These are some of the concerns that Cardew had as he was working on Treatise:

1. According to Virginia Anderson he was studying Wittgenstein’s Tractatus Logico Philosophicus a 75 page book on the meaning of language. Cardew’s Treatise searches for the meaning of symbolic notation.

1. Although the work might seem arbitrary, Cardew was rigorous in his method and during the notation of the work opted to replace the first 44 pages.

1. In his diary Cardew writes: the name Treatise a thorough investigation of what? of everything of nothing like the whole world of philosophy.

1. A certain amount of messing around was also involved.

1. In part Cardew was trying to break away from the sorts of musical notation that he had used with Stockhausen and others.

These are some of the concerns that Cardew had as a critic of his own work:

1. By 3 November 1964 Cardew was able to say “making an orchestra transcription of treatise for instance it’s not undertaken for the sake of public recognition but simply surrendering to the vulgar desire to hear what I imagine. The technique of performance is losing its hold on me (I mean ‘the way that music is made’ as a kind of philosophical inquiry) I remember with gratitude how a similar preoccupation with systems and notation relaxed it’s grip on me sometime ago. not that I lost interest simply the threat of an obsession was removed.”

1. The reaction to the criticism of Cage and Stockhausen often took the form “what about your music? Your music is just as bourgeois and backwards as theirs.” Maybe such critics hoped I would feel obliged to defend my own music and thus inevitably return to the straight and narrow path of servile ideologist of the bourgeoisie. treacherous solicitude! the fact is that everything is involved in the process of change including my ideas and I make no bones about having produce music just as backward as anything Cage or Stockhausen is capable of. the main thing is not the mistakes one makes but one’s ability to learn from them and change direction. The bourgeoisie has now given me two opportunities publicly to repudiate my own earlier compositions.