

New data about the literary legacy of Marx and Engels (report of Comrade Ryazanov made to the Socialist Academy on Nov. 20, 1923) IN Bulletin of Socialist Academy, Book 6, Oct.-Dec. 1923, (State Publishing House, Moscow and Petrograd, 1923).

(Pages 351 to 369, after which discussion begins with Ryazanov mainly answering, pp. 369-376; the paragraph I am quoting is pp. 368-369, i.e. last para. of p. 368.)

"This
Ryazanov: ~~THIS~~ methodical and systematic way of working
Marx retained until the end of this life. If in 1881-82 he
lost his ability for ~~INTENSIVE~~ ^{intensive, independent} intellectual creativity, he never-
theless never lost the ability for research. Sometimes* after
reconsidering these Notebooks the question arises: Why did he
waste so much time on ~~THIS~~ ^{this} systematic, ^{basic} fundamental summary,
~~INTENSIVE~~ or expend so much labor as he spent ~~THIS~~ as late as
the year 1881, ~~of~~ one solid book on geology, summarizing it
chapter by chapter. ~~INTENSIVE~~ In the 63rd year
of his life -- that is ~~INTENSIVE~~ ^{inexcusable} pedantry. Here is another
example. ~~THIS~~ He received, in 1878, a copy of Morgan's work.
On 98 pages on his very miniscule handwriting (you must know
that a single page of his equals a minimum of 2 and 2/10 ^{2.2} pages
of print) he does a detailed summary of Morgan. In such manner
does the old Marx work."

*At this point Krader does not quote. In a word, he stopped only
at the point that Marx had lost the ability for mental creativity
but not for research, and left out Ryazanov's gratuitous remark
that that was inexcusable pedantry. He did, however, reveal that
1) the year is wrong, since it isn't 'in or around 1881 or 1882';
the excerpt notebooks were made 1880-1881. Furthermore, when
Ryazanov said that Marx received the Morgan book ~~INTENSIVE~~ 'in the
second half of the 1870s was much occupied with the history of
feudalism and land ownership.' Krader mentions that the reference
"to the year 1878 had no bearing on the chronology of the notebooks."