



As Cardinal Richelieu in 'The Devils', 1971

## CHRISTOPHER LOGUE

Born in Hampshire in 1926 Christopher Logue was educated in Portsmouth and Bath. In 1943 he enlisted in the British Army serving first with the Commandos in St. Ives, Cornwall, and then with the Black Watch in the Middle East. Whilst in Binyamina, Palestine, Logue was charged with illegal possession of six army pay books and subsequently imprisoned for two years in Acre. Following his release, he embarked upon a career as a poet, living in London and working as a park keeper.

In 1951 he moved to Paris where he remained for five years - co-founding and co-editing the literary magazine Merlin and establishing friendships with Samuel Beckett, Maurice Girodias, George Plimpton and Alexander Trochi. He published his first volume of poetry, 'Wand and Quadrant', 1953 and, under the pseudonym of Count Palmiro Vicarion, a pornographic novel, 'Lust', 1954 and edited a Book of Limericks', 1955 and another of 'Bawdy Ballads', 1956.

Back in London Logue began to look for alternative means to distribute his poetry and in 1958 produced the first of his many 'poster-poems': 'To My Fellow Artists' which was designed with the celebrated Penguin book designer Germano Facetti. In the same year he joined the first Aldermaston march, organised by the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War and the following year distributed his 'Memoranda for Marchers', 1959. In 1962, as a member of the Committee of 100, he served a month in prison for refusing to be 'bound over to keep the peace.'

As well as many volumes of poetry he wrote children's books, plays and screenplays including Ken Russell's 'Savage Messiah', 1972. His poems were set to jazz and another was sung by Donovan (and then Joan Baez) and he performed at the Royal Albert Hall alongside Alan Ginsburg and others at the International Poetry Incarnation, 1965 (filmed by Peter Whitehead as 'Wholly Communion'). He acted in films and on television appearing in Ken Russell's film 'The Devils', 1971 (where he was cast as Cardinal Richelieu) and Terry Gilliam's 'Jabberwocky', 1977. For many years he was the editor of Private Eye's 'True Stories' and 'Pseuds Corner' columns and briefly wrote historical comic strips for the children's weekly: Girl. He is however best recognised for his series of loose translations of Homer's 'Iliad' published in five volumes: 'War Music', 1981; 'Kings', 1991; 'The Husbands', 1994; 'All Day Permanent Red', 2003 and 'Cold Calls', 2005. He died in December 2011 in London.