

23rd April 1978

Dear Edouard,

There are so many things to be discussed: old topics resumed, & new ones begun! We have very much appreciated your letters, as always, & I have much to say in response to various matters touched on therein. But I shall save most of this for another letter; at this moment Penelope & I find our 'free time' occupied & preoccupied by a thousand & one things. Meanwhile, I am eager to send to you the enclosed biographical details for the poetic anthology to be published in Germany....

I have added to this list, as you will have noted, the name of Nancy Joyce Peters, whose title in the Monograph Series, It's In the Wind, you should have received some weeks ago. She is a very great poet, & in any case a major figure in our group, & we hope very much that it will be possible to include at least something by her in this important anthology.

Penelope & I have been delighted & deeply touched by the Regards obliques sur une histoire parallele, and have greatly enjoyed the splendid colored drawings that Anne Ethuin has so kindly added to it. We also have been much impressed by the magnificent monograph on Perahim, and shall soon be ordering some extra copies.

We are pleased to hear that you liked the catalogue for the SURREALISM IN 1978: 100th ANNIVERSARY OF HYSTERIA exhibition in Milwaukee. We sent twenty-five or so copies to the Zellers in Toronto, and are sending a parcel of copies to you as well. In the coming week we shall send you photocopies of the various reviews....

We have received another letter from the friends of Bochum, but no outline of their "plan" for the exhibition. They seem to have had a definitive "falling out" with whatever remnants still exist of Bounoure & Co. Of course we are in agreement with your reservations & criticisms of the scheme of the Bochum show; we are nonetheless intending to participate in it, at least "marginally," on a more or less "individual" basis, primarily because it seems to us that a manifestation of this sort -- even if somewhat confused in particulars -- has a very special (& perhaps very great) importance in the prevailing cultural/political conditions of Germany. We are hoping that at least one of our texts -- hopefully the "Light-house of the Future" and perhaps also excerpts from Lamantia's "Poetic Matters" and/or from my preface to the Marvelous Freedom catalogue -- will be included in the volume of theoretical writings....

Our friend Clarence John Laughlin is having a major retrospective exhibition in London. Do you have, by the way, the Aperture monograph on his work?

One more thing: Somewhere in a text by Michel Sanouillet I recall a reference to a special study --- exhibition catalogue? monograph? -- devoted to L'Oeil cacodylate: do you know of this? I would be interested to know if it has anything to say about the fact that Isadora Duncan is among its signatories.... Speaking of Isadora, I recently came across a reference that one of her Paris performances was preceded by a lecture about her by the curious Sar Peladan: do you know if this lecture was ever published, or quoted anywhere?

Warmest regards to you & to Anne Ethuin, & to all the friends of Phases,

Franklin Rosemont

P.S. --- How can I obtain copies (or photocopies) by the texts of Valentin Parnak and by Francoise Sullivan that you have mentioned? And what has become of them? Has anything "new" turned up on the elusive Helene Vanel???

We have received the various catalogues: Suzanne Besson, Guy Roussille etc. Merci....

A letter, brief but "cordial," has arrived -- after a year! -- from Arpad Mezei, who also enclosed some of his recent writings....

We have also received a rather "friendly" letter from Philip West, from Zaragoza. But what is he doing collaborating with that vile & reactionary imbecile John Lyle, the policeman's friend, in the latest issue of whose magazine (Transformation) he tries to convince us that surrealism is closer to Buddhist/Hindu mysticism than to Marx & Freud???

What is the current status of Jacques Lacomblez? And Claude Tarnaud???

The new book by Herbert Marcuse, The Aesthetic Dimension: Toward a Critique of Marxist Aesthetics has been published here: a very important work. Perhaps it might be appropriate to publish an excerpt in the forthcoming Phases?

How is it possible to obtain the various publications of Marcel Marien -- Les Levres nues, etc.??? If I sent to him a complete selection of our publications, would he reciprocate?

PHAS
SE Archives Édouard et Simone Jolivet