

Mangelwurzel *Beta vulgaris vulgaris*

Radikal sein ist die Sache
an der Wurzel fassen mention
mandrake grasped by its leaves
it is the herbal that deceives

this be the verse reversed
to be natural is perverse
whatever intellect manages to achieve
insouciant instinct does its wurst

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To be radical is to grasp things by the roots.
But for man the root is man himself.
Karl Marx, quoted by Keston Sutherland
XL Prynne in Complicities: British Poetry
1945-2007 edited Robin Purves & Sam Ladkin
Literaria Pragensia, Prague 2007.