



ARSENAL

SURREALIST SUBVERSION

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

23rd January 1978

Dear Edouard Jaguer,

Much has been happening here, new projects burgeoning in all directions, & I have been so occupied with this & that & everything that it has been impossible to keep up with correspondence. Throughout the autumn & early weeks of winter Penelope & I were engaged, full-time, on proofreading & other details involved in the volumes concerning André Breton which, as you will already have noted from the Melog translation of our declaration "Lighthouse of the Future," is being published this month by Pluto Press in London....

We sent a large crate of works by members of our group to Conroy Maddox for the exhibition "Surrealism Unlimited" in London. Conroy tells us that you provided invaluable assistance in organizing an appreciable participation of many Phases comrades; were you able to attend the opening? We are eagerly looking forward to the catalogue.... Our friend John Wilson (who, as you must know, has taken the initiative with Conroy in organizing -- at last! -- an authentic surrealist group in England) writes that he hopes to arrange, later this year, for one or more other showings of our works elsewhere in the British Isles --- we hope it will be possible to have an exhibition in Dublin, where we have some friends who are very close to our positions & perspectives. We hope also that these works now in London will provide at least a substantial basis for the ARSENAL exhibition in Paris that you mentioned might be realizable this year....

At this moment we are hastily preparing an exhibition to open in Milwaukee February 26: it is an opportunity that arose at the "last minute" and thus it is not possible to arrange for a very large international participation. We are hoping that the Zellers will have some items "on hand" from several Phases friends that we can include in the Milwaukee show; & of course we shall include Granell, Ducornet, Rikki, Schlechter Duvall.... We have chosen as a theme: SURREALISM IN 1978: 100th Anniversary of Hysteria. [The Triumphant Return of the Irresistible X.L. (Augustine)!].

Enclosed, at long last, is a bank check: this is for as many of the Anne Ethuin monographs as possible, after the ARSENAL discount that you so generously offered, plus two copies of the new Perahim monograph....

Did I tell you that several months ago a certain Nicolas Calas, one of the most laughable renegades of our movement, attacked Phases in a public lecture in New York? To be sure, he also had nothing good to say, & much bad, about ARSENAL. Indeed, he despises surrealism in all its current manifestations, and holds up -- as his example of a true "continuator" of what he considers the "best" of surrealism -- Claes Oldenburg!!!! Ah, the glory that was Greece!

You did not mention whether or not you received the photocopy of the issue of

VIEW containing the letter by Mary Low on Juan Brea. I also enclosed a copy of the recent reprint of the collage/narrative What a Life! by E. V. Lucas & George Morrow, originally published in 1911. & which you probably had already known of from Raymond Queneau's essay on it in Bâtons, Chiffres et Lettres. Did I also send you a copy of the Gertrude Abercrombie retrospective? Or the catalogue of the splendid Henry Darger "REALMS OF THE UNREAL" exhibition???

There are several Phases catalogues that I would very much like to have, if you have extra copies:

- Suzanne Besson, University College of South Wales, 1970
- Jacques Lacomblez, Libre parcours
- Giuseppe Gallizioli, Galerie Arcanes
- Aude Jessemin, Les Mains libres, 1974
- Irena Dedicova, Fleurs d'or, 1976 Galerie les Mains libres
- Hommage à Cesar Moro
- Juan Langlois, Galerie du fleuve, 1962
- Guy Roussille, Musée de Laval, 1975
- Gerard Vulliamy, Le Cheval de Troie, Les Mains libres, 1971
- Anne Ethuin, Collages revêtus, Les Mains libres, 1973

I enclose a sticker that we have recently issued, a contribution to the critique of architecture. Under separate cover I am sending several other recent materials, including the latest title in the Surrealist Research & Development Monograph Series: It's In The Wind, poems by Nancy Joyce Peters, illustrated with ~~silhouette~~ reproductions of papercuts by Mado.... We also hope to ~~send~~ send you soon some examples or reproductions of works by two newcomers to our group: Ribitch, who does line drawings in ink that are savage condensations of the most lyrically excessive tradition of cartooning; & his companion Sharon who does "tapestries" that are truly advancing "the fabric of adorable unlikelyhoods."

I would very much like to see the texts by Françoise Sullivan (is it known what has become of her since the days of the automatistes?) as well as the material on Valentin Parnak... How is it possible to obtain these items? Did you know that Kurt Seligmann designed costumes & sets, as well as drew up the story ~~for~~ -- & wrote the program notes ~~for~~ a dance by Hanya Holm titled "The Golden Fleece?" The photographs I have seen of it are very impressive --- there is supposed to be a film of it as well....

Much more is going on, but it will have to wait until another letter. I am eager to get this check to you, & am looking forward to the books very much. Naturally Penelope & I are also eager to hear from you again, & to learn the latest news from Paris & elsewhere in Europe....

Please excuse this hurried letter dashed off in a mad rush of a multitude of "things to do." I hope soon to have some time for a longer & more substantial communication. But meanwhile be assured of our warm fraternal regards!

Surrealist salutations,

Franklin Rosemont

P.S. --- I have asked Pluto Press to send you the Breton volumes....

At our meeting of October 23rd, 1977 (anniversary of the Budapest uprising of 1956) it was decided by very large majority that J.J. Dauben would no longer participate in our activity. He has since left Chicago accompanied by his faithful servant R.L. Papp.

(over)

Somewhat unexpectedly, Thom Burns also chose that moment to announce his resignation from our group. His reasons for this were not at all coherent, as he himself must soon have realized, since he has repeatedly appealed for readmission. In any case, these three individuals are no longer participants in our group and ~~we would prefer~~ that -- in the forthcoming issue of Phases, for example -- their works not be presented as representative of surrealism in the U.S. today....

We sent several months ago a parcel of our publications to Arpad Mezei, but have received no response.... Do you hear from him?

What is the situation of the exhibition in Bochum? Perhaps some or all of our works now in London could be sent there???

One each of the Anne Ethuin & Perahim monographs are for Penelope & me; perhaps you could send inscribed copies.....?

We would also be grateful if you could inscribe a copy of the Anne Ethuin volume to Philip Lamantia (but you can send it to us & we shall forward it to him)....

Is it possible to trade something for a work by Perahim? Or perhaps purchase one at a price especially arranged for relatively penurious comrades???