The history of emancipation.
Overtaken, riding uphill.

****

To wither away the state must grow a tumour.
This lesson is from Capitalism.

****

Infinity is Nothingness reversed.
Nothingness is Infinity continued.

****

Wittgenstein thought wealth a defilement.
Another disappointed inheritor!

****

Capitalism, claims Kolakowski,
is a perfect fit for Human Nature
while Socialism is Impatience’s ideal.
Thus Selfishness shall make us live
and Magnanimity enslave us.

****

Arts Administrators,
more numerous than Artists:
Labour Legislators,
more timid than The Chartists.

****

Born on the Left
he had to think well of his fellowmen.
Born on the Right
he tried to think well of his enemies.

****

Those who believe in something
and those who believe in nothing
say they despise the credulous
who will believe in anything.

****

The way to Hell is paved with good inventions.
Misprints are Truth’s non-contributory pensions.

****

Classical Poetry didn’t rhyme
although, of course, its language did.
The choice before today’s Sublime
is adding to or getting rid.

****

I saw him looking lonely,
The big man in a blazer,
Reading Il Gazzetino
In the Sala di Attesa.

Now, where’s the ideology
In writing things like this?
John Berger would know how to
Reveal what is amiss.

A rentier is framed by
His clothes, his seat, his habits.
So Gainsborough would paint this one
Pot-shotting only rabbits.

****

Pascal spoke in Mathematics
Of Reason and of Love,
He warmed his hard theology
At Descartes’ glowing stove
Knowing he could never rhyme
Down Here with Up Above.