



# ARSENAL

## SURREALIST SUBVERSION

Address all correspondence to: Franklin Rosemont, 2257 North Janssen Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60614

8th March 1981

Dear Edouard,

I know it is ridiculously & intolerably long since I have last written to you, but everything here has been so unremittingly hectic & chaotic -- for months! -- that I have fallen far behind on everything I have been doing, most especially correspondence.... Meanwhile, I have a list of dozens of things to mention to you, and to ask you about: but all but a very few of them will have to wait until another letter! This is just a hurried signal, "on the run," to assure you that we are still here, and still with you as well...

Your letter to J. Karl Bogartte regarding the lamentable Verriere exhibition was much appreciated by all of us. We are happy to know that this pitiable project -- so different from the original proposal! -- has been laid to rest. You may be right about Verriere's innocence in all this, but from here, it is difficult to say; what we know is that he made us many & lavish promises, and kept none of them....

I have two letters from Jean-Michel Place that I have not yet managed to answer, but I shall try to get to it soon. I would like to know your own estimate of him, and his publishing projects. I am also wondering if he might be considering reprinting VVV, and if so, if you think he might be agreeable, perhaps, to some kind of "historical preface" of mine. I have, as you know, conducted many & long interviews with many of its most outstanding American contributors -- Clarence John Laughlin, Gerome Kamrowski, Philip Lamantia -- & have accumulated a mass of pertinent (and not readily available) material of great interest, which would help "situate" the publication not only in the history of surrealism, but in the development of U.S. intellectual/cultural life as well....

The Isadora project has suffered many delays & interruptions, but it is still "in the works." You mentioned a "discovery" in this regard, & I am eager to know just what it is....

I think I asked you about some possible links between surrealism & typography -- particularly about the possibility of locating Jacques Rigaut's typographical designs. And is it possible to see the rest of that wonderful alphabet by Jindrich Heisler, of which two letters were reproduced in PHASES long ago????

--2--

Did you receive a copy of the catalogue of Clarence John Laughlin's exhibition in France? You will note that in the biographical notice they have succeeded in omitting all reference to his association with surrealism, and ignore the fact that twenty-one of his works were included in the World Surrealist Exhibition of 1976. We are hoping that it may be possible for you, or one of the other PHASES friends, to review this exhibition and "set the record straight."

Have you received the second issue of THE INSURRECTIONIST'S SHADOW, from Michael Vandelaar in the Land of the Duck-Billed Platypus? Superior in all respects to the first issue, and suggestive of great possibilities for the future....

We are somewhat puzzled that nothing of ours is ever included in any issue of ELLEBORE. Green & Debra were under the impression that several texts & reproductions were to have been included in the last issue....

Are you in touch with Stefan Baciu, in Hawaii? With anyone in South America? With anyone in Japan???

Also, do you ever see Elisa Breton? We used to hear from her often and then, suddenly -- I have the feeling it is "thanks" to V. Bounoure & J-L Bedouin, at the time of the exhibition of 1976 -- not a word. But we do, for our part, continue to send her everything we publish....

blackout

We are still amazed, too, at the virtually complete ~~blackout~~ in France, regarding the Breton books published by Pluto Press.... Apart from Stefan Baciu's review in Solidaridad Obrera/Combat syndicaliste, hardly a word about it has appeared over there.... ?

Hurriedly but comradely, and looking forward to hearing all the ~~latest~~ latest news from you,

with surrealist greetings,

*Franklin Rosemont*