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The French philosopher Gilbert Simondon (1924-1989) was the first true philosopher of information, yet he remains relatively unknown outside of his native France. This situation is curious, given the warm reception his work has received from a small group of internationally renowned thinkers. Simondon's lifelong project was to expound the appearance of what I call an "informational ontology," a subject that deserves to be addressed at length. This article limits itself by focusing on three aspects of Simondon's philosophy of information. First, it situates Simondon within the French intellectual scene in post-World War II Europe to get sense of his cultural milieu. Second, it positions Simondon's work in the context of the American cybernetic tradition from which it emerged. Finally, it offers an exegesis of Simondon's informational ontology, a radically new materialism that stands to change contemporary debates surrounding issues related to information, communication, and technology.

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