



# Black Swan Press

## SURREALIST EDITIONS

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1726 West Jarvis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60626

17th February 1984

Dear Edouard Jaguer,

Things are still very hectic here -- I am just now completing several (!) books, & we are in the midst of a number of important projects -- so I have time only for a very short note (sufficient, I hope, to renew communication with you).

Although all of us were dismayed that several of our works were exhibited alongside those of individuals whom we have long recognized as commercially-oriented, utterly dishonest & otherwise ignoble, our major objection in this affair had to do with the remarks on these unworthy individuals in the catalog -- remarks that were almost entirely false. At this moment I cannot be very specific in this regard, for Penelope & I never received a copy of this catalog.

I do not agree with the comment in your letter that our protest against these poseurs was inspired by the language of 1930s Communism; this is, I think, conceding much too much to 1930s Communism. It seems to us that the spirit of intransigent refusal to collaborate with apologists for dishonor is to be found, quite clearly, in William Blake, in Errico Malatesta, & in the young André Breton!

It may perhaps be of some interest to you that one of the things that Burns/Dauben held against us was that we were in favor of collaborating with you (Burns had been notified by a certain Radovan Ivsic that such collaboration was unacceptable).

But all of us hope that, in spite of this unhappy incident, the friends of PHASES -- and most especially Edouard Jaguer & Anne Ethuin -- shall continue to be our comrades.

Regarding books: We have received only three copies of your book on photography. And we never received the Dictionnaire that we expected many months ago.

An air-freight shipping company has telephoned us that a large crate of "works of art" has been sent to us by the Galerie 1900-2000 in Paris, & that for this we must pay \$664! We presume this must be the crate of works we shipped originally to ELAC in Lyon, with the express understanding that ELAC was to pay for their return; & that when Marcel Fleiss assumed responsibility for these, he also thereby assumed responsibility for the full expense of their return to us. In any case, I doubt that we can afford to pay this excessive amount. (We shipped our own crate to Lyon for \$200!) We received not a word of notification that these works were being returned to us at our own expense; if we had, we would have written back that they should be left in Paris with friends. If you could look into this, we would appreciate it.

In November/December I sent you, by surface-mail, extra copies of the various Platypus catalogs. And more recently I sent you par avion a copy of the Cuban

exile anarchist paper GUANGARA LIBERTARIA, with a "dossier surrealista" translated into Spanish by our good friend Mary Low.

A book of poems & collages by Mary Low, as you have doubtless already heard, will be published under the sign of the great Black Swan of Lautréamont in the next month; it is titled A Voice in Three Mirrors -- a splendid collection!

Your reports concerning Jean Schuster, Jose Pierre et al. are of course disheartening; the situation there is so confusing that it is practically incomprehensible to us.

Is Vincent Bounoure still at the address he was at in 1976? Do you ever see him?

Let us know what is new on your side. When is your book on photography going to be published in English? Are you in touch with Jon Graham, from Richmond, Virginia?

There is much more news here -- several newcomers, for one thing -- but I shall save all this for another letter.

With warmest regards,

& Surrealist Greetings,

*Franklin*

PHAS  
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Archives Édouard et Simone Jaguer