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11 May 1979

Dear Edouard,

Just today a letter arrives (by air mail, but dated 27 April!) from Miriam Molina, acknowledging my communication to her & confirming our participation in the exhibition in Mexico. I am still hoping to hear from Saul Kaminer.... Incidentally, to better acquaint them with our activity & orientation, we sent to each of them -- to Miriam Molina & to Saul Kaminer -- by air mail, parcels containing the third issue of Arsenal, the 1976 World Surrealist Exhibition catalogue, the 100th Anniversary of Hysteria catalogue, examples of the Surrealist Research & Development Monograph Series, etc.

Having just recovered from more than a week of flu (la grippe), I have fallen behind in correspondence & in the preparation of several projects that are under way here. We are rather frantically compiling material for a special issue of the journal Cultural Correspondence that is being placed at our disposal to explore various affinities between surrealism & certain tendencies of U.S. "popular culture." Unfortunately it is necessary to proceed with the greatest haste, since we are obliged to have the issue completely ready for the printer no later than the 15th of July! We have been exceptionally busy on this, compiling little-known texts (& translating them) from "the old days" -- Breton's little essay on O. Henry, Michel Leiris on Fred Astaire, some remarks on jazz by René Ménil in Tropiques, etc., etc. -- & of course writing a substantial amount of new material. Some English friends of Abdul's, presently residing in Paris, have been assisting us with these translations, which is proving a great help.

We would be very pleased to include something of yours in this publication, though of course I realize that there is little time to prepare something. But perhaps there is an appropriate text already published that might need only to be translated? In any case, we would at least like to include some examples -- by you, by Anne Ethuin, by Petr Kral, perhaps by one or two or three others (whoever you like) -- of our game, TIME-TRAVELERS' POTLATCH, as originally revealed in Arsenal #3, but this time focussing on popular culture figures, as indicated in the enclosed flyer. A copy of this flyer is also on its way to Abdul, & others to Mario Cesariny, Guy Ducornet & Rikki, & a few other friends in other countries.

For this issue of Cultural Correspondence I am preparing several texts -- too many, I am afraid, & I am worried that I might not be able to complete all of them in time! -- including one on the surrealist elements in comic strips & comic books, going back to the origins of this medium, around the turn of the century, & proceeding up to the present. In this connection, I wonder if it might be possible to secure photocopies of the comic strip written by Breton & Péret, having to do with Picasso, published around 1952-3 in the review Arts. Also, if you could let me know of any surrealist painters who at one time or another drew comics (or cartoons) I would appreciate such information: I recall reading somewhere that Victor Brauner drew cartoons for a Communist paper in Romania in the late 1920s, & I know of Matta's comic-type drawings in the 1960s.... Who did the comic strip published in Le ciel bleu? Did Maurice Henry ever draw a comic strip?

I am also compiling a kind of "dossier" relating H. P. Lovecraft to surrealism -- the Robert Allerton Parker essay in VVV, the notes by R. Benayoun & G. Legrand in Médium, etc., as well as remarks by Lovecraft himself & by others who knew him. I know your allusion to HPL in your book on sculpture, but I am wondering if you have ever written of him elsewhere & perhaps at greater length. Or perhaps you know of other references by surrealists to Lovecraft (or to his associates: Clark Ashton Smith, Frank Belknap Long et al)???

If there are texts pertaining to any aspect of U.S. popular culture in La Main a plume or Cobra or other publications that I may not have seen, I would be grateful if you could send photocopies -- if you think they are important -- or at least call my attention to them. We may include, in the Cultural Correspondence, a bibliography of surrealist writings on this general theme....

Thank you for your most recent parcel, including the article on Isadora: Could you let me know the name of the review in which this article appeared, as well as the date???

We are also actively preparing ARSENAL #4, which should go to the printer in August!

Much else is happening here -- many new & exciting developments -- but I shall go into all of these things in forthcoming letters: soon!

You will doubtless be interested to know that, according to Philip Lamantia and Nancy Joyce Peters -- with whom I spoke on the telephone the other day -- the "group" that Thom Burns has tried to organize has completely dispersed: Alice Farley and Laurence Weisberg have evidently not even seen Burns for months.... Papp and Dauben, of course, have returned to their parents' homes in Ohio, & the Rothwells (still in Chicago) have indicated their unwillingness to collaborate on Burns' abortive effort. It remains to be seen how long Burns himself will be content to be nothing more than a U.S. agent for the defunct Maintenant operation.

Is there any news on the poetry anthology prepared for publication in Germany?

Finally, if you are going to be in Mexico on June 20th, might it not be possible for you to arrange your flight in such a way as to stop in Chicago for a day or a few days??? We could easily arrange a place for you to stay, to save you the expense of a hotel, & we would truly love to have you visit here: There is so much we could discuss!!!!

Hoping all is going well for you & our comrades in Paris, and looking forward to hearing from you soon,

with fraternal greetings,

Franklin Rosemont