

Field Notes 4

March 28 2013

Attention drawn to trees not native to this region



‘We’re tired of trees,’ wrote Deleuze and Guattari

The Moderns in this part of the world like trees. A little over 100 years ago there were no trees here and the forefathers of the Moderns planted them everywhere. Did they predict that the hallmark of the Modern would be ‘arborescent’ thought? and yet...

‘The brain is more like grass than a tree.’



The forefathers of the Moderns planted trees to root themselves - to make a sedentary life possible.



‘Never reduce the unconscious to a tree model’ - Deleuze and Guattari.
But that’s what the Moderns do. There’s nothing they like so much as genealogy and hierarchy.

‘The child is made to take root in the family.’

Ends Desire.....

No outlets

No lines of flight



‘Each morning we would wake up and each of us would ask himself what plateau he was going to tackle, writing five lines here, ten there. Each plateau can be read starting anywhere and can be related to any other plateau.’ Deleuze and Guattari.

'Johannesburg was laid out on a small piece of uitval grond and... it was very dubious which place would be the centre.' H.C. Jorissen to P.U. Rissik in 1936.



'12 months ago the birth of Johannesburg took place...this time last year the site on which it stands was bare of everything in Nature which indicates life.' Transvaal Mining Argus, 21 September 1887.

References: Deleuze, G. & Guattari, F. (1987). A Thousand Plateaus. Minneapolis. Minnesota University Press.

Shorten, J.R. (1970). The Johannesburg Saga. Johannesburg: Johannesburg City Council.