The Open Arms

public house, est. 2020

Lost Property

Duty Manager: Sean Ashton

Item no: 027493613
Date: 20th April 2020

While under the employment of Guy Debord in 1960s Paris (see 'One Fabric Cauliflower', Item no.: 027493610, 26 March 2020), I was lucky enough to witness the Situationists' activities first hand as their *détournements* detonated across the city. Many incidents come to mind, but the annual Christmas outings were undoubtedly the highlights. When I first arrived at Situationist International HQ, the office party consisted of Debord sitting alone, hunched over his merlot, having offended everyone in the run-up to the festive season. I like to think that one of my key contributions to the movement was to coax its morose leader out of his shell. Not till the winter of 1964 did I feel sufficiently conversant with his subversive methods to suggest that embracing the Christmas spirit could only advance his cause. It took some persuading to get him into the Santa outfit, but once he was on board his colleagues all followed suit and we marched immediately on Le Bon Marché, laden with gifts. The department store thus found its official quota of Santas multiplied tenfold. And when the police were called, the spectacle of the gendarmerie *taking presents away* from children provided Debord with arguably his finest moment. Oh, I nearly forgot: this badge was found in the ladies' toilets this afternoon. Does anyone know who it belongs to?