

# New Fields

## Early Reflections on Anarchism

In a career spanning nearly six decades, Max Nettlau—"the Herodotus of Anarchy"—produced a vast body of work on anarchist history, published in numerous countries and languages, while compiling one of the most impressive archives of anarchist material in existence. His best known work, *A Short History of Anarchism*, remains one of the standard accounts of the development of anarchist ideas. At the same time, he produced an impressive body of theoretical work, much of it in the form of internal critiques of present anarchist practices, informed by his historical knowledge and his widespread network of contacts in the international anarchist movement.

Although essays like "Responsibility and Solidarity in the Labor Struggle" have been widely translated and disseminated, the majority of this work on anarchism's future development remains little known. During his lifetime, only a single collection of these critiques, the Spanish-language *Crítica Libertaria*, saw publication. The present anthology—based in part on *Crítica Libertaria*—is an attempt to at least begin to remedy that lack, drawing together English-language essays published in *Freedom* and *Mother Earth* with new translations of work originally published in French. *New Fields* captures the reflections, questions and fears of Nettlau during the early years of the anarchist movement, 1895–1921, allowing modern readers both to experience something of that era and to apply these early critiques and perennial questions to the anarchist practices of our own era.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Max Nettlau** (1865–1944) was active in the European anarchist movement for six decades. Best known as a historian of anarchism and biographer of Mikhail Bakunin, Nettlau was also a sharp internal critic of anarchist strategy and tactics. His works have been published in numerous languages and include *A Short History of Anarchism*.

**Shawn P. Wilbur** is a historian, translator, and curator of the Libertarian Labyrinth digital archive. His published translations and edited books include works by Emma Goldman, Charles Fourier, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, and Joseph Déjacque.

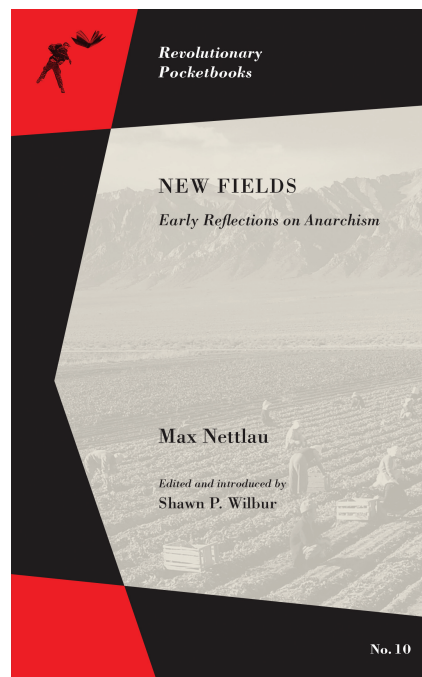
### ACCOLADES

"Max Nettlau is the greatest historian of anarchism."

—Paul McLaughlin, author of *Anarchism and Authority: A Philosophical Introduction to Classical Anarchism*

"Nettlau is often called the Herodotus of anarchism, but he was rather its Thucydides. His life work was based on the omnivorous collection and omniscient study of printed and manuscript materials and also on personal acquaintance and detailed interviews with almost all the leaders of the movement."

—Nicolas Walter, author of *About Anarchism*



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