



# Black Swan Press



2257 North Janssen Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

21st December 1978

Dear Edouard,

Your parcel containing two copies of PHASES and other welcome material has arrived safely. I hope, in return, that you have received the air-mail copy of THE OCTOPUS-TYPEWRITER, as well as the bundle of additional copies addressed to you by sea-mail.

This newspaper of ours has been an "experiment" of exceptional interest. We have circulated nearly 20,000 copies, free, & it has already brought us an unprecedented (for us) correspondence from everywhere. The number of comrades eager to collaborate with us has practically doubled in the last few weeks. The tentacles of Jacques Vaché's miraculous invention have extended into areas of this continent that we have never penetrated before, and lo! -- we receive remarkable communications from surrealists in Georgia, from South Carolina, from Arizona, from Idaho, from Seattle and many other places, all enthusiastic about pooling their resources with ours.... Great things will come of all this, of that we may be sure!

Meanwhile, we are proceeding "full speed ahead" on everything: readying some new monographs, preparing ARSENAL #4, etc. Also, I am completing two books -- a collection of writings by T-Bone Slim, and the study of Isadora Duncan. Regarding this last, if anything pertinent has turned up (I know I asked you a number of questions about Isadora, Hélène Vanel & related subjects), I would be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible. There is a chapter on Isadora in Philippe Soupault's book Terpsichore; do you think it would be worthwhile to address a few questions to Soupault (assuming he is still among the living)???

In New York I did find a book by Valentin Parnak, on the history of dance, which is very interesting. I have not, however, been able to find anything regarding Françoise Sullivan: Would it be possible for you to send me some photocopies of the texts by her that you mentioned???

Speaking of dancers, I should mention that all of us were, as should be needless to say, saddened to see the name of Alice Farley affixed to the sorry & barely-literate document issued by T.R. Johnson and his associates. Our comrades in San Francisco, Philip Lamantia and Nancy Joyce Peters, think that this departure may well be only temporary, based as it has been on a great amount of malicious misinformation so willingly supplied by certain confused admirers of Radovan Ivsic.... We shall see. Meanwhile, I want to emphasize that our estimate of the importance of Alice Farley's contributions to surrealism has not been diminished by this error of judgement on her part; and if you have been planning to include something about her in the forthcoming issue of PHASES, as we have recommended, we would still urge you to do so....

A copy of the catalog of "Imagination '78" has arrived here, some weeks ago. Alas! it proved impossible for us to send an adequate representation in time. We had hoped to rely on friends in England, but everything still seems to be in some

sort of chaotic state over there, so none of our plans in that regard ever really seemed to get anywhere. The same is true of the long-ago proposed exhibition in Ireland: Who knows???

We have had a nice letter from Michel Remy, whose effort in Nancy seems promising. A friend of his, Sebastien, was here recently, visiting with our friends who publish Living Blues magazine, and we discussed the possibility of Paul Garon's Blues and the Poetic Spirit appearing in French translation. Sebastien says he is quite willing & even eager to translate it. Perhaps you might know a publisher who would be interested???

What is your schedule for the next issue of PHASES?

\* \* \*

Abdul told me months ago that he gave you a copy of the volume on Breton from Pluto Press. Actually, you should have received both volumes directly from the publisher. If you would like the other volume I would suggest that you write to Pluto Press and request it for "review." I would very much like to know your estimate of these books, which are important for us in many ways. If there is something that you or others -- perhaps Petr Kral? -- could do to bring these books to some public notice in France, it would be appreciated; moreover, it could surely be done in such a way as to "stir things up" a bit in the various surrealist & surrealist-oriented milieux, no?

Among our new adherents here is a Senegalese painter & poet, "discovered" on the street in Milwaukee by our friend J. Karl Bogartte, inventor of the photo-morph; his name is Cheikh Tidine Sylla -- his work is splendid & we shall send you some reproductions soon. He is interested in meeting & corresponding with other African surrealists & sympathizers (and so, indeed, are we): I have written to Mario Cesariny for Inacio Matsinhe's address, & I wonder if you know of a way to get in touch with the admirable Malangatana???

Let us know of the new developments among the Phases comrades, and something of your plans for the coming year. We are now in touch with several new friends in England, who are adding their energies to Welton's & should succeed in getting the ball rolling, at last, in the land of King Arthur and the Mad Hatter. This should lead to new possibilities for all of us....

When is Volume II of "Imagination '78" -- the volume of poems -- supposed to be printed? What is new regarding the "Dictionary" project?

Hoping all is well with you and with all the Phases friends, & looking forward to hearing from you again soon,

Surrealist greetings,

Franklin Rosemont