributor to various intellectual periodicals. When he died at an age of nearly 90, he was furthermore the best known representative of Danish Trotskyism.

Born on April 23, 1881, Moltved became a physician (Dr. med.) and practised for several decades in Skævinge, a little town situated in a rural area some 40 km north-west of the Danish capital Copenhagen (København). Between the two World Wars Moltved was a member of Det Radikale Venstre (Radical Party), a petty-bourgeois democratic and pacifist party, in which for some years he belonged to the national leadership. From 1925 for some 18 years, Moltved held a seat on the local parish council.

Still a member of the Radikale Parti, Moltved successively approached to Marxist positions, contributed financially and otherwise to various left-wing causes and began to engage in relief work for political refugees, chiefly communists and left socialists who came to Denmark in the 1930s as emigrants from fascist Germany. In that time, Moltved was also an active member and from 1937-1939 the president of Frisindet Kulturkamp, a Danish organization aiming at the dissemination of antifascist cultural thought. He frequently contributed to the organization's journal Kulturkampen (Cultural Struggle).

Like many people in Denmark, Moltved took part in the antifascist resistance struggle after the German Wehrmacht had occupied neutral Denmark in 1940. In 1943, he joined the ranks of the then il-

---

1) Det Radikale Venstre (literally: The Radical Left; the literal translation, however, is somewhat misleading) is officially translated by the party itself as Danish Social Liberal Party and is a party in the centre of the Danish left-right political scale. It was founded in 1905 as a split from the Venstre (literally: Left). See Wikipedia article about Det Radikale Venstre.

© by Wolfgang & Petra Lubitz 2004 — page 1
Georg Moltved

Bio-Bibliographical Sketch

legal Danmarks Kommunistiske Parti (DKP, Denmark's Communist Party), and after having given up his medical practice, he became one of its central figures in the northern part of Sjælland and eventually a member of DKP's central committee.

After the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the country from Nazi occupation, Moltved strongly opposed the DKP's participation in a coalition government which was formed immediately after the end of the occupation; DKP's chairman Aksel Larsen (1897-1972) became Minister without Portfolio and another DKP leader, Alfred Jensen (1903-1988), was appointed Minister of Transport. By criticising the politics of reformism, class collaboration and conciliation, Moltved soon got in conflict with the majority of the party establishment, a conflict which eventually ended in 1950 by Moltved's expulsion from the DKP under the verdict of 'Titoism', in those days a bad heresy.

In 1953, Moltved published a book titled Kommunisme i Danmark in which he gave a summary of his vitriolic criticism of the post-war party line. The party's action against Moltved caused some trouble and protest, thus some further left-wingers were excluded, too, or left the party 'arbitrarily'. Those expelled communists, who did not discontinue their political activities, organized in an informal circle which became known as the Moltved group and which soon established links with a tiny group which called itself Internationale Socialister (International Socialists), then being the Danish section of the Fourth International (International Secretariat). The Trotskyists were allowed to participate in the sessions of the Moltved group. While this group as such did not formally join the Danish section, Moltved did so as an individual in about 1956. However, after some disagreements with its leaders, Moltved left the section in 1963 but remained an individual member of the Fourth International (International Secretariat, later United Secretariat) until his death and a faithful Trotskyist.

In 1970, the Danish Trotskyists who – like their comrades in many other countries – had primarily practised 'entryism' during the 1950s and 1960s, could gain control over the Socialistisk Ungdoms Forum (SUF, Socialist Youth Forum), which had been founded in 1961 and which was close first to the Socialistisk Folkeparti (SF, People's Socialist Party) and from 1968 to the Venstre Socialisterne (VS, Left Socialists), which had split from SF in 1967. Two years later, SUF was renamed Socialistisk Ungdoms Forbund (SUF, Socialist Youth League). Georg Moltved – now aged 89 – joined the ranks of Trotskyist SUF and participated in its 12th congress held in January 1971 at which the organization decided to apply to the Fourth International (United Secretariat) for admission as a sympathizing group after having broken all its connections with Venstre Socialisterne. SUF soon merged with the majority of the small Danish section, Revolutionære Socialister (Revolutionary Socialists), to form an organization called Revolutionære Socialisters Forbund (RSF, Revolutionary Socialist League) which was recognized as the new Danish Section of the Fourth International.

Georg Moltved perhaps was not only the best educated Marxist and the greatest intellectual capacity within the ranks of the Danish Trotskyist movement but furthermore became known – far beyond narrow left-wing circles – as the author of a Lenin biography (published in 1966) and of a Trotsky biography (published shortly after his death in 1971), a project which was strongly endorsed by Isaac Deutscher and which – like Deutscher's Trotsky trilogy and like many other of Moltved's literary and educational activities – contributed a lot to the dissemination and popularizing of Trotsky's thought. Some years earlier, in 1960, one of Trotsky's main works, his The revolution betrayed, could appear in Danish language for the first time thanks to Moltved's translation of the work from the French edition, La révolution trahie.

Georg Moltved, 'a fighter to the end' (as he was called in an obituary), died in Copenhagen on March 7, 1971, just a few weeks before his 90th birthday and shortly before the publication of his magnum opus Leo Trotsky.

2) Ernest Mandel once mentioned that Dr. Moltved from Denmark and Willy Boepple from Germany were the only ex-members of a CP central committee who after WW II joined the ranks of the Fourth International, see Mandel, Ernest: Vorwort, in: Boepple, Willy: Gegen den Strom / Wolfgang Alles (Hg.), Köln, 1997, p. 11.
Selective bibliography

- Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets (co-)authored by Moltved


- Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets translated by Moltved


- Selective bibliography: Books, collections, journals, bulletins to which Moltved contributed

Fourth International / International Executive Committee of the Fourth International (Paris) [ISSN 0429-2790]
Kulturkampen (København)
Quatrième Internationale (Paris etc., 1936- ) [ISSN 0771-0569 - ISSN 0765-1740] <TSB 1282>

- Selective bibliography: Books and articles about Moltved


Note on archives

Papers of George Moltved including his correspondence with E. Mandel, I. Deutscher, P. Frank, L. Sinclair et al., documents about his exclusion from the DKP and about the activities of the 'Moltved group' are preserved as Georg Moltved Arkiv, 1950-1975 at the Arbejdermuseet & Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv, Copenhagen, Denmark. The papers are registered, an online finding aid is not (yet) available. A great portion of Moltved's personal papers, however, was deposited by his family at Riksarkivet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Notes:
2.) Thanks to Bertel Nygaard, some errors which have slipped into the earlier version of our bio-bibliographical sketch now have been corrected.

Wolfgang and Petra Lubitz, 2006
last rev. June 2016

© by Wolfgang & Petra Lubitz 2004 — page 3