He decarles that he wantes to kill art ("for myself") 1. J. Johns - Cabaanne

I harbor a brute secret. My tonque won't loosen to afford me the relief. as the taken without pressure accumulates an inner

# William Anastasi's Pataphysical Society: Jarry, Joyce, Duchamp and Cage

Edited by Aaron Levy and Jean-Michel Rabaté

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William Anastasi's Pataphysical Society: Jarry, Joyce, Duchamp, and Cage

Edited by Aaron Levy and Jean-Michel Rabaté With an introduction by Osvaldo Romberg

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# Biographies

William Anastasi (Born 1933, Philadelphia; Lives in New York), considered to be among the first "classical" conceptual artists, is widely recognized for his pioneering contributions to painting, sculpture, collage, photography and drawing. His work is in the permanent collections of NY institutions including The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum, The Whitney Museum, The Metropolitan Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, and The Jewish Museum, as well as The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., The Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Staatsgalerie fur Kunst in Denmark, and The Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf in Germany, among many others. At Slought Foundation, he recently exhibited *me altar's egoes*, a project engaging Jarry, Joyce, and Duchamp. Recordings of William Anastasi in conversation are available online in audio format at http://Slought.org

Aaron Levy is the Executive Director of and a Senior Curator at Slought Foundation. Since 1999, he has organized around 200 live events and exhibitions with artists and theorists critically engaging contemporary life. In 2004 he edited, with Eduardo Cadava, *Cities Without Citizens*, adapted from his Rosenbach Museum installation revisiting discussions about human rights and cities in Early America. In 2005 he organized *The Revolt of the Bees, Wherein the Future of the Paper-Hive is Declared*, an exhibition addressing beehives as metaphors for archives and collectivities. He recently completed his first film, "in which the thinking man finds himself...", exploring an archive in disarray from the perspective of a man lamenting his orphan status (shot on location in historic Founder's Hall at Girard College). He lectures on contemporary art and curatorial practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Masheck, FRSA, studied art history under Meyer Schapiro at Columbia University and proceeded to the doctorate under Rudolf Wittkower and Dorothea Nyberg. A member of the Society of Fellows in the Humanities there, and sometime editor-in-chief of *Artforum* (1977-80), he taught at Barnard and went on to Harvard and Hofstra. Books include a new edition of his *Marcel Duchamp in Perspective* (Da Capo) and a centenary reprint, with essay, of Arthur Wesley Dow's *Composition* (University of California Press), in addition to collections of his essays on architecture (*Building-Art: Modern Architecture Under Cultural Construction*, Cambridge) and art (*Modernities: Art-Matters in the Present*, Penn State). A lecture comprising part of a forthcoming book on Adolf Loos is available online in audio format at http://Slought.org

Steve McCaffery is the David Gray Professor of Poetry and Letters and Director of the Poetics program at SUNY Buffalo. He is the author of fifteen books of poetry and one novel, and has twice received the Gertrude Stein Award for Innovative American Poetry, in 1993-94 and 1994-95. In 1973 he co-founded with the late bp Nichol the Toronto Research Group. He has performed his poetry world-wide and his work has been translated into French, Spanish, Chinese, and Hungarian.

Thomas McEvilley is Distinguished Lecturer in Art History at Rice University, where he has been on the faculty since 1969. He holds a Ph.D. in classical philology. He has been a visiting professor at Yale University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was the recipient of a Fulbright Grant, an NEA critic's grant, and the Frank Jewett Mather Award for Distinction in Art Criticism by the College Art Association. McEvilley is a contributing editor at *Artforum* and has published hundreds of articles, catalogue essays, and reviews in the field of contemporary art, as well as monographs on Yves Klein, Jannis Kounellis, and Pat Steir. His recent books include *Art and Discontent, Art and Otherness*, and *The Exile's Return: Toward a Redefinition of Painting for the Post-Modern Era*.

Jean-Michel Rabaté is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania since 1992 and a Senior Curator at Slought Foundation. He has authored or edited twenty books on Modernism, Joyce, Pound, Beckett, Lacan, Derrida, psychoanalysis and literary theory. Among these, *Jacques Lacan: Psychoanalysis and the subject of literature* (2001), *James Joyce and the Politics of Egoism* (2001), and *The Future of Theory* (2002). He is the editor of the *Cambridge Guide to Jacques Lacan* (2002). He recently edited a double issue (21/22) of *Interfaces* on work by Arakawa+Gins.

Osvaldo Romberg was born in Buenos Aires. He is a Professor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and a Senior Curator at Slought Foundation. Select exhibition venues include: Kunsthistoriches Museum, Vienna, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Sudo Museum, Tokyo, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, The Jewish Museum, New York, and the XLI Venice Biennial, Israel Pavilion. He recently curated shows on Faith at the Aldrich Museum and on Urbanism at White Box, New York. At Slought Foundation, he has organized exhibitions on a variety of artists and themes including William Anastasi and Hermann Nitsch.

# Preface: Interpretation Becomes Art Jean-Michel Rabaté and Aaron Levy

For more than forty years, William Anastasi has been actively changing the way we perceive art, interpret the world and construct our lives. His work contains a theoretical project of such magnitude that it can only send to the public a few postcards attesting that it is still there (as Mallarmé once said), perhaps also in order to remind us that crucial questions are still awaiting resolution. Anastasi has been presented as a pioneer more than once, but here, in his native Philadelphia, we are pleased to provide an environment that shows the full scale of his radical interpretive endeavor.

This hermeneutic exercise takes three names as a point of departure, Jarry, Duchamp, Joyce. Jarry in Joyce, Joyce in Duchamp, Joyce, Jarry and Duchamp in Anastasi. Anastasi in us. That we can hide in Jarry as much as Jarry's jar would ideally reshape Tennessee. Move from Stevens's Tennessee to Pennsylvania and everything begins again. For those who do not know who Jarry is, let us just echo the splendidly shocking first word of his groundbreaking Ubu play: "Merdre!" A word that Joyce probably translated into the Anglo-Irish of *Ulysses* as "Shite!"

Here, the texts of Joyce, Jarry and Duchamp have turned into closed sets yet open to a wider encyclopedia. By superposing them systematically or randomly (the example set by Cage tends to prove that utter randomness is identical with pure systematicity), one will find exponentially multiplying networks of correspondences, echoes, allusions, quotations, borrowings. If Jarry is shown to be somewhere in Joyce's texts, how can we be sure that he is not everywhere? Reading becomes a special case of over-reading, just like understanding implies a rigorously parallel model of overstanding. By showing concretely, with the inflexible patience of a demented archivist who would follow the meandering twists of the text's half illegible script, that many passages in *Finnegans Wake* contain buried allusions to Jarry's characters and vocabulary and personality, Anastasi is not simply annotating Joyce's masterpiece; he provides a new way of reading all avant-garde literature.

Here art becomes interpretation as much as interpretation becomes art. Our modernity would not be comprehensible without the bold explorers Anastasi has caught in the loop of his lenses or lasso, those inspired augurs who made interpretation, be it of a deliberately calculated paranoid type, a key to a new vision while moreover abolishing all the boundaries separating art from life. The invention of "pataphysics" by Jarry at the turn of the last century, this "science of imaginary solutions," can turn into a shorthand device through which the hitherto separated fields of the hard sciences and art merge or at least converge.

An artist is not a "naïve" creator expressing a hidden personality as in the Romantic model, but an astute reader entranced by one special type of epistemological obsession. It is this obsession and the way it desperately clings to truth which saves us from the lure of Romantic expressivity. Thus, whenever we interpret with such a seriousness that fun becomes a modality of the true, we become artists. Let us open these texts, yet again, since the ready-made is now the most powerful reading tool.

# Introducing William Anastasi Osvaldo Romberg

My first encounter with the work of William Anastasi was in Argentina at the end of the 60s. One of the artists in a show in which I participated exhibited a plagiarized version of Anastasi's now historical *Installation view, West Wall,* Dwan Main Gallery (1966; first exhibited April 1967). When I saw that work in Argentina, I found it remarkably clever and striking. Years later, in an exhibition catalogue, I discovered that *Installation view* was the work of William Anastasi, and had been completed far earlier than the Argentina show in which I had encountered the plagiarized version. My second encounter with Anastasi's work was in the 90s in Germany. Following that, Juan Puntes (when I was advising him to create White Box in New York) enthusiastically told me about Anastasi and his work. As it turned out, he and I didn't meet until a few months later in a show in which we both participated, *Typologies*; he gave me the impression of a priest, a kind of zealot, in the sense of maintaining conceptual clarity.

From then on, our meetings were sporadic and by chance. At that point, I was already familiar with his catalogues and with all of his works. By the beginning of 2002, when I was curating exhibitions at Slought Foundation in Philadelphia, my proposal for Slought's opening exhibition was work by Anastasi, although it didn't happen because of a misunderstanding. Finally we met again and continue to meet frequently, developing and sustaining an incredible conversation about art in which each interaction becomes more surprising than the previous one.

The man epitomizes the avant-garde--he is the kind of solitary cowboy who runs alone in the desert. He embodies all that we, in my native Argentina, imagined an artist to be. After several meetings with Anastasi in cafes and in his studio, what comes to mind is the figure of Diogenes, the ancient Greek philosopher who faced Alexander with a simplicity and integrity of someone who had nothing to lose. I realized then that

William is clearly one of the few Americans who has not betrayed Marcel Duchamp's spirit and meaning. He has never made signature works, he has never been tempted by the art market, he addresses problems, not images, and he has reinvented himself repeatedly. In the end, his presence in New York, walking the streets, is an ecological cleansing of the New York art scene.

The works I decided to curate for the exhibition at Slought Foundation were primarily from the series *me innerman monophone*, which is an extraordinarily sophisticated commentary on the work of James Joyce (through reference to Alfred Jarry) as well as an obsessed environment in which our own cognition is invited to interact with the spirit of Joyce. The way the work was presented in the exhibition gives the viewer an opportunity to approach Anastasi's ideas in an aleatory manner without programmatic sequency. (Documentation of the exhibition and selected commentary is included in this publication.) This approach, I feel, delivers a rare insight into the mind and character of the artist. One can enter and exit the work at any point in the gallery installation with a displaced perspective that will yield thousands of possible readings...a kind of kaleidoscopic view of Anastasi's own thinking.

# Art and Cognition: Aspects of Art and Scholarship Thomas McEvilley

To me this gathering seems like a meaningful event.<sup>1</sup> It is wonderfully responsive and sensitive that scholars and others should come together to celebrate this remarkable body of writings, this vast web of thought, composed on a scholarly theme by an artist.

I imagine the reason I was asked to speak first is that I have a long history with Bill Anastasi and with the work he has done on Joyce, Jarry, and Duchamp. In 1989 Anastasi and I made a little book together which contained a long text called "A Conversation," which I think remains the principal text about his work. Some years later, I wrote an essay for the catalogue of his retrospective in Copenhagen, and again something for a print magazine about his print works.

A couple of years after the first piece, the "Conversation," Anastasi began working on a philological analysis of texts by Duchamp and Jarry. This was not simply a philological analysis for it had a specific agenda. The physicist John Wheeler, once when asked what he was looking for in certain research, said, "Why, whatever I would find." But Anastasi was looking for something in particular: for reasons to think Duchamp's writings may contain concealed references to Jarry's. As Anastasi himself describes it: "I put forth evidence supporting my belief..." The essay came out in the September 1991 issue of *Artforum* under the title "Duchamp on the Jarry Road." Anastasi continued to work on related lines of thought about Duchamp, Jarry, and Joyce, producing six other texts—five essays and one interview—over about fifteen years. These were remarkable pieces of thought and writing and have had a slowly growing readership that has culminated, so far anyway, in this event today.

But it's not just a question of readership, since two of these texts have been exhibited as visual objects at the Sandra Gering Gallery in New York City in 1995 and subsequently at three other venues, including here at Slought Foundation. The first of these texts is the first essay dealing with the secret presence of Jarry in Duchamp's work, the second a later text that deals with the secret presence of Jarry in Joyce's work. Anastasi, in other words, has presented the manuscript of his comparative text as a work of art, and specifically, judging from the manner and places in which it's exhibited, as a work of visual art.

I am going to talk about the two aspects of these events—first the aspect as art and then the aspect as scholarship.

Anastasi is the kind of artist for whom theory itself is a material from which he makes works. As a youngster he inherited the 18th century aesthetic theory of art which held until around the mid-20th century. This was based on Aristotle's idea in the Nicomachean Ethics that human nature breaks down into three faculties: the cognitive, the ethical, and the aesthetic. In Kant's version of this doctrine the faculties were mostly separated from one another on the model of the five senses, which do not intrude into one another's domains. This separation meant that each faculty takes care of its own aspect of reality. Since, as Kant saw it, the experience of art is basically an aesthetic experience, there is no faculty except the aesthetic that is relevant to it. Thus the cognitive and the ethical faculties are both excluded from the experience of art. This was one of the central pillars of Modernism and is one of the central tenets that post-Modernism has attempted to seriously revise. To put it differently: the post-Modern project was to expand art discourse so that all three faculties would have a part in it. In brief, the outcome was the appearance of two new genres which, in the crucial decade 1965-75, were basically anti-aesthetic, as they tried to promote the previously neglected faculties: these new genres were conceptual art and performance art. Conceptual art championed the cognitive faculty, and performance art the ethical. The aesthetic faculty was for a while in eclipse, or on leave as Arthur Danto once remarked, until the mix started to balance out in the late 1970s and after.

At first it seemed heretical to many to think that there could be an art that was cognitively based rather than aesthetically based. But in fact this idea has been taken for granted in cognitive disciplines such as science and mathematics since the time of Pythagoras. Here is a passage from the New York Times, January 25, 2000:

In *The Artful Universe* (Oxford, 1995), the astronomer John D. Barrow argues that "the arts and the sciences flow from a single source..." The geneticist Enrico Coen, who has just written *The Art of Genes* (Oxford University Press, 1999), uses painting as a metaphor to describe how organisms generate themselves. Beautiful natural patterns...and their mathematic origins are explored in Philip Ball's *The Self-Made Tapestry:* 

Pattern Formation in Nature (Oxford, 1998). [Edward Rothstein] chimed in with *Problems of Mind* (Avon, 1996), examining how music and mathematics create patterns that develop out of similar styles of metaphorical thinking.

It is also not hard to see that philosophical ideas exercise an aesthetic appeal, as Rudolf Carnap observed early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Zeno's "Paradoxes" provide an obvious example, embodying the infinite regress aesthetic of Bachian/Escherian labyrinths of orderly thought. There are other less mathematically ordered areas of philosophy that exercise different but still artistic appeals: the down-to-earth, still-life effect of an analytic argument based on Ordinary Language philosophy, or the symphonic grandeur of a Hegelian text, or the lyrical spareness of an argument by Wittgenstein.

Duchamp was the first artist to explicitly and completely devote himself to a cognitively based art comparable to that remarked on by scientists and mathematicians. It was like a declaration of secession when he said that he wanted to put art back into the service of the mind-that is, of cognition-and that he didn't want to be stupid as a painter: meaning that in the aesthetic era painters, by rejecting cognition, had chosen to be stupid. He proceeded in a number of ways to put the idea into action. We all know what they were: mechanical drawing, the introduction of language into the work, and, in the readymades, the presentation of a thing just as itself, a thing that declared itself to be itself and nothing more, a thing onto which no projections of aesthetic or religious values could effectively be made. This theme, which has been called tautology, became basic to Conceptual art in its day, and Anastasi's own work must be seen as continuing, extending, and ramifying Duchamp's project of making art cognitive, and doing so by following much the same elementary path Duchamp had followed. Rather than extrapolate, ramify, and exfoliate ornate and complex chains of cognition in some way that could be understood as cognitively artistic, he, like Duchamp, emphasized the pure primal concentration of cognition that is suggested by Aristotle's Thought that Thinks Itself-cognitive consciousness in and of itself, autonomous to the point where it involves no object, nothing outside itself-a tautology.

I will mention four pieces of Anastasi's work to illustrate this:

1) In the 1963 piece *Microphone*, a tape recorder played back a loop on which the sound of its own mechanism had been recorded, creating a counterpoint with the living sound as it played. I think this was the first piece of Conceptual art that perfectly illustrated the theme of tautology or solipsism—the consciousness that is

conscious only of itself.

2) *The Wall on the Wall*, as it's colloquially called, is actually a detail of a work called *Six Sites*, 1966, in which each of the six walls of the Dwan Gallery had hung upon it a silkscreen of itself at about 90% scale. The theme of tautology is taking different forms. If you listen to the tape recorder you hear the tape recorder; if you look at the wall you see the wall. That's all there is. Everything is exactly itself and nothing more.

3) In *Statue of a Tube of Titanium White*, 1969, the act of representation represents the representational material: representation, in a sense, represents itself. At the same time, painting is elided into sculpture, as representation is confounded with presence, another classical Conceptual theme. The presence however is elusive, as it is the presence of a trick or illusion: it is the presence of a representation that is represented.

4) Finally I will mention a performance concept from the 1960s, never actually realized. Two people are on the stage, one holding a measuring tape, the other a stop watch. The measurer of space begins to measure a dimension of the stage; the measurer of time begins to time his measuring activity, clicking on the stop watch. When the space measurer finishes and calls out, say, 13 feet 6 inches, the time measurer stops the watch and calls out, 1 minute 13 seconds. Measuring itself is measured. (To employ one of Anastasi's own scholarly tropes, I wonder if this piece was derived somehow from a passage in Jarrry, who says: "To explore the universe by seeking knowledge of points in space can be accomplished only through time, and in order to measure time quantitatively we refer to space intervals on the dial of a chronometer." [How to Build a Time Machine].)

The basic theme of these and many other Anastasi works is tautology or selfsameness or self-reference, the primal stage of consciousness as in the Thought that Thinks Itself. The subject is cognition at its most elementary, essential, and stripped-down. After about thirty years of making art that isolated cognition and pointed at it with startling clarity from a number of directions, Anastasi began to write scholarly essays about art which he then proceeded to display as art. In a way I think he took permission for this from Duchamp's act of declaring that the *Notes in the Green Box* were a part of the *Large Glass*. But in Anastasi's case there was no supposedly primary physical artwork of which the manuscript was declared to be a part. How does it work?

\*

One way it might work is this: many scientists have regarded science as having an aesthetic or artistic quality, and science and scholarship are part of the same category in that both are based on the scientific method. If there is what might be called an aesthetic (or artistic) presence in science, is there similarly one in scholarship? Does scholarship also participate in the aesthetics of thought, or the type of cognitive presence that might be regarded or experienced as an analogue to the aesthetic experience? And how could you tell? On the one hand, the question might have to do with the type of material to which the scientific method is being applied. Mathematics has a notoriously aesthetic presence, as demonstrated from the mathematic conundra of Zeno of Elea to the works of Goedel and others in modern times. The aesthetic or aesthetic-like presence of mathematics is often described as analogous to that of certain forms of music, as in the famous popularizing book of twenty years ago, *Goedel/Escher/Bach*. But that title also assumes a visual correlate in the implications of infinite regresses and perspectival contradictions in the works of Escher.

Does scholarship have the same or similar tropes and formal thematics? In particular, the type of scholarship that Anastasi has been practising in these seven texts is what is called philology—which consists of the analysis of texts and their comparison with one another in an attempt to arrive at conclusions about their original forms and purposes. What if any innate qualities does philology have that might compare to Bachian/Escherian artiness or perhaps some other type of artiness?

Perhaps the art-like resonances of philology are similar to those that Rudolf Carnap and others have seen in philosophy. Carnap's suggestion that philosophical arguments have an aesthetic type of appeal seems also to be based on the analogy with music and on the implications of infinity theory as in Zeno's "Paradoxes." The rhythmical recurrence of themes and motifs in the prolonged argumentation of Sextus Empiricus, for example, may be seen as not unlike the recurrences of leitmotifs in Wagner. In general such comparisons are based on music rather than the visual arts, perhaps because both music and text reveal themselves through an unfolding in time rather than space.

Anastasi's classic visual works such as *The Wall on the Wall* suggest rather a comparison with Minimal music; Philip Glass, for example, once told me that a very repetitive and uninflected work of his related to what American Buddhists of that time called the Void doctrine. Indeed there is a statement about mere and absolute self-sameness in such work, along with a lack of detailed articulation and emotional nuance, and *The Wall on the Wall* could be described with similar terms.

Now to return to the point where we began—in 1995 when Anastasi exhibited two texts in the Sandra Gering Gallery in NYC. One was the text he calls *Me innerman monophone* (which is based on or derived from his essay "Jarry in Joyce"; the second text pinned up on the walls was a version of the essay "Du-Jarry," a later development of "Duchamp on the Jarry Road," in which traces of Jarry are sought, and claimed to be found, in the writings of Duchamp.

\*

Here the situation becomes ambiguous because of the physical surface of the manuscipt, in which for convenience Anastasi encoded his quotations from the various authors in different colored inks. A heliotrope red is Jarry; Joyce is green; Duchamp is black; Anastasi's own connective observations and so on are blue. The intent, I think, was not to be symbolic, yet I seem to feel an elementary symbolism at work. Heliotrope Jarry is the wild, flamboyant imagination; green Joyce is Irish and a child of nature; black ink reveals Duchamp as just plain fact; and the blue of Anastasi's own pen was that of the school boy assiduously doing his homework.

So the question has to arise, did he exhibit the pages of these manuscripts like pictures on the wall because they are in effect pictures, with different colors, compositions, and so on? Anastasi declared, when I asked him about the colors, that they were "not for decorative purposes but purely functional." Yet I doubt if he would have exhibited a printout like pictures on the wall.

A printout would not only lack the aesthetic qualities of color, rhythmic recurrence, and complexity of visual structure; it would also lack the presence of the touch that is treated so reverentially in the formalist tradition, like the touch of a saint on a relic. It seems that sensual or aesthetic qualities are being invoked by this mode of exhibiting the text, and also that traditional religio-aesthetic ideas like the holy touch are creeping back in. I think the reason they are creeping in is because these texts are as close as Anastasi gets to devotional religious practice. At the very least he has produced a unique and highly personal new vision of the avant-garde of the last century—from Jarry in the 1890s to Cage in the 1990s. This would seem to be the lineage in which Anastasi feels his own work to belong, so there might be a bit of ancestor worship involved.

But such a reductivist approach is too simple. Something not unlike three- or fourvoiced polyphony is going on among the voices of Jarry, Duchamp, and Anastasi; in these texts occur the continually flowing repetition, modulation, variation, rerepetition, and so on, of motifs as moments of attention are directed back and forth from one voice to another. And in the pictures, so to call them, the same rhythmic interplay and recurrence is seen as the colors come and go, and return and recombine, like voices in a polyphonic structure. I wonder if the content of the text is carried strongly enough by the image-flow of the pictures, so as to render the two aspects as one work appearing in two forms or modalities.

\*

Now, let's turn from the artistic aspect of the exhibited pages to a scholarly type of question that is purely cognitive: Is Anastasi *right*, in a factual sense, about the complex set of interconnections he has hypothesized between the works of Jarry, Joyce, and Duchamp, and secondarily Cage (for Cage comes into the constellation a generation later and as a symbol of historical closure in a way, after the main troika of interconnections had taken hold.)

Amateur scholarship has had high moments, of which the great analogy to what Anastasi has done was the Second World War codebreaker Michael Ventris's decipherment of Linear B, the script in which the Greek language was written in the Bronze Age. But would we still honor the memory of Michael Ventris if his proposed decipherment had turned out to be wrong? From one point of view its whole value would have changed.

In relation to Anastasi's theories about Jarry, Duchamp, and Joyce and the hidden references by the latter two to the former and to each other, there are two types of attack which this complexly and carefully wrought network of argumentation invites. The first is the question of whether he is right, detail by detail, in the claimed echoes and references he has written about; are they really there in the conventional sense that they were to some degree intended by the subjects, or are they figments of his devotion to three artists whose work

seems to have been formative on his own?

So one ends up looking through his arguments, searching among the many detailed comparisons for a smoking gun—a connection that cannot reasonably be denied—or hopefully more than one. I read all the essays again the other day and I still think a pretty good smoking gun is the image of having sex through a pane of glass that is shared by Jarry and Duchamp. And of course Duchamp's use of Jarry's word *merdre* is pretty ironclad. In addition to a few positives one must consider the accumulated weight of many plausibles. I find no weight in the arguments about Duchamp's and Joyce's Shem, for example, so a vaguer sense of rightness or probability will have to do. So much for the truth of details.

Even if one agreed that Duchamp and Joyce both picked details out of their memories of Jarry's writings and obliquely brushed by them in their own texts, the question remains whether this amounts to a demonstration that these later authors used Jarry's texts as the "armature" or "basis" or "general outline" (all terms Anastasi has used) of their own works. In other words, the many slight correspondences Anastasi has gathered, even if some of them are individually correct, may just be part of what Linda Henderson, speaking of Duchamp, calls his smorgasbord of references to many sources. Anastasi himself comments on the complexity of Joycean references especially; they don't all have a simple one-to-one meaning, like x or y = Duchamp or Jarry, but often point in several directions at once. Do the arguments account in a way for some details in Duchamp's and Joyce's smorgasbords but still fail to explain the major themes or structures or intentions, which may be more powerfully accounted for in other ways? Or, if it should happen that Anastasi's hypothesis proves untestable, it will hang in the air as a living web of thought that waits tantalizingly for a resolution that never comes—a ghostly presence of the avant-garde of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a haunting memory that seems both ancient and somehow still alive in its appeal.

Notes

<sup>1.</sup> I am referring to the symposium on William Anastasi at Slought Foundation on Saturday, December 11, 2004, that featured presentations by critics and academics including Jean-Michel Rabaté, Steve McCaffery, Joseph Masheck, Ian Hays, Alison Armstrong, William Anastasi, and myself.

# Jarry-Joyce-Duchamp in an Anastasian Illumination Joseph Masheck

William Anastasi showed hundreds of photocopies of his manuscript Jarry-Joyce notes in February and March of 2004 here at Slought Foundation, in an exhibition curated by Osvaldo Romberg under the Joycen title *me altar's egoes*, these consisting of *Du Jarry* sheets from 1991-94, and *me innerman monophone* sheets of 1991-96. The display was reinstalled in the late spring in observance, through the summer, of the hundredth Joycean Bloomsday, in a comprehensive *Joyce in Art* exhibition at the Royal Hibernian Academy, in Dublin.

Anastasi also generated curious offshoots of some of these in the form of twice-Xeroxed monotypes; and as it was still available, I purchased the one derived from sheet number 701, signed and dated February 15th, during the Philadelphia show, which Aaron Levy also liked for the publicity for this conference. Intrigued by the image's defetishized, dubiously autographic status, I wanted to catch glimpses of it off-guard and think about it, especially for its prominent textual *illumination*, uncommon though not unique among Anastasi's original 2000 or so sheets, which seemed to hold intriguing reverberations that I can now attempt to "illuminate" myself.

First, let us affirm in passing that Anastiasi's overall installational format, neither scroll nor codex, with rank on rank of manuscript sheets papering the walls, itself partook of a canonical format of conceptual art of the mid-1970s as well as looking severally like so many Duchampian notes. One thinks of Hanne Darboven's lining of entire gallery interiors with handwritten, run-on numerical tabulations inscribed on separately framed sheets, rank upon rank, as well as her published holographic writings-out, in artist's-book editions, of extended texts by the likes of Heine, Baudelaire and Karl Kraus. For Anastasi's part, we know that for over a decade he has concerned himself with excavating more or less obscure yet amazingly proliferous connections between

Alfred Jarry, the proto-dadaist of the 1890s and "aughts," and both Joyce, on one hand, and Marcel Duchamp on the other.

Here I can take advantage of my status as simple *Gastarbeiter* in the literary realm to make certain Anastasian observations, possibly somewhat "crosswise," between Jarry-Duchamp and Jarrry-Joyce, that I can only hope are considered neither erroneous nor, possibly worse, commonplace. My encouragement to write out of blessed ignorance is that so much of what Anastasi has been tracking in his thousands of notes concerns *Finnegans Wake* that in ignorance of specifically that most formidable work I am moved by creative desperation to take advantage of what firsthand *connaissance* I may retain of Joyce's earlier (not to say simpler) texts.

1

The Duchampian motif which the illumination at hand most closely resembles is an element projected for, but not eventually incorporated into, the *Large Glass*, namely, a conical "Sex Cylinder," a.k.a. "Wasp," for the Bride. Resemblance here concerns not only the respective conical forms per se but also their "illuminational" embeddedness in respective holographic con-texts of writing. This is more obvious in Duchamp's unfolded double-leafed format as originally reproduced by Lebel in 1959, whereas Schwarz's now standard catalogue gives only the righthand leaf to illustrate the drawing, which is in the Pompidou Centre (S 276).<sup>1</sup>

Duchamp's drawing is one of three showing the funneling, downward-pointing conical form of the Wasp, all done at Herne Bay, in Kent, in July of 1913. It seems that during the summer after the Armory Show, Duchamp, himself planning to make his living as a librarian, had gone with his sister Yvonne to this seaside town, not far from the Dover ferry, where she was to study English. (And wouldn't it have been Huysmansesque of him to get that far and never bother to go into London.) Schwarz's 1997 catalogue (*The Complete Works*) offers three "Wasp or Sex Cylinder" studies—manuscript notes with sketches—of which he identifies two as "project(s) for an unrealized detail of the Bride's Domain in the *Large Glass*" (S 274, *Wasp*, and S 275, *Properties of the Wasp*) and the third as an "unrealized project for the Bride's domain of the *Large Glass*" also "reproduced in facsimile in the *Green Box*, 1934." This last design, *Wasp, or Sex Cylinder*, which is the one in the Pompidou Centre, was not only illustrated in Robert Lebel's foundational 1959 monograph Sur

*Marcel Duchamp*; it also appears in the decorative endpaper graphics of the original edition, of which William Anastasi has a copy inscribed by Duchamp. Here the graphic layout itself is catalogued as a work by Schwarz for involving Duchamp's personal intervention (S 563), presumably between November 1958 and May 1959, as well as the recycling of already facsimile notes and sketches from *The Green Box*, of 1934 (S 435). And just in case this seems too simple: Anastasi reports that in his copy of the first edition the cone points downward, not up, as in the Lebel endpapers as illustrated by Schwarz.

The only significant discrepancy I find between Anastasi's illumination of his written-out text and the Duchampian prototype concerns the loopy little curved feature atop the cone: what Anastasi shows and verbally describes as a "phallic...protrusion" that is "limp" in comparison with a comparable form in a drawing by Alfred Jarry, is actually a bit of a misprision, based on reading the swelling inside shadow of a thin little semi-hemispheric domical form as something like a fat worm or a little snail, and consequently phallic—perhaps by induction from the "Necktie" (or "*Cravate*"; S 259) of the "Chocolate Grinder," drawn earlier in the same year. Otherwise, Anastasi's cone points downward, like the Wasp prototype, penetrated by a right-angled tube up through its narrow base and then topped by a thick curved spout spilling back into its wide top like a filter or a percolator coffee pot.

—Speaking of which: while taking the textual source as Jarryesque and the image as basically Duchampian, I want also to suggest on the visual side a painting by Man Ray, *The Filter (Percolator)*, of 1917, exhibited at the Pennsylvania Academy in 1921 before being shown in Paris, but itself related to Duchamp's two *Chocolate Grinder* paintings, of 1913-14 (S 264, S 289-91), those dry-runs for the *Large Glass*. Other works of Man Ray also seem to take on retroactive influence, as I like to say, in light of Anastasi. In one of the most famous, *Lampshade*, 1919, re-produced—which is not the same as reproduced—by Arturo Schwarz, the re-doer of Duchamp's readymades, in 1959, a single unfurled conical spiral, non-formal in its deterministic inevitability, evokes the carefully stacked, fanning out *Three Conic Sections*, which Anastasi worked on in 1968 and showed at the Dwan Gallery in 1970. Otherwise, perhaps nothing by any other artist now seems as retroactively Anastasian to me as Man Ray's *Obstruction*, of 1920, that memorable mobile of ordinary household hangars hanging upon hangars, re-produced by Schwarz in 1964.

Now the absurdist iconography of the Duchampian Wasp is curiously non-absurdly akin to Duchamp's sometimes posited first readymade, the practically forgotten rotating chimney cowl or ventilator bought in 1915 in a New York hardware store and given to, only to be lost by, Louise Varèse (née Norton) and her husband Edgard (S 331). That piece was titled

*Pulled at 4 Pins*, literally translating "tiré à quatre épingles," a French figure of speech that finds its equivalent in "dressed to the nines" (though then what should not be overlooked is a potential extra tinge in English of being "at sixes and sevens," i.e., at loose ends or frazzled). Notwithstanding both André Breton and Gabrielle Buffet-Picabia's later referring to the object as a "weather vane," and as Duchamp himself said in a letter of 1964, Edgard Varèse managed at that time to recall: "This Readymade was in gray (unpainted) tin and it was not a weather vane but one of those round ventilators which are put on chimneys to make them draw better."<sup>2</sup> We also know what the lost readymade looked like because in 1964, despite calling it a weathervane, Duchamp produced an almost sentimentally lyrical reminiscence of it, the oddly lovely etching *Pulled at Four Pins*, of 1964 (S 609), based on the readymade and inscribed in French to indicate that the upper part turns while the lower part is fixed; so, as both parts are seen to share a single "axle" (axe), to which the stable cone is "fixed," the flighty dunce-cap of a top would whirl free in response to the wind.

There may be pataphysical potential in the fact that the most prominent formal feature of *Pulled at Four Pins*, the curved silhouette of its biretta-like top fin as ending in a knob-shaped terminal form,—potential that though *trouvé*, this form did manage uncannily to recapitulate, from Marcel's brother Raymond Duchamp-Villon's only famous sculpture, the "snout" of the 1914 bronze cubist *Horse*, while *not* however influencing the funnel-like form, suggestive of Joyce, that Duchamp conjured up only to omit from the *Large Glass* and that Anastasi, anyway, reassigns to Jarry.<sup>3</sup>

In the context of the *Large Glass* the purpose (!) of the Wasp was, by virtue of passing air currents, to guide the vaporous love gasoline upward from a lower to a higher temperature and/or pressure (*mais oui*!). Schwarz gives the text accompanying Duchamp's drawing as "**Ventilation**: [CROSSING-OUT] start from an interior / **draft**",<sup>4</sup> but as inscribed in Duchamp's drawing the key statement looks rather diagrammatic, with "Ventilation" over "Inside" at the left and "draft" over nothing at the right:

Ventilation: [CROSSING-OUT] Start from a draft Inside 11

The text that Anastasi's drawing at hand actually illuminates, like a drawn or painted figure accompanying text on a medieval manuscript leaf, begins with words of William Anastasi about Alfred Jarry and ends with Jarry's own words, all of course in Anastasi's hand. In fact, as it is Anastasi's custom with these sheets to color-code the authorial words of Jarry, Jovce and Duchamp, with black for his own, one can see here, as in a red-letter New Testament, exactly which words were first written by Jarry himself. The inscription begins in mid-sentence, with Anastasi mentioning one of those children's games of skill with which a ball is to be tossed up from and then caught upon a stick: "...and bears great resemblance to the 'ball-and-chain' drawings given [CROSSING-OUT] by Jarry's translator, which must have been a common toy during Jarry's life and Duchamp's childhood." Then comes the cone drawing, followed thusly: "Note that in Duchamp's drawing, consistent with my observation visa-vis the hapless bachelors, the phallic protrusion is 'limp' compared to the 'erected' version on the drawing of the toy. If the toy was designed like [CROSSING-OUT] Duchamp's drawing, you wouldn't be able to 'play.' And so it often is in life; and so also it is with the 'the bachelors' as Duchamp has designed them. [CROSSING-OUT] Jarry's story ends on a different note from Duchamp's-his Sisyphus is made of sterner stuff than the stuff of Duchamp's bachelors." Beyond this point, the handwriting is Anastasi's but the writing is Jarry's: "...And the Eternal opened his mouth and so did Mr. Sisyphus, and the Eternal listened, and [CROSSING-OUT] Mr. Sisyphus spoke thus: 'Dear Master, ...'"

What Anastasi is talking about here becomes clear when the quoted text is traced to Jarry's *Days and Nights: Novel of a Deserter* (1897), specifically a translation by Alexis Lykiard that includes a pair of explanatory cup-and-ball drawings, in one of which the ball, whether completely free or on a cord (or metaphoric "chain") comes to rest in a hollow at the end of the handle—presumably easier to score but also easier to lose—and the other in which the ball there sockets onto a phallic prong—harder to score but then very much "put away."<sup>5</sup>

In February of 2000, after Anastasi's drawings were done but before they were exhibited in Philadelphia and Dublin, Francis Naumann suggested not only that just such a toy was really the *very* first Duchampian readymade but that it was inspired by Jarry's (now already Anastasian) text. It seems that in 1910 a certain *bilboquet*, as the toy is called in French, just under a foot in overall length with handle and ball "docked" together, was given by Duchamp to an artist friend, Max Bergmann, as a souvenir of a shared night of erotic adventure in Paris. Naumann offers that the toy ball-cum-handle with naughty little impaling

prong, its ball inscribed with the word *bilboquet*, a dedication to Duchamp's friend Bergmann and the year, derives from Jarry, who not only "referred to" a bilboquet "in one of his novellas" but in whose 1901 *Almanach illustré*—in the illustration of which (amazingly enough) Pierre Bonnard collaborated—"the character Père Ubu is rendered vigorously playing with a bilboquet positioned between his legs (a possible allusion to masturbation, not so farfetched considering that one of the only rules of the game of bilboquet is that it be played by a single player)," the vignette in question being captioned "La jubilation de Père Ubu."<sup>6</sup>

By one of Jarry's novellas Naumann must mean *Days and Nights*, which we have seen Anastasi quoting. There the character Sengle "rereads" the story of Sisyphus in a mirror with wings, like either a "vanity" mirror or an altarpiece. Yet by a funny loop the matter reverts to the later, much more visually conspicuous device that Duchamp had rejected but that seems to reappear in Anastasi's illumination. For Jarry's "Mr. Sisyphus," whose burdensome rock has been sufficiently worn by wear to suggest a smooth sphere, alludes to the children's toy, bilboquet or cup-and-ball: "The Lord of hosts would install all along his porphyry mountain a scenic railway wagon made from the carcass of an enormous ready-eviscerated—what?— a huge [N. B.] *wasp (une guépe énorme desséchée)…*".<sup>7</sup> Jarry certainly sounds Duchampian when he proceeds to write, "The Eternal, if Mr. Sisyphus had not 'potted' his ball (*"placé' enfin sa boule"*), would have created perpetual motion, which is no small matter; since then he has sought other inventions so as to fabricate a machine involving man that will last a long time, or at least a century; he's made many attempts yet has come up with nothing presentable to date. That is why he starts over again the whole time—the only real Sisyphus."<sup>8</sup>

In reviewing these interrelations it does seem that the most parsimonious hypothesis would be the Anastasian one, of Jarry as source for the *bilboquet* idea in Duchamp as well as in Anastasi himself. So I can speculate that when Anastasi, reading Jarry, drew the device that recalls Duchamp's rejected Wasp motif (as well, perhaps, as the now unseated "original" readymade), he was, or might as well have been, thinking of both Jarry's equivalent motif and Duchamp's.

Let us, however, turn at a different angle from the funnel-like form of the Wasp to the earlier work of Joyce. Bill Anastasi's larger project has done much to open up an awareness of the Jarryesque and Duchampian in *Finnegans Wake* that on a modest scale I would like to offer a few observations and speculations in respect to *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Ulysses*.

There is a certain linguistic interest in the fact that, apart from the coffee-filter-like sieves, which of course did make it into the bottom, male half of the *Large Glass*, the Duchampian device takes the distinct form of a funnel, however inspired by bilboquet and/or readymade ventilator cap. It seems easy enough to say that the word "funnel" came into Middle English from Medieval Latin through Old Provençal—unless, with Joyce, we want reckon the Anglo-Norman "British" effacement of Celtic forms. In a remarkable dialogue in the fifth and last chapter of Joyce's *Portrait* an undergraduate Stephen finds himself at loggerheads with his English Jesuit dean—or, should we say, Jesuit but English dean, because the governing theme is the, so to speak, "black-man's burden" of having to put twice as much into being good at somebody else's thing. Today, one may think of the conflicted sense of inferiority/superiority of the schoolmaster teaching Latin to Irish-speaking children even as British forces execute the task of Englishing Irish place-names, in Brian Friel's play *Translations* (1980).

At this point Stephen Dedalus, whose competition paper in all too art-for-art's-sake aesthetics he will not be permitted to present, is challenging the dean's views but getting nowhere. Discussion turns from the metaphorical light of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas to the literal oil lamp by which Epictetus, the first-century Stoic, wrote:

> —To return to the lamp, he said, the feeding of it is also a nice problem. You must choose the pure oil and you must be careful when you pour it in not to overflow it, not to pour in more than the funnel can hold.

> > —What funnel? asked Stephen.

—The funnel through which you pour the oil into your lamp. —That? said Stephen. Is that called a funnel? Is it not a

tundish?

—What is a tundish? —That. The...funnel. ---Is that called a tundish in Ireland? asked the dean. I never heard the word in my life.

—It is called a tundish in Lower Drumcondra, said Stephen, laughing, where they speak the best English.

—A tundish, said the dean reflectively. That is a most interesting word. I must look that word up. Upon my word I must.

His courtesy of manner rang a little false, and Stephen looked at the English convert with the same eyes as the elder brother in the parable may have turned on the prodigal....

-Tundish! Well now, that is interesting!

—The question you asked me a moment ago seems to me more interesting. What is that beauty which the artist struggles to express from lumps of earth, said Stephen coldly.

The little word seemed to have turned a rapier point of his sensitiveness against this courteous and vigilant foe....He thought:

-The language which we are speaking is his before it is mine....His language, so familiar and so foreign, will always be for me an acquired speech. I have not made or accepted its words. My voice holds them at bay. My soul frets in the shadow of his language....

Stephen, disheartened suddenly by the dean's firm dry tone, was silent...9  $\,$ 

In the corresponding episode of the *Stephen Hero* text, which about a decade earlier—or just about a hundred years ago right now—produced pre-processed *matériel* for the *Portrait*, the question of the lamp, hence of the funnel, hence in turn of *tundish*, does not yet arise. Ethnic nationalism is not yet articulated either, perhaps, in view of the dating of the manuscript "Dublin, 1904" and "Trieste, 1914," because Joyce had in a sense got out of the imperial frying pan and into the fire, Trieste being then a center of resistance against Austrian rule that after World War I would become Italian. In the earlier version the aesthetic discussion more simply concerns representation, in a way that implicates the impact of photography though it could also be said almost to open a space for the readymade with a problematic remark, slashed for striking out by Joyce, on the artist as "a mediator, consequently gifted with twin faculties, a selective faculty and a reproductive faculty"; and in

something like Kandinsky's notion of the artist as apex of a triangle of fore-thrusting spiritual awareness, in *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* (1911), Joyce adds that the "perfect coincidence of the two artistic faculties Stephen called poetry and he imagined the domain of art to be cone-shaped."<sup>10</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* itself was first published as a book in New York, in 1916, while Duchamp lived there: although by then he had already drawn the relevant Wasp drawing in England, the discussion of the funnel would at least have appealed to his sense of linguistic charm.

IV

Apropos of William Anastasi's extensive trackings of a specter of Duchamp in *Finnegans Wake*, we are aware that the writer and the artist lived quite near one another for a time in Paris; but I want to play a hunch that I have had about Joyce's earlier masterpiece and New York, where the readymades were initiated. It is well into *Ulysses*, in the so-called Circe episode, in "Nighttown," soon after midnight, that, in one of those italicized Joycean stage-directions of sorts, Bloom passes in the hallway of the bordello a man's raincoat and rain-hat hanging on an "*antlered rack*."<sup>11</sup> The rather punningly redundant phrase—since in American English, at least, a "rack" is also a pair of antlers—calls to mind one of Duchamp's less notorious readymades, the lost *Hat Rack*, of 1917 (S 351; re-done in 1964), which one of the surviving photographs of the lost original readymades shows hanging in Duchamp's early New York studio.

Accompanied by Zoe Higgins, Bloom enters the music room, meeting there two other bawds named Kitty Ricketts and Florry Talbot. After a definite whiff of New York with the mention of Coney Island<sup>12</sup>—to which John Quinn, for one, the well-heeled Irish-American lawyer, had liked to take visiting intellectuals, such as John Butler Yeats, painter father of the poet, and Ezra Pound<sup>13</sup>—in a hallucination of Elijah taking the form of a faith-huckster above a rostrum draped with the American flag (which itself might suggest a Florine Stettheimer painting), the hearty American Elijah gives forth with: "If the second advent came to Coney Island are we ready? Florry Christ, Stephen Christ, Zoe Christ, Bloom Christ, Kitty Christ, Lynch Christ, it's up to you to sense that cosmic force"<sup>14</sup>, and rambling on, American-style, "A. J. Christ Dowie and the harmonial philosophy, have you got that?"<sup>15</sup> And don't the three women here—Florry, Zoe and Kitty—evoke in carnivalesque recapitulation the trio of art-world sisters with whom, early on in New York, Duchamp was fast friends—not surprisingly, after

having grown up with three female siblings himself—that is, the three Stettheimer sisters: Carrie, Florine and the one who took a fancy to Duchamp, Henrietta or Ettie, who wrote fiction under the rather amusing pen name Henrie Waste.

Had Joyce met Duchamp in Paris in 1921, he would long since have left behind the early New York "studio," which, connected as it was by a corridor to the Arensbergs' duplex, could have been a servant's room, where he had lived when "inventing" the hat-rack and other readymades. Well, for many years now it has seemed to me strongly suggestive of Duchamp for Joyce's American Elijah to proceed just here in *Ulysses* to say, "O.K. Seventyseven west sixtyninth street. Got me? That's it. You call me up by sunphone any old time. Bumboosers, save your stamps..."<sup>16</sup> For here Joyce's charmingly mock-New-York, Upper West Side address, is in fact closely parodic of Marcel Duchamp's actual address at the Arensbergs' place, which was 33 West 67th Street.

Much later in the same long episode, a character named Lynch points and says "The mirror up to nature." Next: —"(*Stephen and Bloom gaze in the mirror. The face of William Shakespeare, beardless, appears there, rigid in facial paralysis, crowned by the reflection of the reindeer antlered hatrack in the hall).*"<sup>17</sup> And finally, at the very end of the book another, amusingly phallic, mention of a hatrack recurs, almost as a reverberating musical motif.<sup>18</sup> Very well; the photograph of the hat-rack readymade illustrating the lost original in the 1941 *Box in a Valise* (S 484) and reproduced by Schwarz in place of the lost piece (at S 351), not only shows the original hanging in Duchamp's studio at 33 West 67th Street—Joyce's would-be 77 West 69th—but shows it, at that, before either an opening to the hall (such as might be hung with portieres), framed by woodwork, or else a large "hall"-type mirror, as Joyce has it.<sup>19</sup> Might Joyce at some point have seen this very photograph of circa 1917-18?

When Joyce moved to Paris in July of 1920, Duchamp was living in New York, though not on the settled basis of his early times at the "*Ulysses*" address from where, from mid-1915 until a sojourn of 1918-19 in Buenos Aires, to escape conscription, he had established his avant-garde notoriety.<sup>20</sup> From the summer of 1919, after the brief layover in England, Duchamp was in Paris five months, leaving for New York on December 27, 1919, arriving January 6, 1920 and staying for about a year and a half—at two West Side addresses other than the Joycean one. Only on June 6, 1921 did he sail for France, arriving on the 16th (i.e., Bloomsday!). That may not seem to allow much time for an impact upon Joyce's novel, just then approaching completion; but the two men were apparently staying fairly close by one another, and Joyce is known to have augmented the novel with many "last-call" additions.

Joyce could surely have heard of the aesthetic shenanigans of the Frenchman's definitive, earlier American phase, at the "*Ulysses*" address—including the readymades—through their mutual American patron, John Quinn. One way or another, it is Bill Anastasi's "illumination," from within his larger and evidently ever more fruitful obsession with Jarry and Joyce connections, that leads me to account for the possibility that Joyce could have come to write into *Ulysses* anything so Duchampian.

Well, I haven't proposed a theory, or even entered upon an overarching argument, so I suppose I should "fade" into a responsible critical generalization. Then let that be that the more I remedially review the contribution of William Anastasi to art and the general morale of art in his generation—especially to a form of conceptual art at least as seriously impinging on literature as the art of verbal texts with their own entailments as concerning itself with visual embodiment—the more fully I comprehend an uncommonly perspicacious neo-Duchampianism that now in a surprisingly Joycean way, with Jarry as provocateur to both, persists in sustaining the great game that is art.

#### Notes

1. Robert Lebel, *Marcel Duchamp*, trans. George Heard Hamilton (New York: Paragraphic Books, 1959), cat. 118(c), with pl. 60. All "S" numbers and volume/page citations here refer to the catalogue of Arturo Schwarz: *The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*, 2 vols. (New York: Delano Greenidge Editions, 1997). As a rejected identity for the bride herself the "Wasp" is not to be confused with the one of the "Nine Malic Molds" (or from the reverse side, the "Cemetery of Uniforms and Liveries") that takes conical form, tapering upward, and is identified as the undertaker.

2. Schwarz, The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp, 2: 635.

3. Outright "non-influence" of the same sort might extend not only to Brancusi's phallo-Duchampian *Princess X*, 1916, but even to certain knobbed forms in paintings of 1916-18 by Jean Crotti, with whom Duchamp had shared a studio in 1915 and who would become his brother-in-law: perhaps unless the uncanny give some berth to the non-uncanny as well as to the canny, there is no play in the game.

4. Schwarz, The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp, 2: 587.

5. Alfred Jarry, *Days and Nights; Novel of a Deserter* (1897), trans. Alexis Lykiard (London: Atlas, 1989), Bk. V, ch. ii, pp. 133-36, as cited, with notes; in the orig., *Les Jours et les nuits; Roman d'un déserteur*, in his *Oeuvres complètes*, vol. 1, ed. Michel Arrivé (Paris: Gallimard, 1972): 745-840, as cited. "Tossing" is British argot for masturbation.

6. Francis M. Naumann, "Looking at Art: Duchamp's Erotic Souvenir," Art News Online, February 2000 (http://www.artnewsonline.com/pastarticle.cfm?art\_id=656).

7. Jarry, Days and Nights, 135, with ed. note by Lykiard on bilboquet, 165 n. to p. 135; in the orig., Jarry, Les Jours et les nuits, 818. Furthermore, the "Danaides" are punished for killing off their husbands by being made to draw well-water over and over with *sieves*.

8. Ibid., 136; in the orig., 819.

9. James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (New York: Viking, 1956, repr. 1960): 188-90.

10. Joyce, *Stephen Hero*, ed., Theodore Spencer, new ed. by John J. Slocum and Herbert Cahoon (New York: New Directions, 1963): 77-78.

11. Joyce, Ulysses, The Modern Library, rev. ed. (New York: Random House, 1961): 502.

12. Ibid., 507.

13. B. L. Reid, The Man From New York: John Quinn and His Friends (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968): 198-99, 350.

- 14. Joyce, Ulysses, 507.
- 15. Ibid., 508.
- 16. Ibid.
- 17. Ibid., 567.
- 18. Ibid., 753.

19. After photographically reproducing notes for The Large Glass to be, in Paris, as The Box of 1914 (S285), Duchamp took the actual notes for his projected work to New York, where the Large Glass, or La Mariée Mise à Nu par ses Célibataires. Même, of 1915-23 (S404: Philadelphia Museum of Art), was made during the years in question, despite the stays in Argentina and France. Although he would not return to America until 1942, in Paris in 1934 he produced in an edition of 320 The Green Box, or La Mariée Mise à Nu par ses Célibataires Même (S435). Recently I speculated on the relevance to his Green Box of a late 18th century, guasi-erotic political spoof sending up French sympathy for the American Revolution: Richard Tickell's The Green Box of Monsieur de Sartine, Found at Mademoiselle du Thé's Lodgings (in French, La Cassette verte...), of which it happens that there were several Dublin 1779 English as well as Continental French editions; see "Where Were We." introd. to my ed. Marcel Duchamp in Perspective (1975), 2nd ed. (New York: Da Capo, 2002), xiii-xxxiv, esp. xxxi-xxxii. Given Franco-American war fervor just as Duchamp fled to Buenos Aires to escape being drafted into the U.S. Army—and no doubt shipped out to France—it is all the more curious to find that in 1916 this old Green Box was reprinted by a New York German-American antiquarian bookseller, C. F. Heartman, contemporaneously, that is, with the first edition as a book of Joyce's Portrait of the Artist by another New York German-American publisher. B. W. Huebsch. The present circumstances of imperialist war on Irag now highlight the low-frequency cultural resistance of these avant-garde publications by would-be "enemy aliens."

20. Dates here derive from Francis M. Nauman and Hector Obalk, eds., *Affectionately, Marcel; The Selected Correspondence of Marcel Duchamp* (Ghent: Ludion, 2000). Thanks to Jean-Michel Rabaté for advice on Joyce in Paris.

The fact that I stand before you as a founding member of the *Collegium* '*Pataphysicum Canadensis* grants no authority to what I am about to say, and what I do say, when I start to say it, should be assessed, and quite brutally assessed, against Jarry's claim that everything is 'pataphysics. I'll need to remark a little later in the paper on the historical confluences at the time of its invention, but let me first present Jarry's own succinct definition of this science of imaginary solutions and outline its two presidential laws.

'Pataphysics, whose etymological spelling should be epi (meta ta phusika) and actual orthography 'pataphysics, preceded by an apostrophe so as to avoid a simple pun [i.e. patte à physique, the foot, paw or flair of physic] is the science of that which is superinduced upon metaphysics, within or beyond the latter's limitations, extending as far beyond metaphysics as the latter extends beyond physics. Ex: an epiphenomenon being often accidental, 'Pataphysics will be, above all, the science of the particular, despite the common opinion that the only science is that of the general. 'Pataphysics will examine the laws which govern exceptions, and will explain the universe supplementary to this one; or, less ambitiously, will describe a universe which can be-and perhaps should be-envisaged in the place of the traditional one, since the laws which are supposed to have been discovered in the traditional universe are also correlations of exceptions, albeit more frequent ones, but in any case accidental data which, reduced to the status of the unexceptional exceptions, possess no longer even the virtue of originality.5

As the science of the particular, examining the laws which govern exceptions, 'pataphysics operates under the strict aegis of two appropriated laws: the *syzygy* and of the *clinamen*. Neither law originates with Jarry, and both pertain to the broad relationship of matter to motion. The former is a mathematical term while the latter derives from Lucretius' Roman version of classical Greek atomic theory.

### CLINAMEN

Lucretius, (ca 95-55CE) describes the phenomenon of the *clinamen atomorum* in Book II of his scientific poem *De Rerum Natura*:

# THE 'PATAPHYSICS OF AUSCHWITZ Steve McCaffery

Jean Baudrillard invokes a millennial 'pataphysics for the contemporary era, an epoch characterized by the unreality of the real, the disappearance of history and the historical subject, and the emergence of a radical scepticism about the general reality of events.<sup>1</sup> The topic of my paper might well touch on millennial history but only by way of a detour back through a middle decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The paper is also written against the broad background of a single interrogation that is spatial rather than definitional in its nature: not what is but where is 'Pataphysics? Where are its territorial emergences and historical interventions?

Traditionally Jarry's minor science has been considered a ludic vacation, the cognitive diversion of adult children, a practice contained within the fiction of Faustroll, and not to be taken seriously, but thanks to William Anastasi's credible research we are now beginning to understand the profound influence of Jarry's thoughts and writings on the work of both Duchamp and Joyce.<sup>2</sup> It was Gilles Deleuze who first addressed the serious dimension in 'pataphysics, in a short comparison with Heidegger.<sup>3</sup> As a superinducement upon metaphysics, 'pataphysics yields a ready asymptosis towards the Heideggerean project, and Deleuze focuses on three appositional preoccupations: technology and the machine, the Sign, and their common critique of Metaphysics. Absent in his discussion however, are the precursory reverberations of another key aspect of Jarry's science of imaginary solutions. Avoiding an outright assertion, Deleuze raises the question of Heidegger's speculations around the transition of technique into art, "Could one also say that Heidegger sees a transition toward art in the national socialist machine?"<sup>4</sup> I intend to pursue this line of thinking indirectly by examining a haunting apposition between the general law of 'pataphysics and that national socialist "machine" termed der Lager.

...so that the mind itself may not be subject To inner necessity in what it does– And fetch and carry like a captive slave– The tiny swerve of atoms plays its part At unanticipated times and places <sup>6</sup>

The literary appearance of this term is rare, yet its emergent moments are important. De Quincey overtly attributes the term to Lucretius in his "Letter to a Young Man" (*Works*, Vol. XIII, 85), and Coleridge speaks of a "*lene clinamen*, the gentle bias" in his *Aids to Reflection*. More recently, Harold Bloom adopts it as the first of his six revisionary relations, and Michel Serres describes it as "the minimal angle in a laminar flow" that "initiates a turbulence...the angle interrupts the stoic chain, breaks the *foedera fati*, the endless series of causes and relations. It disturbs, in fact, the laws of nature."<sup>7</sup> The clinamen, then, marks an atom's deviation from its path; its aberration from a stable flow and its consequent collision to produce a new formation. Whereas Science (that "totality of the world's legends" as Serres so aptly puts it) would harness any deviance to the logical perimeters of its own dyadic ontology, 'Pataphysics (as the science of imaginary solutions) inscribes and articulates the moment, condition, and the place where *the law is insufficient to prevent the clinamen*.

The origin of the concept of atomic declension can be traced beyond Lucretius to Greek Epicurean philosophy, a noteworthy fact if for no other reason than it betrays the belatedness of Jarry's science.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, to a pre-microscopic culture the existence of the atom, let alone an atomic swerve, can only be hypothesized but never proved, hence, this aspect of Epicureanism is patently an imaginary science.

### SYZYGY

In its astronomical use the term syzygy refers to a conjunction or opposition of two planets' systems, in their orbit around a third. In biology it denotes the conjunction of two organisms without the loss of identity. As a governing law of 'pataphysical methodology, it promotes those momentary oppositions as conjunctions in verbal meanings that always characterize the scientific discourse of imaginary solutions. Jarry's most famous contribution in this area is the semantic conjunction of space and time, *ether* and *eternity* to produce the semantic twin of "ethernity." a momentary conjunction in a logical space that carries along with

it the cataclysmic breakdown of a coupled opposition. Together, the clinamen and syzygy ensure our universe to be 'pataphysical, a universe in which existence is shattered and constructed by means of the simultaneous agency of declensional and conjunctive forces.

The clinamen was a central preoccupation in the resurgence of interest in 'Pataphysics (in the writings of Serres, Nancy, Derrida and Baudrillard for instance). My own argument focuses on Jarry's second law of declension: the syzygy. If the clinamen disturbs the laws of nature, then the syzygy reinforces those laws pertaining to exceptions, for the syzygy effects a confraternity of two anomalies. Moreover, the fusion and disappearance of oppositions are brought about not by way of a concordat but a sacrificial conjunction. Both the economy and outcomes of a syzygy are profoundly chiasmic, producing simultaneously a conjunction of opposites: affirmation and negation, truth and untruth, "the possibility of the incompossible."<sup>9</sup> Jarry's 'pataphysical theory of gravity obtains by way of syzygy so that "the fall of a body towards a center" is exactly the same as "the ascension of a vacuum towards a periphery."<sup>10</sup> Are we passing into night or retreating out of day is a question that expurgates the festive and lethal simultaneity of 'pataphysical syzygy.

Jarry himself describes a practical inducement of syzygia in the form of a mundane toilet brush he calls the *physic-stick* which, in its 'pataphysical reincarnation, serves as an efficient agent of revolution.<sup>11</sup> Spinning around its axis induces a heraldic, paralogical choreography whereby "in each quarter of every one rotation...you form a cross with yourself."<sup>12</sup> Whether Jarry's physic-stick inspired Duchamp's ready-made remains a moot point. However, it may be fruitful to rethink the *objet-trouvé* through the parological kinetics of the syzygy. Does not the act of appropriating, re-naming, and recontexualizing a bottle-rack or a snow shovel both effect an oppositional conjunction of art and utility and at the same time effectively demolish the bar which separates equipment from aesthetic object? Moreover, the rationale for the ready-made is inherent in the notorious postulate of 'Pataphysical Equivalence as I. L. Sandomir explains:

There is thus no difference whatsoever, either of nature or degree, between different minds, any more than there is any difference between their products, or indeed between one thing or another. For the Complete 'Pataphysician the most banal graffito equals the most consummate book, even the *Exploits and Opinions of Dr. Faustroll* themselves, and the humblest mass-produced saucepan equals the *Nativity* of Altdorfer.<sup>13</sup>

The syzygy, of course, enjoys an esteemed lineage. It is latent in Aristotle's claim "that

Contraries, when set beside each other, make the strongest appearance"<sup>14</sup> and reappears throughout history: in the *coniunctio oppositorum* of Avicenna, for instance, and the concordant discord that structured much of 17<sup>th</sup> century aesthetics. There is also a marked similarity between the *syzygy* and the Stoic conception of lived temporality as *cairos*. The latter relates to *syzygy* not as its conceptual enantiomorph but as a practical development out of the latter. *Cairos* remarks "the abrupt and sudden conjunction where decision grasps opportunity and life is fulfilled in the moment."<sup>15</sup> This would appear to endorse the spontaneous social assemblages of the Situationists, the later Happenings, and a broader poetics of bricolage that operates as a superinducement upon what is at hand. It is the syzygy moreover, as a momentary conjunction of opposites, that superinduces temporality and motion into the surreal image. Through a 'pataphysical redaction those famous definitions of the surreal image emerge slightly modified. It is as "Beautiful as the chance *and fleeting* encounter on a dissection table of a sewing machine and an umbrella" (Lautréamont) and "a *momentary* bringing together of two more or less distant realities" (Reverdy) and yet again "The transitory joining of two apparently unjoinable realities" (Ernst).

Ever since the mind developed as a machine to think without fingers, 'pataphysics has been around as a renegade rationality, whose project has been the ludic anamorphosization of Truth, Science and their reactionary structures, regulatory ideals and compromise formations. Ludic? By all means ludic. Yet a strict tenet of imperturbability is fundamental to all 'pataphysical endeavours.' Pataphysics is serious, for to effectively debunk the serious it must itself be taken seriously. Neither parodic, nor partaking of the logic of the absurd, 'Pataphysics operates as a decidedly unofficial contaminant, generated within, and as a part of, all or any scientific production. Installing itself within those rational endeavors of syllogism, ratiocination, and truth production, it asserts its own status as an essential and partconstitutional contaminant. Operating within patriarchal term(s), 'pataphysics eludes the power of both the scientific and the rational; it subverts their scope, problematizes the limits of their dominance, subjects them to a festive pulverization that opens up the implications of their discourse and thereby relativizes their dispensations. The syzygy and clinamen together strategize 'pataphysics' relation to the dominant space of logic. By abolishing rational gaps and demarcations, suspending (or ignoring) the law of the excluded middle, by reversing the movement of syllogistic difference and integration, these two laws (operating as discursive tools) inaugurate conjunctions, oppositions, laminations, and inclinations. Locating its main activity in the membranous space between scientific and artistic spheres, 'pataphysics continuously resuscitates a rational impertinence, a fulguration against the cogito.

'Pataphysics does not describe an historic moment (commencing with the birth of Alfred Jarry) but rather marks a trans-historic state of mind. The covering law of 'pataphysics is totality. Everything is 'pataphysics; either conscious 'pataphysics or else unconscious and the presidential choreography is incline, for the 'pataphysical is the clinamen of the scientific.

Let me revisit Jarry's definition. "Pataphysics will be, above all, the science of the particular, despite the common opinion that the only science is that of the general. 'Pataphysics will examine the laws which govern exceptions ...[.]" "Auschwitz," avers Georgio Agamben, "marks the end and the ruin of every ethics of dignity and conformity to a norm"<sup>16</sup> but does this make it 'pataphysical? Like National Socialism, 'pataphysics is less the repudiation than the culmination of a project called reason; both encounter the condition of the exception, and both respond with solutions—the one imaginary the other "final." It is surely coincidental, in the specific form of coincidence that is syzygy, that Jarry's science, launched in a novel and a cycle of plays, emerges at the same historical period as the concentration camp, whose origin remains contested between British and Spanish Imperialism at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and whose prevalent employment dates from World War I. To argue a causal link between 'pataphysics and the camp would be laughingly impertinent, but the rule of chance, of *l'accidence*, allows this conjunction of opposites to settle in a world whose very essence and cultural memory is, to say the least and the most, 'pataphysical.

Agamben's inestimable value in *Homo Sacer* is to have examined the juridicopolitical structure that made—and makes—an Auschwitz possible. Not born of orthodox law the camp emerges from the substitution of martial law to cover a state deemed to be an exception. In Prussia both protective custody or *Schutzhaft*, and the "protection of private freedom" (*Schutz der persönlichen Freiheit*), are legally implemented at the beginning of the 1850s, a measure designed to meet a state of emergency and such a degree of social unrest as to be declared *Ausnahmezustand*, that is, a state of exception.

The novelty within the Nazi resuscitation of this already trenchant institution within the governments of the Weimar lies in a subtly nuanced rewording of the German Constitution. No mention is made of a "state of exception", and the previously "provisional suspension of the Constitutional articles protecting personal rights" is now rendered "suspended until further notice."<sup>17</sup> Agamben notes the chilling consequences: "*The state of exception thus ceases to be referred to as an external and provisional state of factual danger and comes to be confused with juridical rule itself.*"<sup>18</sup> One Nazi jurist, Werner Spohr, called this new state of immanent exception as a "state of willed exception," an aptly paradoxical phrase that equally describes the atomic clinamen. That 'pataphysical origins of the camp

can be readily inferred from Agamben's own chilling analysis:

The camp is the space that is opened when the state of exception begins to become the rule....What is excluded in the camp is, according to the etymological sense of the term "exception" (*ex-capere*), *taken outside*, included through its own exclusion. But what is first of all taken into the juridical order is the state of exception itself. Insofar as the state of exception is "willed," it inaugurates a new juridico-political paradigm in which the norm becomes indistinguishable from the exception.<sup>19</sup>

As a superinducement of 'pataphysics into the space of the camp, this remarks both the culmination and the disinvagination of a juridico-'pataphysical dimension. For the law that governs the exception disappears precisely because a state of exception becomes the law outside the law.

Agamben offers a sober analysis of the syzygial, and arguably post-modern, nature of life in the camp as a complex, moebial conjunction of opposites. "Whoever entered the camp moved in a zone of indistinction between outside and inside, exception and rule, licit and illicit, in which the very concepts of subjective right and juridical protection no longer make any sense."<sup>20</sup>

Despite the grand 'pataphysician I. L. Sandomir's assurance that "The World is one great aberrance which, additionally, universally, is based upon an infinity of other aberrations" <sup>21</sup>, the dimensions, and dilations of the 'pataphysical aberration still remain. This paper does not seek to explain a Nazi Final Solution via the science of imaginary solutions, yet it does attempt to expose a 'pataphysical dimension within a part of its practical execution. And if Agamben's postulate that the camp is central to the project of biopolitics, indeed, that "the camp is the new biopolitical *nomos* of the planet"<sup>22</sup> then this paper could have been titled The 'Pataphysics of Guantanamo Bay. Alfred Jarry left 'pataphysics behind in his novel *The Supermale*, to pursue the open vista of possibilities beyond Being, a pursuit of great intrigue to Deleuze. Yet 'pataphysics is not over, its mission not accomplished, its imaginary desires still not fulfilled, and its fourth-dimensional historiography is still to be written.

2. See for instance William Anastasi with Michael Seidel, "Jarry in Joyce: A Conversation," *Joyce Studies Annual* 6, (Summer 1995): 39-58.

3. Gilles Deleuze, "An Unrecognized Precursor to Heidegger: Alfred Jarry," *Essays Critical and Clinical*, trans. Daniel W. Smith and Michael A. Greco (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997): 91-98.

4. Ibid., 195.

5. Alfred Jarry, "Elements of 'Pataphysics" in Evergreen Review 4.13 (May-June 1960): 131.

6. Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, trans. W. H. D. Rouse, Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975): 113.

7. Michel Serres, *Hermes: Literature, Science, Philosophy*, eds. Josué V. Harari and David F. Bell (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982): 153.

8. Lucretius' obvious debt is to the materialist ideas of Epicurus, who speaks of *parenklisis* of the atom in his *Letter to Herodotus*. Epicurus himself is indebted to his precursors Leucippus and Democritus.

9. Christian Bök, 'Pataphysics: The Poetics of an Imaginary Science (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2002): 41.

10. Alfred Jarry, *Selected Works*, ed. Roger Shattuck and Simon Watson Taylor (New York: Grove Books, 1965): 193.

11. Ibid., 245.

12. Ibid., 111.

13. I. L. Sandomir, "Opus Pataphysicum Inaugural Harangue" in Evergreen Review 4.13 (May-June 1960): 179.

14. Aristotle, Rhetoric, Book III, quoted in James Harris, Philological Inquiries in Three Parts (London: printed for C. Nourse, 1781): 50.

15. Giorgio Agamben, Infancy and History. Essays on the Destruction of Experience, trans. Liz Heron (London: Verso, 1993): 101.

16. Giorgio Agamben, Remnants of Auschwitz. The Witness and the Archive, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (New York: Zone Books, 1999): 69.

17. Giorgio Agamben, Homo Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998): 168.

18. Ibid.

19. Ibid., 169.

20. Ibid., 170.

21. Ibid., 178.

22. Giorgio Agamben, *Means without End. Notes on Politics*, trans. Vincenzo Binetti and Cesare Casarino (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000): 45.

### Notes

<sup>1.</sup> Jean Baudrillard, "Pataphysics of the year 2000," *The Illusion of the End*, trans. Chris Turner (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994): 1-9.

# JARRY IN DUCHAMP William Anastasi

In three essays—"Duchamp on the Jarry Road," Artforum, September 1991; "Jarry, Joyce, Duchamp and Cage," for the catalogue to the Venice Biennale, 1993; and "Jarry in Joyce," for the 1995 Joyce Studies Annual—William Anastasi presented part of his research on the sources for Marcel Duchamp's oeuvre, including both his visual works and the writings that accompanied them. His main finds were in the works of the French playwright and influential late-19<sup>th</sup> century cultural icon Alfred Jarry (1873-1907). Anastasi suggested that a significant number of telling details in Duchamp's work were derived directly from his reading of Jarry. Here, Anastasi suggests another set of relationships between the work of Duchamp and the writings of Jarry.

I will limit myself here to point to the close connections between the author of *The Supermale* and the author of *The Bachelor Machine* in a mirror relationship. — Jean Clair<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-three years before Marcel Duchamp decided to have himself photographed in women's clothes—giving birth to his famous alter ego Rrose Selavy—Alfred Jarry put on a pair of canary-yellow shoes belonging to the novelist Marguerite Eymery, known as Rachilde, to attend Stéphane Mallarmé's funeral. Jarry revered Mallarmé, a leader of the Symbolist school, as would Duchamp. Mallarmé had been to at least one soirée enhanced by Monsieur Jarry wearing Rachilde's velvet-laced slippers punctuated with large bows. Rachilde was the only woman Jarry had time for, with the conspicuous exception of his own mother. Jarry admired Rachilde's mind, praised her writing, and, totally out of character, tended to regard her as an equal.<sup>2</sup>

Jarry adored his mother to the point of obsession, and disliked his father with nearly equal fervor. Duchamp, by contrast, was not at all fond of his own distant mother, but had an abiding regard for his father. One could say that Duchamp's emotions in this quarter amounted to an inversion of Jarry's.

Duchamp's wrote: "Rrose Selavy finds that an incesticide must sleep with his mother before killing her; bedbugs are the rule."<sup>3</sup> In this handful of words Duchamp's alter ego gives a terse precis of one of Jarry's most autobiographically informative works, L'Amour Absolu (Absolute Love). This short novel tells of Emmanuel, who sleeps with his mother, then kills her. Duchamp's pun combines "incest" and "insecticide." Jarry, in a vivid passage picturing the incestuous joining, gives us the idea of a mirror and of an insect: "If their mouths fastened together like an insect and its peer on the other side of a mirror, it was to hold backfrom elsewhere—the swooning of their bodies."<sup>4</sup> Earlier in the novel, just after the mother first offers herself to her son, she suggests "a hansom to the Bois de Boulogne by the hour, or a private room." The narrative continues: "These words in no wise conjured up incest to him but rather the immediate reviviscence of the notary's wife. 'Be sure,' he decided to say, 'to include crabs."<sup>5</sup> Although the reference here seems to the swimming variety of crab, lice occur elsewhere in the novel, as they do, along with other insects and larvae, almost as a leitmotif throughout Jarry's works, symbolizing at various times decadence, metamorphosis, or renewal. And, by every account, the fictional lice were not without their living counterparts during the poverty-stricken writer's actual days and nights. "Bedbugs are de riqueur" works in more ways than one.

To peer a bit deeper into this "mirror relationship," consider Duchamp's proclamation, "Each word I tell you is stupid and false," a sort of customized version of the classic paradox set forth by Epimenides of Crete: "All Cretans are liars." If a statement declaring every word is false is itself false, it would mean the opposite. Or would it? Equally paradoxical is Duchamp's pleading stupid. Was this word thrown in as ironic counterpoint of André Breton accusing him of being the most intelligent man of the twentieth century? One of the prime tenets of Jarry's "pataphysics," his alternate hypothesis for the workings of the universe, is that opposites are identical. As Roger Shattuck phrases it in his essay "What is Pataphysics," for Jarry "The idea of 'truth' is the most imaginary of all solutions."<sup>6</sup> Duchamp lines up squarely behind this with another of his confessions, "I don't believe in truth." On occasion he could sound almost self-annihilating on the subject: "I am a pseudo, all in all, that's my characteristic." Jarry could have been describing Duchamp as well as Emmanuel, his incestuous hero of *L'Amour Absolu*, when he wrote, "Thus, being certain that in order to be understood, he can only tell lies, any lie is immaterial to him."<sup>7</sup>

In 1965, three years before Duchamp's death, the German art historian Serge Stauffer sent the artist a list of questions. Among these we find "Was Alfred Jarry an

influence?" Duchamp replied, "Not directly, only in an encouragement found in Jarry's general attitude toward what passed for literature in 1911."<sup>8</sup> Since Jarry had been four years in his grave by 1911, we can conclude that Duchamp's memory, in this instance, was faulty or that he was actually referring to the attitude found in Jarry's *writing*. But there is an excellent reason for that year to have come to mind vis-à-vis Jarry. It was in 1911 that Jarry's influential *Exploits and Opinions of Dr. Faustroll, 'Pataphysician* first appeared in print. Guillaume Apollinaire, with good reason, called it the publication event of the year. Ideas and imagery from this work crop up constantly, often barely disguised, in Duchamp's notes and artworks. Nobel laureate Octavio Paz showed an acute understanding of Duchamp's debt to Jarry when he wrote, "The best commentary on the *Large Glass* is *Ethernites*, the last book of the *Gestes et opinions du Docteur Faustroll.* A doubly penetrating commentary because it was written before the work was even conceived."<sup>9</sup> The reach of this pithy observation becomes more apparent when we remember Duchamp's global statements, "The *Large Glass* is the most important work I ever made," and to Arturo Schwarz, "In my whole life...I have done but one work, the *Large Glass*."

In the face of the evidence, Duchamp denying Jarry as a direct influence looms as a fib of marvelous dimensions. On the other hand, Duchamp's statement to Calvin Tomkins, "Rabelais and Jarry are my gods, evidently,"11 fits quite well. And if Rabelais, buried four centuries earlier, is the dead god, Jarry alive and raising hell until Duchamp was 20, is the living one. Jarry openly admired Rabelais, his "eternal favorite."<sup>12</sup> Duchamp may have noticed in Faustroll that of the 27 volumes listed in the doctor's library, 26 are individual titles of various authors. Only in Rabelais's case does a name stand alone, signaling that his entire oeuvre is being so honored. But it is not Rabelais's imagery that keeps striking us reading Duchamp's notes, it is Jarry's. Duchamp probably denies Jarry as a direct influence to one writer, and blurs the issue with another, because he was loathe to publicly hitch his cart to the same genius openly adored by Picasso, Dali, Miró, and Ernst, as well as most of the Futurists and other Surrealists and Dadaists. This is consistent with Duchamp's "I-stand-alone" posture. By the time of Stauffer's question he vigorously resisted associating with groups or trends. As he once summed up his view of the scene, "In a shipwreck, it's every man for himself." Duchamp's friend John Cage, in a 1991 conversation we had about the artist's discrete use of Jarry's imagery, said, "Well, he was a wonderful man and I was extremely fond of him. But he did love secrets."13

The truth is that Duchamp, in his own words, had clearly pointed to Jarry as a direct influence more than half a century earlier when, in 1914, he wrote:

Arrhe est à art que merdre est à merde:

arrhe	merdre	
art	-	merde <sup>14</sup>

An English translation might read, "Deposit is to art as shitte is to shit."

In this art-defining formula, the only word not found in any dictionary is Jarry's by then famous coinage. Merdre, where he added an "r" to merde, as Duchamp later would to "Rose." He created a merde with the same number of r's as in his own name. Again, see "Rrose."15 (If, as Jarry's 'pataphysics avows, opposites are identical, a rose could easily equal excrement.) Merdre was the opening word of Ubu Roi, Jarry's nose-thumbing, map-altering play of 1896, which by 1914 was widely recognized as having marked the end of one epoch in the arts and the beginning of another. Of the three conventional words in the formula, two give no challenge to the translator. Merde means shit in French and art is art in both languages. Only arrhe (which sounds suspiciously close to a carefully mouthed "Jarry" without the "J") permits a number of distinct possibilities. The most common translation is "deposit." The erotic was a constant preoccupation with Duchamp, as it certainly had been for Jarry. (Rrose Selavy's name is a pun on Eros, c'est la vie.) At the age of 72, looking back on his long career, Duchamp said, "Eroticism is a subject very dear to me...In fact, I thought the only excuse for doing anything was to introduce eroticism into life. Eroticism is close to life, closer than philosophy or anything like it; it's an animal thing that has many facets and is pleasing to use, as you would use a tube of paint."<sup>16</sup> Given this outlook, one can easily guess that his use of the word "arrhe" points more to the sexual than to any other place on the compass. From a primitive male point of view, a deposit of semen is the goal of each act of sexual intercourse. This could not have been overlooked by Duchamp, the punster responsible for "Have you already put the hilt of the foil in the quilt of the goil?"<sup>17</sup> Therefore, one interpretation of his formula must be: "My fucking is to your art as Jarry's shit is to your shit." Duchamp liked to say that he was not an artist, but a breather. Could he have been using the word "breather" as a euphemism for another common function of the species? That he saw sexual intercourse as hardly more complicated than breathing is implied by his lifestyle in those years and by his remark, admittedly far from original, "You can have a woman any time you want one."

Arrhe can also mean earnest pledged or money advanced, which would give us: "Money advanced is to art in general as Jarry's shit it to shit in general"—no doubt Duchamp's puckish way of saying "Jarry's wake-up call for twentieth-century art is like money in the bank for me." While Duchamp denied being a conscious alchemist,<sup>18</sup> turning shit into money does seem next door to transforming lead into gold.

An ancient French proverb tells us that money had no smell. Jarry disagrees. In Ubu Roi, phynance is equated with merdre.<sup>19</sup> Jerrold Seigel says of Jarry, "He was perhaps the first figure to make direct confrontation with his audience a generating principle of his work. All the twentieth-century movements that make action and provocation central to artistic practice were foreshadowed by him."<sup>20</sup> Duchamp's upended urinal, Fountain of 1917, was seen as the first all-out provocation in the visual arts. The artist was simply watering down Jarry's merdre. A naively tautological "formula" might be composed which starts with the last word of the arrhe formula and ends with "Fountain: Merde est à toilette que pisse est à urinoir -Shit is to toilet as piss is to urinal." In Jarry's Les Minutes de sable memorial, with its Palotins pissing through a faucet, the chorus leader Barbapoux (Beardlice), indicating a sewer system, says, "Let us dive into these sea-green undergrounds." The act begins with him singing a hymn in which he demands that various ancient thrones and altars symbolizing past art and philosophy be thrown into the pit or whirlpool (gouffre). "Under our magic hands, the moisture and darkness with scatter in libations that make the earth fertile. And, in our art...the filthy is glorified." Jarry's action has Beardlice, clearly representing the author's position, diving underground. Duchamp's famous statement that the artist must go underground is a stunningly literal echo. Jarry's depiction of the burying of the past as soil renewal can be read as an incisive prophesy of Duchamp's stance and eventual achievement. And with his urinalon-a-pedestal, Duchamp seems to have gone out of his way to make Jarry's words flesh: "In our art...the filthy is glorified." Four years after Fountain, Duchamp creates Rrose. The New York public of 1921 would see cross-dressing as no less a provocation than did the Paris public of Jarry's time.

There is other striking evidence of Jarry's direct influence on Duchamp three years before the *arrhe* formula. In 1911, the very year or *Faustroll*'s publication, Duchamp painted *The Coffee Grinder*, which he would eventually call his "window to the future." With *arrhe/merdre* and dust preserving,<sup>21</sup> with the clock in profile<sup>22</sup> and the unscrewing of urinals, <sup>23</sup> we see Jarry's verbal imagery appearing in visual or altered verbal form in Duchamp. In the case of *The Coffee Grinder* we see a painting cunningly based on a picture of Jarry's. (Through known mainly for his writing, Jarry did some paintings and made numerous primitively brutal prints.<sup>24</sup>)

It has been suggested that *The Coffee Grinder* is the first painting which depicts motion diagrammatically. However, a Jarry woodcut made fifteen years earlier, which actually resembles a diagram, not only depicts motion, but a similar kind of motion. And it

accomplishes this using the identical graphic device, a circular dotted line moving clockwise and ending just short of twelve o'clock. Jarry's depiction ends with a blob, Duchamp's ends with an arrow. The print, titled La jubilation du Pere Ubu, depicts Jarry's anti-hero captured in the unglamorous throes of masturbation, caustically disguised as the popular French diversion of cup and ball—or rather its obscene variant involving a prong and ring. (Jarry, presumably signifying futility, shows a prong and a ball.) His oversized scrotum seems to correspond to the base of the grinder, his left hand gripping the phallus shape becomes for Duchamp the gear which encircles the vertical shaft near the top of the base. The thin tip of the prong, or Ubu's member, is rendered almost exactly in Duchamp's painting. And Ubu's right arm and hand prefigures, in angle and position, the dark form which starts large and rectangular near the painting's left border, becoming thinner and curved as it points to the gear. If we visualize Ubu's body as box-like instead of spherical and raise the do-it-yourself sketch to face level. the identification is persuasive. In support of this reading recall that within two years Duchamp would paint Chocolate Grinder No. 1, directly associating it with masturbation in his notes: "The bachelor grinds his chocolate himself." Components of "The Bachelor Machine" section of the Large Glass include "Vicious circle," "Monotonous fly wheel," and "Onanism."25

On the same page of the Pleiade edition of Jarry's *Oeuvres completes*, we find another woodcut print which, in its childish peep-show way, points to Duchamp's last exhibited work, the *Etant Donnes*. Titled *O. L'admiration (le nombril du Pere Ubu)*, it shows our ubiquitous anti-hero gleefully exposing his navel. But except for the title, we would swear that Pa is proudly parading a vagina, and a fairly outsized one at that. In the print, Ubu holds up his tunic so that it completes the oval started by his body—we see an oval within an oval. In Duchamp's posthumously exhibited tableau the vertical oval made by the hole through the brick wall recalls that print's horizontal oval. The sprawled female figure has a visible navel, but an even more visible vagina—in related earlier works referred to by Duchamp as "my woman with open pussy."<sup>26</sup> Ubu uses both hands to help reveal his anatomy, Duchamp's woman uses her only visible hand to hold a lamp up to the proceedings. The tying of this print to the *Etant Donnes* supplements my earlier identification of two female characters from *The Supermale* as sources for the figure in Duchamp's opus posthumous.<sup>27</sup>

Jarry repeated themes incessantly, and they continually show up in Duchamp's work. In the *Large Glass* notes we find that the bride and the bachelors are machines whose only function is sex. There are, before Jarry, two important nineteenth-century precedents for the idea of a machine-woman: *The Sandman*, a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann of 1817—later dramatized in Offenbach's opera, *The Tales of Hoffmann*—and the novel *L'Eve future (Eve of* 

the Future) of 1880-86, by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam. Romantic love is the *raison d'etre* for both stories. Jarry may well have been influenced by these works, well known in his time, and Duchamp must have known of them as well. But when anthropomorphic, libidinous robots appear in Jarry, romantic love has nothing to do with it—equally true of Duchamp's bride and bachelors as revealed in his notes. And Jarry alone of the three precursors gives us male as well as female machines—bachelors as well as brides.

Fernand Léger once observed Duchamp, in the midst of motors and propellers at a Paris aviation show, turning to Brancusi and saying, "Painting is finished. Who can do anything better than this propeller?"<sup>28</sup> One is immediately reminded of a line in Jarry's *Visions of Present and Past*: "Today we behold, alas, a universal substitution of Science for Art, and it is the Machine that may achieve the great Geste Beau in spite of our esthetic will."<sup>29</sup> And it sounds as though Jarry's "esthetic will" ran out of patience entirely when he wrote, "To hell with esthetics." Duchamp echoes this sentiment too, though he makes it more personal, with his pronouncement that he wanted to kill art—"for myself."<sup>30</sup>

Duchamp presented machine-made objects as artworks and has sex-hungry machines as the sole inhabitants of his *Large Glass*. Jarry's *Les Palotins* are robots—rubberized locomotive servants. We learn, in *Visions*, that "They are/Mechanical, yet regain their strength only by resting, like/Living creatures in ophidian casings of tin."<sup>31</sup> In *Ubu Cuckolded*, they climb out of their (now stainless-steel) boxes and recite, "We get our eats through platinum teats.<sup>32</sup> We pee through a tap without a handle/<sup>33</sup> And we inhale the atmostale/Through a tube as bent as a Dutchman's candle!" And though mere machines, sex is in their repertoire: "In our ridiculous looniforms/<sup>34</sup> We wander through streets so pansy,/Or else we plug the bockle-and-jug/Of every slag who takes our fancy."

In a 1902 article for *La Revue Blanche*, titled "Wife-beaters," Jarry tells of a "matrimonial agent who was at the same time a large rubber manufacturer" who made "spouses of elastic rubber available for two thousand francs per specimen, three thousand with a made-to-order head." We learn that "one enters into communication with them by means of a valve," (machines have valves) and are told that "honeymooning in their company is incomparable." (Another term for a honeymooning wife would be "bride.") It is ready-made machine-brides that Jarry is depicting.<sup>35</sup>

The machine-bride and the ready-made are arguably the two most entrenched ideas to be found in Duchamp's entire oeuvre. And, since valves regulate flow, it sounds as though Duchamp's bride, like Jarry's counterpart, might be "communicated" with through a similar device. In posthumously published notes for the *Large Glass*, under the heading

"Compression," we find: "cones in elastic metal (resembling udders) passing drop by drop the erotic liquid which descends toward the hot chamber, onto the planes of slow flow, to impregnate it with oxygen required for the explosion. the dew of Eros." (Emphasis and punctuation Duchamp's.) Back to Jarry: "The nice people of whom we speak are no different from real women, only they suffer more quickly the ravages of time: the rubber cracks and 'dies' after about three years. It must be repainted and the epidermis loses its suppleness. But there are so many 'natural' women who need to repair themselves everyday! Besides, they [the un-natural spouses] can prolong their duration with some treatments, for example by storing them in a cool place, such as a good cellar.<sup>36</sup> They are very reserved and docile and apart from their natural elasticity, lack all intitative.<sup>37</sup> One can lead them on in the world without their committing too many absurdities. Any uncalled-for flirtatiousness only opposes the delay of their conquest."<sup>38</sup> And they are incomparable honeymooners, "owing to the economy of transport." Meaning, of course, that among other advantages, they can be carried in a suitcase. See Duchamp's Box in a Valise. Considering that "box" is common slang for vagina, and that the motorized bride is the star of Duchamp's opus magnum, the match with Jarry's honeymooning robot is irresistible.

Jarry begins a 1901 article describing "A very young person, fresh faced, of modest appearance and very likely virgin if we are to believe some dozen aged and respectable men who pleased themselves to verify this virtuous detail."<sup>39</sup> Duchamp's bride motor "must appear as an apotheosis of virginity."<sup>40</sup> In another article, "Time in Art" from 1902, Jarry describes "The Eternal" as "a true artist [with] the attitude of the woman consumed with curiosity, with timid desire." Duchamp's bride "transmits her timid-power—she is this very timid-power." But at other times, she doesn't sound too timid since she "goes so far as to help towards complete nudity by developing in a sparkling fashion her intense desire for the orgasm." In *The Supermale*, Ellen Elson says, "I'm not naked enough. Couldn't I take this thing off my face?" The mask to which she refers is the sole stitch preventing complete nudity as she assists Marcueil in reaching his record 82 consummations in 24 hours. And a clear reference is made to her own desire for orgasm at the end of this impressive feat when she surprises her lover with these words: "At last we're through with the betting to please...Now let's think of ourselves. *We haven't yet made love...* for pleasure!"

The more one compares Duchamp's notes and conceptions with Jarry's novels, plays, and articles the stronger the certainty that when Duchamp talked of the viewer's "deciphering and interpreting" the work of art in order to "complete" it, he knew that without a thorough study of Jarry's works such completion of his own work would not be possible.<sup>41</sup> And

it is of further significance that Duchamp's larger aesthetic credo couples so snugly with Jarry's world view. The myriad connections between minutiae in the artist's notes and specifics in Jarry's works echo in an almost seamless accord of symphonic breadth. The bulk of Duchamp scholarship has concentrated on rehearsing the *differences* between him and everybody else. Jarry's works too are *different*, notwithstanding the army of influences he was in the habit of citing. A close comparison of the products of these two intellectual debtors strongly supports the thesis that, for Marcel Duchamp, the *Oeuvres completes* of Alfred Jarry was the ultimate *ready-made*.

#### Afterword

...we shall not have succeeded in demolishing everything unless we demolish the ruins as well. But the only way I can see of doing that is to put up a lot of fine, well-designed buildings. -Alfred Jarry<sup>42</sup>

Assuming any point of view, what Marcel Duchamp did for art is without precedent. Pro: He was a liberator who presided over a needed reordering of aesthetics in our culture. Contra: He was the most abruptly destructive phenomenon in the history of art. Asked about the sources behind his iconoclastic innovations, he would answer that it was all from literature. When pressed for names he often mentioned Jean-Pierre Brisset, Jules Laforgue, Comte de Lautréamont, and Raymond Roussel. On other occasions he brought up Mallarmé and Gaston de Pawlowski. My studying suggests that the use of ideas and imagery from these writers is slight, that they resemble red herrings more than they do muses. I believe that Craig Adcock was on solid ground when he said, "I didn't see any Duchamp in books like Gaston de Pawlowski's. I am just curious if casual references on Duchamp's part to those kinds of mystical sources may have been intended to mislead us a little bit or to put scholars onto the wrong track."<sup>43</sup> Supporting this view, a solid parallel exists in Jarry, whose whole approach delighted in ridiculing literal minded scholars.<sup>44</sup>

Duchamp not only failed to list Alfred Jarry as one of his direct influences, he went on record denying as much. When Arturo Schwarz suggested obliquely that Jarry may have been the source for a drawing (*To Have the Apprentice in the Sun*, 1914) the artist did not deny it, but managed to gracefully change the subject without confirming it.<sup>45</sup> Yet, he himself would sometimes mention Jarry unbidden. When asked what Même (Even) signified in the title of his "one work," *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)*, he answered, "It's like Jarry's 'ha-ha'," referring to the one-word vocabulary of Faustroll's baboon. In a letter published in 1959 Surrealist magazine *Medium*, Duchamp wrote, "It is a pleasure for me to see that there is more than '*arassuxiat*' ["*art à succes*"] in Paris. By plagiarizing Jarry we can put patArt up against the current pomposity." There are three interviews concerning Dada during which Duchamp refers to Jarry as a Dadaist the way Rabelais and Aristophanes are Dadaists. In one of his responses, he adds, "a great man" after mention of Jarry. My view is that Jarry was *the* great source for Duchamp. Keeping this to himself, while strewing the works and notes with intriguing clues, became a game between *us* and *them* which he would pursue to the end with intermittent energy, but consistent amusement.

#### Notes

1. Clair's brief contribution to the exhibition catalogue "Duchamp," Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, 1977, 110.

2. Keith Beaumont, Alfred Jarry: A critical and biographical study (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984), 38, 186.

3. "Rrose Selavy trouve qu'un incesticide doit coucher avec sa mere avant de la tuer; les punaises sont de riguer." Marcel Duchamp, Salt Seller, Michel Sanouillet and Elmer Peterson, eds. (New York: Oxford Press, 1973), 105.

4. Alfred Jarry, L'Amour Absolu (Absolute Love), written in 1899, trans. by Joachim Neugroshel for Lotus Magazine, (1976): 41.

5. Ibid., 38. Emmanuel's father is a notary, by neat coincidence the same occupation as Duchamp's actual father. See Alice Goldfarb Marquis, *Eros, c'est la vie* (Troy, New York: Whetston Publishing Company, 1981): 6.

6. Roger Shattuck, "What is 'Pataphysics," *Evergreen Review Reader: A ten-year anthology* (New York: Castle Books, Grove Press, Inc., 1967): 290.

7. Jarry, L'Amour Absolu (Absolute Love), 49.

8. Quoted in Calvin Tomkins, Marcel Duchamp: A Biography (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1996): 73.

9. Octavio Paz, Marcel Duchamp: Appearance Stripped Bare (New York: Viking, 1978): 186.

10. Arturo Schwarz, The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp (New York: Abrams, 1970): 140.

11. Tomkins, Marcel Duchamp: A Biography, 73.

12. Beaumont, Alfred Jarry: A critical and biographical study, 173.

13. Anastasi, "Jarry, Joyce, Duchamp, and Cage," catalogue to the Venice Biennale, 1993.

#### 14. Duchamp, Salt Seller, 24.

15. In Alfred Jarry, *The Supermale*, first published in 1902, trans. by Ralph Gladstone and Barbara Wright (New York: New Directions, 1964), masses of full blown roses, "as fresh as if they had just been picked," suddenly, and magically, engulf the speeding railway car carrying the virgin Ellen Elson, full of desire, to her eagerly sought deflowering. She will, before this event, tell her lover-to-be that he must have been, in a previous life, "a very, very old courtesan." Duchamp will call his Rrose Selavy an old whore.

16. Interview with George H. Hamilton and Richard Hamilton, BBC Broadcast, Art and Anti-art, London, 1959. Quoted in Schwarz, 80.

17. The first version in French was, "Faut-il mettre la moelle de l'epee dans le poil de l'aimee?"

18. Duchamp to his friend Lebel: "If I have practiced alchemy, it was in the only way it can be done now, that is to say without knowing it." Robert Lebel, *Marcel Duchamp* (New York: Grove Press, 1959).

19. Jarry, in the text written for the premiere of *Ubu Roi*, published by *the Revue la critique*, 1896. Freud first equates money with excrement the following year, 1897. Freud's letter to Wilhelm Fleiss, December 22, 1897: "I can scarcely enumerate for you all the things that I—a modern Midas—turn into excrement." *Sigmund Freud, Standard Edition*, Volume I, 1897, (London: The Hogarth Press, 1966) 272.

20. Jerrold Seigel, Bohemian Paris: Culture, Politics and the Boundaries of Bourgeois Life 1830-1930 (New York: Viking, 1986).

21. In *Faustroll* Jarry tells of "even layers of dust carefully preserved...for many months." From Alfred Jarry, "Exploits and Opinions of Doctor Faustroll 'Pataphysician," *Selected Works of Alfred Jarry*, trans. by Roger Shattuck, edited by Roger Shattuck and Simon Watson Taylor (New York: Grove Press, 1965), 183. Duchamp, in a *Green Box* note for the *Large Glass*: "For the sieves in the glass—allow dust to fall on this part [for] 3 or 4 months." From Duchamp, 53.

22. Jarry: "Why should anyone claim that the shape of a watch is round...since it appears in profile as a narrow rectangular construction, elliptic, on three sides?" Duchamp: "The clock seen in profile so that time disappears, but which accepts the idea of time other than linear time." Apropos of this, Keith Beaumont's biography of Jarry states, "The whole of Jarry's work...can be seen as the expression of an attempt to 'deny' time, and to escape from its eternally revolving wheel."

23. In *The Supermale*, 183, General Sider says to Marcueil (the supermale), "I often...unscrewed...urinals," and later, "What are you doing that's new? Have you stopped wrecking urinals?". Duchamp's urinal-as-art inevitably reminds us of Jarry's remark "Screw good taste." Jarry, from his adolescence on, was fascinated by the ways and means of sewage. The last two acts of his *Ubu Cuckholded* actually take place in a lavatory and the cess pool which relieves it of its daily burden. Alfred Jarry, *The Ubu Plays*, trans. by Cyril Connolly (New York: Grove Press, 1965): 97, 103.

24. Jarry sometimes signed his paintings with the name of his famous alter ego Ubu, as Duchamp would later sign works Rrose Selavy.

#### 25. Duchamp, Salt Seller, 56.

26. The earliest of these was *Etant Donnes le Gaz de'Eclairage et la Chute d'Eau*, 1948-49—a figure with one lifted leg, whose upper torso seems half male, half female.

27. The girl who is found "raped to death" in the woods surrounding Marcueil's estate, and Ellen Elson, the great love of Marcueil's life. William Anastasi, "Duchamp on the Jarry Road," *Artforum* (September 1991).

28. Friedrich Teja Bach, Margit Rowell, Ann Temkin, *Brancusi:* 1876-1957 (Philadelphia Museum of Art and Cambridge and London: The MIT Press, 1995): 51.

29. Jarry, "Visions of Past and Present," trans. by Simon Watson Taylor, in *The Selected Works of Alfred Jarry*, trans. by Roger Shattuck and edited by Roger Shattuck and Simon Watson Taylor (New York: Grove Press, 1965).

30. Quoted by Jasper Johns in an appreciation published after Duchamp's death in Artforum, November 1968.

31. Jarry, L'Amour Absolu (Absolute Love), 110.

32. From the *Green Box Notes*: "The machine with 5 hearts, the pure child of nickel and platinum, must dominate the Jura-Paris road." Duchamp, 26. Jarry's same Palotins, in *Guignol*, carry a nickel-plated pike on which to impale Ubu's adversaries.

33. Recalling Duchamp's Gotham bookstore window display featuring a mannequin with a faucet protruding from the thigh, *Lazy Hardware* of 1945. Schwarz, *The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*, 521.

34. Duchamp's "first sketch" for *Nine Malic Moulds* (1913) is titled *Cemetery of Uniforms and Liveries*. Illustrated in Schwarz, *The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*, 440. From the *Green Box* notes: "Malique moulds. (Malic(?)) By Eros' matrix, we understand the group of 8 [sic] uniforms or hollow liveries." Duchamp, *Salt Seller*, 51.

35. Hoffmann's and de l'Isle-Adam's machine-women, far from being ready-mades, are meticulously custom-crafted and one of a kind.

36. Green Box Notes: "the fork will penetrate into the basement through two holes." "The bachelor machine...far from being in direct contact with the Bride. the desire motor is separated by the air cooler...This cooler (graphically) to express the fact that the Bride, instead of being merely an a-sensual icide, warmly rejects (not chastely) the bachelor's brusque offer." Duchamp, The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even, a typographical version by Richard Hamilton of Duchamp's Green Box Notes. Trans. by George Heard Hamilton (New York: Wittenbron; London: Percy Lund, Humphries, 1969), unpaginated.

37. Ibid.: "The Bride [has a] motor with quite feeble cylinders," And, of "the glider" we're told, "It comes: By frictions..."and it "responds elastically."

38. Ibid.: "Kind of Sub-Title/Delay in Glass" "the Bride does not refuse this stripping by the bachelors, even accepts it since she furnishes the love gasoline..."

39. Jarry, "Woman's Voting Cards," Le Revue Blanche (September 1901).

40. In *The Supermale, L'Amour Absolu,* and *Messalina* each heroine is described as a virgin, the first accurately, the second symbolically, the third ironically.

41. Duchamp's famous remark about posterity "completing" the work of art is anticipated by Jarry's statement in *The Supermale* that "[art] works must wait for some additional beauty...which the future holds in store. Great works are not created great; they become so." Jean Clair, present head of the Picasso Museum, Paris, recalled in a symposium (Duchamp. Colloque de Cerisy) cited in the *Pleiade Oeuvres Completes of Jarry*, that Duchamp, "knew Jarry practically by heart" (Vol II, 786). In the Cabanne interview, granted the year before Duchamp's death, we find: Duchamp: "You know, people have poor memories." Cabanne: "Not you. You have a fantastic memory." Duchamp: "In general, memory of the remote past is quite exact." *Dialogues with Marcel Duchamp*, (New York: Viking Press, 1967).

42. "Nous n'aurons point tout demoi si nous ne demlissons meme les ruines! Or je n'y vois d'autre moyen." From the preface to Ubu Enchained.

43. The Definitively Unfinished Marcel Duchamp, edited by Thierry de Duve (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1991): 169.

44. For a clear-cut example, observe the unrelenting scorn heaped on Doctor Bathybius in *The Supermale*.

45. Schwarz, The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp, 175.

# JARRY AND JOYCE William Anastasi

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But we always keep the dearest things to ourselves. — James Joyce, 1901

Less than four pages into Ellman's biography of Joyce we come across a barrage of rhetorical questions designed to impress on the reader the uniqueness of James Joyce among writers of our time. That Joyce was unique no one doubts. But he was not unique in the way that these questions set out to demonstrate.

Ellman's first question is, "What hero in the novel has, like Stephen Dedalus, lice?"<sup>1</sup> Answer: Sengle, hero of Jarry's *Days and Nights*. He is disinfected along with his entire regiment because of the prevalence of lice. Chapter 33 of Jarry's *Faustroll* is titled 'Concerning the Termes,' which, we are told, is "comparable to the *invisibility* of the red *louse...*"<sup>2</sup> Joyce, on page 10 of *Ulysses*, quotes a ditty: "*I am the boy / That can enjoy / Invisibility.*" He goes on to describe the mother's "shapely fingernails reddened by the blood of squashed lice..." Jarry, too, uses the words *blood*, *fingernails*, and *red*.

Ellmann goes on to ask, "What other hero defecates...like Bloom before our eyes?"<sup>3</sup> Answer: Jarry's marine bishop Mendacious, hero of chapters 30 and 31 of *Faustroll*. The attendant circumstances all but assure us that Joyce used the passage as a spur to his imagination. The Bishop not only defecates before our eyes, like Bloom, but, like Bloom, reads while so doing. And just as Bloom is reading a piece by a sentimental scribbler who actually lived, a certain Philip Beaufoy, whom Joyce is clearly lampooning, the Bishop is reading a piece by a sentimental scribbler who actually lived, Pierre Loti, whom Jarry is just as clearly lampooning. Both passages convey the idea that the drivel being read encourages defecation, and both authors give their readers

three layers of narrative in these passages. We find fragments of the story the Bishop is reading as they go through his consciousness interspersed with descriptions unconnected with that story of the water-closet, interspersed with a graphically detailed description of the odiferous biological event as it progresses. Where Bloom worries about a recurrence of piles being brought on by constipation and extols the virtues of an oral laxative<sup>4</sup>, the Bishop makes reference to "piles of less efficacious suppositories."<sup>5</sup>

Then there is the hero of chapter 34 of *Faustroll*, the beast Clinamen, also known as the Painting Machine. Jarry, poking delicious fun at compulsive painters, likens painting to masturbation, finding the former an urge so strong and irrepressible that there will be painting even after the end of the living world. He pictures this anthropomorphic machine "after there was no one left in the world going through its solitary convulsive gyrations before ejaculating onto the wall's canvas the succession of primary colors [from] the tubes of its stomach."<sup>6</sup>

Back to Ellmann on Joyce: "If we go to him to find a defender of the family, he presents his central hero—the cuckold."<sup>7</sup> Jarry's Emperor Claudius, the central male figure in the novel *Messalina*, is a world-class cuckold, as is Jarry's crucial hero, Pa Ubu, in the second of the *Ubu* plays, *Ubu Cuckolded*. Is this what prompts Jarry to picture him masturbating as Joyce shows Bloom masturbating in "Nausicaa"?

### Ellmann tells of Joyce's

...unexpected fusings...between beauty and its opposite. When Livia Svevo heard that Joyce in *Finnegans Wake* was using her flowing hair as a symbol of the lovely river Liffey, she was flattered, but when she heard that in the river were two washerwomen scrubbing dirty linen, she was disgusted. To Joyce the juxtaposition was easy and natural. The river is lovely and filthy; Dublin is dirty and dear....<sup>8</sup>

Jarry, in *Faustroll*, talking of "the juxtaposition of the two signs"9—minus, ostentative of female, and plus, of male—insists that they are all the more identical because they are contrary. Indeed, "the identity of opposites" plays a critical role in all of Jarry's work, and particularly in "Pataphysics," his alternate hypothesis for the workings of the universe. In one of many statements which sounds like a description of late Joycean practice, Jarry defines "a work of genius" as one that invites endless interpretations:

Every meaning which the reader may find therein is intentional, and he will never find them all; and the author can point them out to him—a victim in a game of intellectual blind man's bluff—unexpected and contradictory meanings.<sup>10</sup>

In another passage relevant to *Finnegans Wake*, Jarry actually denies the diversity of languages that we all take for granted, claiming this diversity to be a myth, that varying languages are all one. He writes,

Babel is a myth of the common people, and the confusion of tongues exists only in the minds of the common people, which likes to imagine that there are several tongues because it does not even have a thorough knowledge of its own...for anyone who knows how to read there is only one language in the world and...for such a person, Babel never existed.<sup>11</sup>

Jarry's dictum that opposites are identical takes us again to Ellmann who says that Joyce "brings opposite ends of the mind together." But he also reminds us that "If we go to him thinking he may be the apostle of brotherhood, he shows us brothers in violent quarrel."<sup>12</sup> The first chapter of Jarry's *Days and Nights* pictures not a violent quarrel but an outrageous competition between brothers. Valens, with his transient sex-partner Margot, is trying to quite literally out-score Sengle with his transient sex-partner, Ilane. Jarry describes it as a bet, complete with a blackboard on which they keep a running tally.

Ellmann writes: "Joyce is the porcupine of authors," and, "his heroes are not easy liking, his books are not easy reading."<sup>13</sup> Regarding likeable heroes, we have only to think of Pa Ubu and his murderous better half Ma in the *Ubu Plays*; regarding difficult reading, texts such as *Faustroll* or *Les Minutes de Sable Memorial*, make clear that Jarry and Joyce are peers here as well. Jarry's *Faustroll* is a work of such difficulty that the author wrote on the completed manuscript: "This book will not be published integrally until the author has acquired sufficient experience to savor all of its beauties in full."<sup>14</sup> Similarly, Ellman writes about Joyce: "He does not wish to conquer us, but have us conquer him."<sup>15</sup>

Ellmann points to "the thousands of phrases garnered mostly from undistinguished friends with which he filled his books."<sup>16</sup> Although Jarry in his philosophical discourses could be very hard on "the common people," he loved to hang out and drink with fishermen and bargemen, and vernacular phrases are by no means foreign to his works. The Ubu plays, in fact, are almost exclusively made up of them. These connections suggest that had Ellmann been familiar with Jarry's life and oeuvre, he would have had to toss out or rewrite this entire section of his introduction to make room for Jarry.

In October of 1993 I exhibited in a New York Gallery the 1700 page manuscript I had been working on for several years. Its two parts are titled *Du Jarry*, which treats Jarry in Duchamp, and *me innerman monophone*, which treats Jarry in Joyce. The press release for this exhibition was prefaced by an edited quotation from *Finnegans Wake*: "He has novel ideas I know and he's a jarry queer fish betimes, I grant you [...] but lice and all [...] I'm enormously full of that foreigner, I'll say I am!"<sup>17</sup> The release itself runs:

Anastasi's text states that James Joyce used Jarry's ideas and imagery promiscuously, sans acknowledgement, as a spur to his own genius in *Finnegans Wake* and, to a lesser degree, in *Ulysses*; that he knew that Duchamp was fishing from the same pond; that Duchamp served as model for Burrus in *Finnegans Wake*; that Joyce, in the *Wake*, refers to Jarry as "me innerman monophone, me altar's ego in miniature, the mightiest penumbrella I ever flourished on behond the shadow of a post, the most omportent man;" that Joyce describes his debt to Jarry with "I have the highest of respect of annyone in my oweand smooth way for the intellectual debtor (Obbligado!)...Mark my use of you, cog! Take notice how I yemploy, crib! Be ware as you I foil, coppy!"<sup>18</sup>

I do not believe now, nor did I then, that Duchamp was necessarily the only model for Burrus. Few characters in *Finnegans Wake* are based on only one individual. I believe that Shem, a.k.a. Jerry, is based mainly on Alfred Jarry, and to a lesser degree on Joyce himself. Joyce often seems to treat Jarry as his own twin, double, alter ego, or even spiritual father. Perhaps picking up on Jarry calling himself God, Joyce on occasion seems to liken Jarry to the deity in *Finnegans Wake*.

I now believe that Jarry's presence may be as pervasive in *Ulysses* as it is in *Finnegans Wake*. To suggest some of the correspondences between Jarry and *Ulysses*, I have chosen a scene from "Circe"<sup>19</sup>:

Stephen, half drunk in a brothel, sees an apparition of his dead mother looking just as a cadaver would look after rotting for years in the grave, while being alive and speaking. Stephen, after satisfying himself that this is not a bogeyman's trick, addresses her (choking with fright, remorse and horror): "They said I killed you, mother...Cancer did it, not I. Destiny." She responds: "You sang that song to me. *Love's bitter mystery*." Then, eagerly, Stephen says: "Tell me the word, mother, if you know now. The word known to all men." Instead of answering, she reminds him of the loving care she lavished on him when he was a child, begs him to repent, raises her blackened, withered right arm toward Stephen's breast with outstretched fingers, saying: "Beware! God's hand! (*A green crab with malignant red eyes sticks deep its grinning claws in Stephen's heart.*)" Stephen, strangled with rage, shouts "Shite!" Bloom, also in the room, says, "What?" Stephen continues: "*Ah, non, par exemple!...*With me all or not at all. *Non serviam!*" The mother continues in the same vein: "Save him from hell...Have mercy on Stephen, Lord, for my sake! Inexpressible was my anguish when expiring with love, grief and agony..." Stephen shouts, "*Nothung!*" Nothing, with a *u* instead of *i*, which is also the German word for "Needful," is the name of the magic sword in Wagner's *Ring* which is shattered, reforged by Siegfried and with which Siegfried unwittingly brings about Götterdämmerung, the end of Valhalla, the gods' world. As Stephen speaks, he lifts his cane high with both hands and smashes the chandelier. We are told that "Time's livid final flame leaps and, in the following darkness, ruin of all space, shattered glass and toppling masonry." (This scene, the pages leading up to it, and the pages immediately following, together have scores of images borrowed from Jarry.

Stephen asks his mother to tell him "the word [...] The word known to all men." When she ignores his guestion and preaches to him instead, he shouts, "Shite!," an alternate spelling of "shit" with one additional letter. Alfred Jarry's play Ubu Roi opens with Ubu shouting "Merdre!," his word for "shit" with one additional letter. First declaimed in 1896, it was the bigbang with which the 20<sup>th</sup> century avant-garde began. Stephen's one word line which immediately precedes his smashing the chandelier is Nothung! The first line in Jarry's Ubu Enchained, spoken by Ma Ubu is, "What! You say nothing Pa Ubu! Surely you haven't forgotten the Word."<sup>20</sup> The word she means is "Merdre!," by then famous throughout the literary world. There are too many connections for them to all be accidental: nothing/Nothung; Ma Ubu's and Stephen's the Word; Merdre/Shite; Ma Ubu's What/Bloom's What; Ma Ubu/Stephen's mother. And finally Stephen's "Nothung!" is followed by this stage direction: "He lifts his ashplant high with both hands and smashes the chandelier."<sup>21</sup> Before the actual Ubu Enchained starts, Jarry puts into Pa Ubu's mouth this introduction: "Hornstrumpet! We shall not have succeeded in demolishing everything unless we demolish the ruins as well."22 Joyce has "ruin of all space, shattered glass and toppling masonry."<sup>23</sup> Like Jarry, one can say that Joyce demolishes everything.

Stephen's reason for exploding and breaking the chandelier is complex. On the surface, it is a reaction to his mother's ignoring his passionate question and giving a sermon instead of an answer. But the reader knows that Stephen feels intense guilt about his mother's death. This theme runs through the book. On only the third page of text appears an exchange between Mulligan and Stephen,

The aunt thinks you killed your mother, he said. That's why she won't let me have anything to do with you.
 Someone killed her, Stephen said gloomily.<sup>24</sup>

The smashing of the chandelier is no simple flying off the handle but is tied to this feeling of guilt. We might expect him upon seeing in the flesh the source of this guilt to fall on his knees and beg forgiveness. Instead, he exclaims, "*Non serviam!*" (I will not serve!).<sup>25</sup>

Those familiar with Jarry's life story, including his biographers, point out that all of his heroines symbolize his own mother, to whom he was passionately tied. As Keith Beaumont observed in discussing *L'Amor absolu'*, before Freud named the complex, Jarry explicitly compares his love for his mother with the Oedipus story: "I am the Son, I am your Son, I am the Spirit, I am your husband, in all eternity, your husband and your son, oh pure Jocasta."<sup>26</sup> He also wrote: "For weeks on end, in the early spring of 1893, Caroline Jarry had remained by her son's bedside during a grave illness, nursing him back to life and health from the brink of death, only to die herself, a short time later, as a result of illness and exhaustion. Jarry never got over the sense of loss which her death produced; and it is possible also that he was afflicted by a lifelong sense of guilt born of the idea that he was...responsible for her death, or 'murder."<sup>27</sup>

There are reasons for believing that Joyce was familiar with Jarry's history as well as with his oeuvre. Conceivably, the story in *Ulysses* of Stephen's relationship to his deceased mother is a composite picture made up of autobiographical elements, as well as of elements from Jarry's life and legend. Just as Jarry never got over the loss of his mother, Stephen Dedalus never got over the loss of *his* mother, who absorbs Joyce's own mother. This parallel between Jarry and himself was of fundamental significance to Joyce.

To return to the chandelier breaking scene and Jarry: In *The Supermale*, Marcueil ravishes the willing Ellen Elson 82 times in 24 hours with seven harlots in close attendance to set a new record. The same number of whores mill around in Joyce's Nighttown. At the beginning of the love-fest, Jarry writes, "Midnight struck. The clock must have been immediately above the gallery, for its booming filled the long room, the chandelier swayed, the picture frames trembled, and near the ceiling, a pane of glass vibrated."<sup>28</sup> After the 24 hour marathon:

And the young woman's breath murmured in a kiss that made his ears buzz: "At last we're through with the betting to please...Now let's think of ourselves. *We haven't yet made love...*for pleasure!"

She had double bolted the door. Suddenly, near the ceiling, a windowpane shattered, and the glass showered down on the rug.<sup>29</sup>

In Jarry, whenever there is sexual intercourse of high relevance to the story, it is accompanied by shattering or cracking glass. Signaling the beginning of the sexual marathon, midnight strikes and strikes again at the end of the 24 hours, as Ellen disappears from the narrative. In "Circe," the prostitute Zoe seduces Bloom, then disappears, followed by this stage direction: "(*Midnight chimes from distant steeples.*)" After Marcueil sets his record, Ellen surprises him, and us, by asking for more, and the window pane above the chandelier shatters glass down on the rug, a scene parallel to Stephen's shattering the chandelier with his cane. A cane in a brothel has clear symbolic connections with an erect penis. Marcueil believes that with his erect penis he has killed Ellen—of course symbolic of Jarry's mother— fucked her to death. The shattering glass in the two scenes is surrounded by an army of supporting correspondences, suggesting terminal incest with a vengeance.

Stephen's mother has "*smoldering eyes*" and a "*crab with malignant red eyes sticks deep its grinning claws in Stephen's heart*"<sup>30</sup>; Ellen stares at her lover with "*hostile eyes*" in a scene where, enraged, she is trying to stick a long pin into her lover's *eye*. Joyce's "malignant red eyes" echo Jarry's "hostile eyes"; Joyce's "sticks deep its claws," Jarry's "[She] drew from her hair a long sword-shaped pin and vengeance-bent, aimed it as Marcueil's eyes, which were shining on a level with her own."<sup>31</sup> Ellen's pin is trying to stick deep, as Joyce's "rab does. Marcueil's "shining eyes" also connect with Stephen's mother's "smoldering eyes."

Jarry, describing Ellen when Marcueil believes he has killed her: "...she fell back on the bed. Through her clenched teeth her breath made the same imperceptible bubbling sound that is made by crabs..."<sup>32</sup> Joyce's "crab" looks to Jarry's "crabs." Joyce describes "*The Mother*" with "*a green rill of bile trickling from a side of her mouth*"<sup>33</sup>, recalling Jarry's "imperceptible bubbling sound" coming through Ellen's clenched teeth. These clenched teeth, by inversion, match the mother's toothless mouth, just as Joyce's "distant chimes" match Jarry's chimes which cause the entire hall to vibrate.

Joyce: "They said I killed you, mother."34

Jarry: "Ellen was no longer breathing, her heart was no longer beating, her feet and hands were as glacial as the dawn...He would never have seen her if she had not been dead."<sup>35</sup> One might say that Stephen, seeing the ghoulish apparition of his mother before him, is in a way seeing her for the first time. Joyce deals simultaneously with the small details of his own experience and struggle, especially guilt over his mother's death, and the large questions of Art, Life and Death which come together in the breaking of the chandelier, followed by images of "Time's livid final flame, ruin of all space, shattered glass and toppling masonry."<sup>36</sup> He's talking of the apocalypse. The tie is directly to *The Supermale*, whose world ends with his belief that he has killed Ellen, his only love, his mother. A little later he is almost literally shattered through his execution by 11,000 volts.

It also ties to Jarry's introduction to *Ubu Enchained*. Written in 1900, it is Jarry's greeting to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Before we can move on to a new beauty, a new art, we must demolish the ruins of encrusted traditions and cease worshipping the past. Then we can begin.<sup>37</sup> That is exactly what he did in *Faustroll* and *Days and Nights* and what Joyce did with *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*. When Stephen, instead of kneeling to his mother's shade, says "*Non serviam!*" (I will not serve) and proceeds to wreck the place, we see an almost literal acting out of Jarry's anarchical advice. We are witnessing a scene which represents the primal battle between the two sides of James Joyce: on the one hand, the religious, motherworshipping son; on the other, the independent genius ready to reject the nostalgia for the past to fulfill his destiny as an artist. Alfred Jarry acted as inspiration and support in that battle.

### Notes

1. Richard Ellman, James Joyce (New York: Oxford University Press, 1959): 4.

2. Alfred Jarry, Selected Works, ed. Roger Shattuck and Simon Watson Taylor (New York: Grove Books, 1965): 237.

3. Ibid., 4.

4. James Joyce, Ulysses (New York: Modern Library, 1942): 68.

5. Jarry, Selected Works, 231.

6. Ibid., 238.

7. Ellman, James Joyce, 4.

8. Ibid.

9. Jarry, Selected Works, 252.

10. Quoted in Keith Beaumont, Alfred Jarry: A Critial & Biographical Study (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984): 69.

11. Ibid., 307.

12. Ellman, James Joyce, 4.

13. Ibid.

14. Jarry, Selected Works, 276.

15. Ellman, James Joyce, 4.

16. lbid., 5.

17. James Joyce, Finnegans Wake (New York: Viking Press, 1967): 463.

18. "Du Jarry," Sandra Gering Gallery, New York, November 1993.

19. Joyce, Ulysses, 565-68.

20. Alfred Jarry, The Ubu Plays (New York: Grove Press, 1968): 109.

21. Joyce, Ulysses, 567-8.

22. Jarry, The Ubu Plays, 106.

23. Joyce, Ulysses, 568.

24. Ibid., 7.

25. Ibid., 567

26. Quoted in Beaumont, Alfred Jarry, 169,175.

27. Keith Beaumont, Alfred Jarry, 176-77.

28. Alfred Jarry, The Supermale, trans. Ralph Gladstone and Barbara Wright (New York: New Directions, 1977): 51.

29. Ibid., 63.

30. Joyce, Ulysses, 567.

31. Jarry, The Supermale, 61.

32. Ibid.

33. Joyce, Ulysses, 565.

34. Ibid., 565.

35. Jarry, The Supermale, 69.

36. Joyce, Ulysses, 25.

37. Jarry, The Ubu Plays, 106.

# CAGE CHANCE

### William Anastasi

I first met John Cage in 1965. I was readying the exhibition *Sound Objects* at the recently opened Dwan Gallery, New York. Virginia Dwan telephoned and asked whether I would like to donate a drawing or other small work to the Performance Art Group. I was unfamiliar with the name. She had heard they did excellent work helping forward-looking performance artists get public exposure. Each year they would offer donated art for sale to raise funds. I said I'd be glad to contribute. The following week she called again and asked whether I'd be in my loft a certain afternoon after five—if so, someone from the Performance Art people would come by to pick up my drawing. So it was arranged. When the time came the elevator buzzer sounded. I went down and found that the person who had come for the drawing was John Cage.

I had never met Cage but had seen him on stage at the Town Hall 25-Year Retrospective Concert in 1958. I was also familiar with his appearance from photographs reproduced on the liner of a recording I had of his *Fontana Mix*. He introduced himself and I learned that he was one of the "Performance Art people," in fact had been one of the organization's founders. He said that he had heard from Dwan that I was about to have a show titled *Sound Objects*. She had told him that these were sculptures that made sounds. He was interested, if there was the time, in seeing and hearing them. We went up and looked and listened.

I was planning to exhibit thirteen works—eleven in the main gallery, two in the back room. The first work Cage looked at was an enormous piece that consisted of a wall with a window that I had taken from my previous apartment on East Eighth Street to my new loft on Greene Street after reconstructing the wall for the owner of the apartment building. There was a soundtrack that had been made there too—a recording of eight hours of New York sounds as they had wafted in through the window.

The Sound Objects, similarly, were everyday utilitarian objects that "remembered" the last sounds they had made before they were retired and claimed for this exhibit. There was a pick-ax, for example, that had been used to dig up earth from an empty lot on the Lower East Side. I had put the earth into a clear vinyl bag with a speaker resting on it; they both were suspended from the ceiling next to the pick-ax. The same electrical wire that transmitted the recorded sound of the digging to the speaker held the piece up. Cage responded warmly to the works, but had a question: Were the sounds from each work to be heard individually or simultaneously? I told him that when I presented the proposal I had planned to have them playing together continuously, but as the opening date approached, Dwan asked whether I might be persuaded to change this part of it because she was hoping to place the works individually in collections. If the sounds played simultaneously, collectors or curators would get the idea that they were meant as a single environment. She wanted them to think of each piece as an entity. I had reluctantly agreed because her worry seemed valid. As a result, I was working with an electronic engineer to design a switching mechanism that would permit the sounds to go off sequentially. I described to Cage the difficulties I was having with this idea, and he suggested that I go back to my original idea. Since the duration of the various sounds ranged from a few seconds to a few minutes, he was excited about hearing the random mixture that would result. He said, for example, that the sound of a glass jug smashing against a cinderblock—about three seconds in duration—would be an ideal percussive staccato to the sound of a pneumatic drill digging up a section of Broadway, which lasts for several minutes.

During this first meeting Cage asked about other works involving sound. I showed him a series of "blind" drawings, accompanied by the sounds of their making; and he saw and heard *Microphone*, a work from 1963 in which a tape player plays a recording, made in a soundproof closet, of the sounds of its own mechanism. Cage was enthusiastic and said, "You could call this a recording of the recorder recording the recorder." He added, smiling, "It sounds like Gertrude Stein, doesn't it?" Almost twenty years later he would encourage me to exhibit this work at P.S.1 in Queens.

I continued to go to see Cage in performance, but I did not approach him afterwards, on stage or backstage. In fact I did not talk to him again for twelve years.

In late 1977 I had a conversation with Alanna Heiss, the founder of P.S.1 in Queens and before that of The Clocktower, an alternate space for art and performance in Manhattan. I told her of a then unrealized performance work, *You Are*, that I had first proposed to The Museum of Modern Art ten years earlier. It was a companion piece to the exhibition *Six Sites*, which I had showed at the Dwan Gallery in April of 1967. That show consisted of large silk-screened paintings, each of them a literal rendition, slightly reduced in scale, of the wall on which the painting was hung. *You Are* needs a quartet of participants: a narrator, a court stenographer, a speed typist, and a "page stapler." The recipe reads: *A narrator describes the audience for ninety minutes; a court stenographer takes down the narration; a typist types up a longhand version of this from the shorthand notes; a "page stapler" fastens each page when ready to a wall at eye level.* 

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The main impulse for the piece had to do with hearing vis-à-vis reading. It gave the audience slightly delayed access to a written version of what they had just heard live. Also, experience had shown that the stenographer, typing at her shorthand machine as fast as the words were spoken, used a phonetic code system. Turning this quickly into English, the typist would have to type out a phonetic version of any unfamiliar word. This added a chance element that enriched the experience. I recall, for instance, a narrator saying "gesticulating" and the longhand version giving us "just tickulating."

Alanna asked if I would do three evenings of You Are at The Clocktower. I suggested performances on successive evenings and said I'd like to engage as the narrator on each respective evening an artist, a writer, and a composer. Remembering my meeting with Cage in 1965, I called him, reminded him who I was, and asked whether he would consider being the narrator for the third evening. He recalled our meeting and invited me to his home on Bank Street to discuss particulars. I showed him the recipe for the piece and spoke a bit about its genesis. He said he'd be happy to take part.

The composer's evening was the last. Both the artist and the writer I had engaged for the first two evenings—Les Levine and Carl Keilblock—had described almost exclusively what their sense of sight had perceived, downplaying their other senses. John and I agreed that he should describe mainly what he heard at the expense of his other senses. Here is the typed version of the first three minutes of Cage's narration as it appeared on the wall of the gallery. The unfamiliar name belongs to the shorthand typist who arrived a minute late, forcing the speed typist to type directly, as well as she could, the beginning of Cage's narration:

### Day 3

### 8:00

It's 8:00. i will attempt to describe what I hear in this room where you and i we are. i hear some people walking and some others are talking. i just said hi to anne major who has arrived a little bit late. just before she sat down she made a very interesting sound with the rubber sole of her shoe. and just now another one moving the chair. the sound of the machine she is using is extremely quiet in comparison with your type writer.

### 8:01

an acoustic situation is extremely complicated. there are so many thing happening for instance the sound of this clock. Its almost as though it were boiling, throbbing, and all the walking continues. do you have a cold? do you need some kleenex? what?

### 8:02

now I hear the voice of my friend maryanne amashe. you hear it. of all the sounds i hear i am growing more and more fond of the one

of this clock. that's a nice one. the situation im in is somewhat impossible, because in order to hear i must be quiet. but in order to narrate which im obliged to do, i have to speak and when i speak my attention isnot on what im hearing. so that my mind is divided between lis tening and saying.

what im already noticing is that the sounds that are closest to me are the ones i hear that take my attention though the sounds of people talking—that was interesting that sounded like a bottle opening. its not its a staple gun. beautiful. During that first visit to Bank Street, after we had settled the logistics of *You Are*, John asked whether I played chess. I said I did, but hadn't for some time. He said, No matter—would I like to play some time? I said I would.

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I called for the first time at noon a few days later. Cage was free at five. I don't remember who won that first game, but I do remember that we played a second, and that we had each won a game when we quit. Before I left, as we were discussing the game just finished, John's partner Merce Cunningham returned from holding classes and rehearsing his dance company. We were introduced. I asked him whether he played chess; he did, or at least knew the moves, but he played seldom—John was much the greater enthusiast. We three talked awhile, then Merce went to his bath. John and I parted with no further plans for chess. A few days later, having errands downtown, I called around noon and asked John if he had time for a game. He did, again at five o'clock. We played again. I would soon become conscious of a hallmark quality in John's personality: he did not like to say no. If he could, he loved to say yes to whatever he was asked. This seemed almost instinctual, or at least a life position long in place. In a short time I was calling him around noon any day when my schedule was cooperative. *Do you have time for a game* became a mantra. From the start, with few exceptions, the answer was yes.

He [Duchamp] looked a little bit like a painting by Velazquez; with an almost rouged look that suggested a disappearance of health. So I said to myself, you must hurry up and be with him as much as you possibly can. (laughs) Which I did. I went up to Teeny first—still not wanting to disturb him—and said, Do you think Marcel would teach me chess? And she said, Well, ask him! So I went up to him and said, Would you consider teaching me chess? And he said, Do you know the moves? And I said Yes. He said, Well, come any day you like. (laughs) —John Cage, in Joan Retallack, Musicage, 1996

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My studio at that time was in Washington Heights, sometimes spoken of as part of Spanish Harlem—about 150 blocks north of John's studio/home. But with the art stores and art world mostly downtown, I was often there on business. And even if nothing called me there, if John's

schedule was cooperative I'd make the trip. An important part of the reason for this was that I was in the habit of making "blind" drawings on the subway, and I had long since noticed that a day when I made one of these usually turned out to be a pretty good day across the board. So it was good for me to get on the subway. Just as important, when I visited John I usually felt I was learning, whether or not we were chatting.

John once told me that when he and Duchamp played chess, Duchamp would get angry if John made a beginner's blunder, saying, "You don't *want* to win!" John admitted that this was close to the mark; the truth was, he said, he just wanted to be with Marcel. Certainly there were parallels in my situation with John. The difference was that I *did* want to win—in fact, introducing me to a visiting friend, John once jokingly remarked, "This is Bill Anastasi he's Sicilian, he likes to win." (I quickly learned that John liked to win too.) Still, whether or not I won, being with him was unquestionably what was important.

What started with those telephone calls in 1977 soon became daily chess at five. It eventually became virtually automatic. One day after our games I said, "John, since we manage to play so regularly, and since the telephone is the bane of your existence, how about if I simply show up at five, unless you call saying that you can't play?" His immediate response: "Oh, yes, that's much better." By that time I had been given a house key in case something kept him out of the studio until after five. On only one occasion did this fail to work out as planned, when Teeny Duchamp, Marcel's widow and a close friend of John and Merce, had come into New York either unannounced or, through a mixup, unexpected by John that day. He discovered in the early afternoon that he was supposed to be somewhere else at our game time. He had called but I too was out. He left a warm and unnecessarily apologetic note.

Friends would beg me to bring a tape recorder to our games. It was unlikely that John would have objected, and I was tempted; but I decided not to, feeling that spontaneity would suffer, at least on my part. I did once make an open-mike audiotape of a four-way conversation between John, Dove Bradshaw, Sandra Gering, and myself, in preparation for an exhibition at Gering's gallery, *William Anastasi, Dove Bradshaw, John Cage, Tom Marioni, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark Tobey*, in 1990. The works were all from John's collection and all chosen by him for the show, and the conversation is about his thoughts on those choices. The publication includes a transcript of a taped conversation between John and Richard Kostelanetz on the same subject.

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I also made a videotape of John once, I think in the late 1970s. I asked him if there were authors he found funny; he said there were and mentioned Peter DeVries (1910–93), a writer whose humorous short stories I knew. I next asked if he would sit in a chair reading to himself an unfamiliar story by that writer while I videotaped him head on. He agreed, and this became my favorite tape: John reading and every once in a while smiling or laughing.

Since John and I played virtually every day, the psychological dynamic between us eventually became more important than our relative chess strengths. It didn't really happen that John would win a game or two and then I would win a game or two; it was a case of streaks. When I was on a winning streak, the longer it went on the more confident I'd become; I would begin to think I "had his number," as John once put it. Then, usually in a game where my position was strong, I'd make the kind of error that overconfidence brings. The streak would be over. This typically meant the start of a winning streak of John's. We often joked about this overconfidence phenomenon—we were of course both aware of it. John once told Merce, "Bill and I know each other's chess game so well that it's almost obscene!" We intimately knew each other's strongest line of play, so it often came down to this: Will he play the line that we both know is his strongest, or will he try to confuse me by playing one that we both know is not his strongest?

John was entertaining in chess. When I made a blunder gifting him what should have been a plainly won game, he could be marvelously funny; and he could be even funnier when it was he who had thrown a game away. He also had a habit of blatantly telegraphing what he thought of his position once we had arrived at the mid-game or endgame. If, as I pondered a tough move, he thought his position was solid, he would start uttering exclamations, apparently to himself, in non sequitur German, or pidgin German: "*Vos ist dott?* Ach tung! Das ist der mond!" On the other hand, if he made a move but then had second thoughts, or if he believed his position hopeless, he'd shake his head and break into fairly correct but questionably pronounced Italian: "*Troppo, troppo male!*" he would moan, or "*Calamitoso! Disastroso!*" The matching of language to perception was completely consistent, but the words and phrases had quite a variety. On occasion, pretending to get serious, I'd say, "John, you know you're telegraphing exactly what you think your position is. If you were a *real* chess player you'd at least sometimes reverse the procedure just to throw me off." Of course

he never did. But when I sometimes imitated him in this, I *would* quite obviously reverse the assigned languages from his accustomed signification. Understandably, if I then said *"Calamitoso!"* he would reply, "Yes, you mean for *John*!"

\*

Around 1980 Dove and I met up with John in Brussels, at the home of his Belgian friend and supporter Muriel Errera and her teenage daughter. After a couple of days socializing we rented a car and I chauffeured John, Dove, and a tape recorder to the Waterloo battlefield to collect sounds for his *Roaratorio: An Irish Circus on Finnegans Wake*, a work he was preparing inspired by Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. John's first extravagantly ambitious idea was to record the normal sounds at every geographical spot mentioned in *Finnegans Wake*. A student of the book soon told him that there were literally thousands of these. Accepting that his first impulse was impossible he submitted the list to chance operations to whittle it down to a manageable number. Then he made up an itinerary that fitted his existing schedule.

As we approached the site, I found myself wondering how John would decide what sounds to record. Where would he place the microphone? Or where would he ask me to place it, since he had expressed hesitation about how to operate the tape recorder? Would he use chance operations in some way? I visualized him perhaps hanging the microphone on a sign announcing the site. When we arrived, however, we found no sign or monument but only a farm with a barn and farmhouse. I recalled from Stendhal's chapter "The Guns of Waterloo," in The Charterhouse of Parma, that the battle actually took place on farmland: Stendhal describes "a piece of tilled land that was being ploughed up in a singular fashion"-that is, by cannonballs landing. John suggested turning in to the farmhouse, so I did and pulled up by the large barn, with open doors. Hardly had we opened the car doors when dogs started barking, goats started bleating, cows started mooing, geese started cackling-a full-throated symphony. The farmer came out and said bonjour. He and John started to talk, John in his serviceable French with its unembarrassed American pronunciation. Meanwhile the mammalian/avian chorus decided that we were okay and gradually piped down. By the time John and the farmer seemed to be winding up their conversation, the background was as peaceful as when we had first pulled in. When this dawned on John, I heard him repeating to the farmer his reason for coming and making clear that he loved the sounds he had heard when we first got out of the car. The farmer in effect said no problem. He disappeared into the

barn, and trudged out seconds later cradling a young calf in his arms. All hell broke loose again, only louder. John turned to me gleefully, practically stepping on his words: "Start the recorder!"

Thinking about this later, it seemed clear that John's initial decision had stemmed from his reading of *Finnegans Wake* and that his second had been to use chance to delimit the sites to be recorded. When he arrived at the site, though, he acted on personal preference. He may also have been influenced by another consideration. He had often remarked that wherever you went you heard birds and airplanes, an "omnipresence," in his word, that was evident whenever he set about collecting environmental sounds for a piece. Behind the timing of his "Start the recorder," then, was his love of aural variety and complexity: he had found something too marvelous to be left in Belgium. Discussing this later with John, I shared with him some lines I had come across in *Finnegans Wake*: "So you did? From the Cat and Cage. O, I see and see! In the ink of his sweat he will find it yet."<sup>1</sup>

Notes

<sup>1.</sup> James Joyce, Finnegans Wake (New York: Viking Press, 1967), 563:18.




*me altar's egoes* by William Anastasi Slought Foundation, January 2004





93 A to K - Fanotal notes "me innerman monophone" g. + g. 158 Professor Con docord Pant T 93A 114 AtoF Day+ Nights notes Part I 176 Ballas & Perse gryce (FW) gury O'Reilly 719 MD made his ante for I aways had a crush on 11.4/91 - 461 - (heliotrope). and various plants that 9:26A Thom toward the min 461 - Since the (dusess) of yore cycled round the Finest Park and listen Duso 1859-1924 Willer marins boots 50 on the "Indiani gration actress like a sew and never mind me laughing at what's per-Emy tickle pussiness - see lesbian orgy below heimleich I was in the nerver but its my flast day I gay man instating female complaining about her paried also a whore tathing (female whore)] lonce - who is going to be a ferryroll, at my make, brenched, love, with dripping to affectionate slapmamma but last ut night, look, after Seeper my golden violente wetting in my upperstaurst curtains Thidless - (2) Sleepless watchful wallpapered to match the cat sure hat morning he took his daily sponge bath of two-tong wallpaper painted by maurice Denie with a alsign of trains dimbing up spirals; a low time ago he had given up watch in favor of wall paper - seasonable fashiorable or according to his whim. F183 Juget 441 I the string straight often devotions Thus it was that, little by little sobs became sighs, and mouths tormented other realities @1991 William anastas

Selections from *me innerman monophone* and *du jarry* William Anastasi, *me innerman monophone*, 1991-1996, page 1

240 9+ 8 only two sides of this triangle were living [ Sengle \$ Note he introduces the third side "" an Valens arm-wrestled elusive antonius" [ he's a ghost] "a wop" " [U.S. Sl. wop: med -or S. Ewropean immigrant as though ingering a in U.S. (espl. Stalian) fo [ a close enough antinous as the wop refers to antonius being Italian with stood the while even gaving fits the mid - European requirement] "whice would appear to they onslaught of shade ... 74 DIN a personal interest in refined cheer of all Senale + Valens chades "17 [chades: shades - Jarry is a shade\_ I cheese previously identified with art or artist timouriere of substance turnally contrasted with butter, art or artist lacking in substance Jorry when alive passionately embraced art and artists of substants often pointed listing the relevant ones in his work. The double entendro here refers to garry's their homosequality, he appeared to this a personal interest in refined chees (semen) of all chades (promiscuous fellatio ancier) with a added reference to his Thegendary provers as a fishermon (chad being an alternate spelling for shad.) 167 wags an antoming art 107 refers to Jarry is known affection for the art of partomime, as well as to the antinomian sect a branch of Christianity which holds that faith alone, not obedience to the moral law is necessary for salvation. This would fit Jovery's behavior who admitted to a faith This blast two years without in the least apologizing or ostensibly repenting for a

William Anastasi, me innerman monophone, 1991-1996, page 435

361	J. J.
	- It seems that Joyce not only refere to Jarry as Not from time to time, but even meeter his own
	yok from time to time, but even mouster his own
use of	Jorny Jarry as a source for "nutrients" the reating Jod, as in the sacrament of the Euchorist Jorny. "Here's Hakin, said Nosocome, giving the
Å	Jarry . "Here's Haken, said Nosocome, giving the
$\square$	
	and Schale, a eucharist of hashish pilules "" 186 through the slow fires of consciousness into a dividual Edividual shared amongst a number
5	a dividual [dividual: shared amongst a number]
	186 chaos perilous, potent, common to allflesh,
3:56 P	kuman only mortal) but with each word that
11:58P	would not pars away the squidself I Squid
$\sim$	156 Chaos perilous, potent common to allflesh, human only mortal) but with each word that would not pass away the squidself [ Squid ignirts inklike screen I approx word wscribing Doctor 7 austroll : "his eyes, two capsules of
[one squirts	ordinary writing in fleched with golden
spermatopor	Thermotor on FFF look back to "common to
( (	all flesh, haman only mortal ] 186 which he had squarts creened from the
4	186 which he had squarts creened from the
C.	(orystalling) world [ orystalline a 1. consisting or
	made of crystal. S crystal, m. I. a clear,
see	of Porter Fair trall short alter the above description
362	(rystalling) world [ orystallins a 1. consisting or made of crystal -> crystal, n. 1. a clear, transparent quarter -> Javry, in his just description of Doctor Faustroll shortly after the above description of his eyes as writing with:
oupt	embarrass the populace he deer on over this
0	embarrass the populace he deew on over this design a shirt made of Guarty fiber; 183F 186 waned chagreenold and doriangrayer
	186 word chagreenold and doriangrayer
	[Wilde: The Picture of Dorian Yray (its came from Balgac's Le Peau de chaquin] 186 in its dudhud.
	Barrac's te Fear de chagrin 186 mits dudhud.
	[Da. dodhud : dead skings Faustroll's dead skin was and " The manuscript" (on which ) 7 austrolf
	had noted (all) art and all science, which
1	
	•

435 and Duchamp's monte Carlo Bond 1924 includes a photograph of timself with a 3 in quest of his tumpty tumtoes. The configuration tum appears twice in this invented word, a possible reference to Duchamp's Tu m' 1918 - his last painting as such. fishygods Jarras Jorry famous as a brilliant He has novel ideas I know and he's a farry queer fish betimes ... Donce repeatedly makes reference to an and you upper and good (for example and yod, in appreciation of the fact arry called Ulin yod, then called 6624 that Thimself Wbru. (Jore, Mod of the sky - The supermale, on his airlowing cycle, comes down from the stry.) 4. Camibalistics... (cannibalism) - Jarry: 'He fed his sick father with soup made from M.D.A human flesh ... 27 Messelina. (balistics)-Javy was an expert marksman carried a revolver matter of factly, and from time to time used it. 4 boomeringstroms (boomerrang) Relates to Vice's cyclical theory of History, Obit as well to Jorry's obsession with the circular nature of time. May also relate to the famous 10,000 mile race

William Anastasi, me innerman monophone, 1991-1996, page 543

441 his soft advertisement is thinking spywritin Jorny his ythe skysign of soft advertisement dead (in heaven) is thinking of strywriting perhaps writer partially conspired by garry ling that goye given tearlier) The light of at took sig apotheosis appeared on the thorizon from and the Road hog was the first to appear in its avreale. It was the mination of the terminal point of the Tent housand miles 42 15 Joyce's next lines seem to jump back to the other big event in Il Surmale mithe legend the asymmetry passionate love-fest of Trustram there are 2 sentts - on between Marcheil and Ellen 4 But was is? I sent? [First words non preland sung by Wagner's Tristay: Was ist? ther Isolde?" The Tristan and Isolde are enemies when these words are spoken in the opera - - but they will become the greatest lovers in all literature. Marcueila last words in Le Surmale passion exemplified by Tristan and Isolde: Helen'is dead," repeated "The Indian so celebrated by Theophrastus, Temarcueil through his sleep. "I hat remains of her for me? The memory of her grace her flight, delicate, and perfumed memory,

543 (chandelier) swayed, The picture long room near the certing (trembled) and pane of glass (verster)" 45 51 7ni. 4/2/93 During The 82 consummations, seven prostitutes wanthat who had been lived by Marcueil 10.55 to service "the Indian" are accustored storms on the premises and are essential to the story Digression) - In Portrait of the artist as a young Man Stephen ate a date after consorting with whores talks about becoming a priest with his spiritual advisor" - actually trisualizes same," "The chill and forder of The life repalled him He would be about 16 years old. (Recall Russells? ling to the 20 year old Joyce i you have not enough chaos in you to make a world ; and a sense of order is evident the throughout logo a ouvre was to a great eftent "Bass" "borrowed" from Jorry "allegeours with prostitute see and in which motion of Myces "night town section of Ulynes has a we have head mother in the seene > Steplen: Dance of death) > Stephen (Eagerly) Tell me (the word (nother) know now. (The Oword known to all men. The mother Who saved you the night you jumped into Othe Train at Ralkey with Paddy Lee? Who had

ETthe first line of govy's Won Enchanned rune Mall bru' What ) Gensory mothing, Pa U.bu Swely your haven't forgotten the Word 109 Ulm pluys C5 544 AJ What will the team be nace against 2"ashed pity for you when you were sad among the vere 54 Berhape coincidence, but gaving's marcueil fictional self Sengle is a depressed young man on a thing train is which according to Enote that Joyce's analysis may have been Duchamp's mest line stephen is inspiration for the title " Sad young man on a Train" the 1st of his paintings which I describe (borrolving garry & term) as "cinematographic trembling" (motorny" "Toother alcestur") AJ = On The Train (title of Book I of Days & Mights On the same page . Stephen (Panting) The corpstecheider!) Row head and bloody bonce 1560 fore to any bonce the start of one to any motion the cyclist racers reach The French word ho The fourth demension they see all and Marchanow pranged dispet flere may her ", a trumpet- shaped plying machine. It was revolving or its own agis Corkscrewing through the air just above the ground in front of us the air just above the ground in f while a furious wind was sulking its continuing unedited: The mother Ver face drawing near and nearer sending out Vashen breath, Beware! (She raises) Wer an blackened, withered right arm slow to toward Stephen's breast with outstretched fingers.) Beware Jod's thank (a green val with malignant ned yes sticks deep its grenning claws in Stephen & heart.) 546-567

695 Considering all the recent connections with Elley Elson's 24 hour sexual marathon with marcueil to more the make this imagery I [ 7 Women Renetts > holding the Owing in his hands < > shooka drop or two ... off it and put it neatly into her Enduthe > bent down to pat it into her month < 7. don't. chew it. open your month " Masshalp of the Jegele action and I after the jingle "Open your month and shut your eyes, and I ll give you something to make you wise. The as Thinky disguised doubleentended for fellatio, a tie to the following from The Supermale during the = and More - hour AJ = Then she made the gesture that is permitted only to sovereigns; she pret before the man. Only those gurls who are born to be servante think themselves obliged to redeem their services by Cincreasing their fees Ellen caressed Marcueil possionstely. Vered that he was not yet altogether spent there They month bit him repeatedly. It must be that he did not love his mistress since he had not yet given her all, given until he could give no more: <64TS 5:39 PM Joyce's next description after the "put it into ther month" monologue, starte with : 11:23 PM 13 > He Tood aside watching their blind (masks pass down the aisle, ... < 8 one peads: "I " I don't care if they see us, so long

William Anastasi, me innerman monophone, 1991-1996, page 771

141 and > consumed by fire < connects quite literally to Soyce 2 = It burns = Jorn's all the city & may the in with and gaving's & death & frelates to Joyce's > white still cool ... < Joyce's > broma ruses " may connect (in addition to the Anthen connections suggested earlier) with gaving's line on the same first page of Chapter 35: "The tood beam the isle of Shadessnapped up the sun for its supper < 243 since Jarry has earlier told we how the same tood leach following morning, shits the sun out accompanied by a flaming fart: AS The As > Suddenly the toad's descending colon thundered and the nonalimentary bolue of pure fore took its usual bath once more toward the pole of the devil Plural (219 Jorg's image treated above of 2a shadow which is content to be black - appears on the same page with : A' = The fire of the nether regionge is of liquid blook . . all this blood is aflame 2 24150 lust, Plood. 4471 On the same page of Zanstroll govery has: > 2 blade staged in Clood - 241 and > The shy is blue = ( which connects directly 5:05P with Joyce's ra stry of sapphire 2 477.

271 Laporte I il continue where & left off, page 755 thesenotes, looking at page 478 ML. & el respect the quote given out 755 these notes. 7.5.94 3:29P Tresh [428.1] The Chimes: Turn again, Leopold! (ford (mayor) of it ablin. code #78.14 Bloom: (In alderman's gown and chiain.) Electors of Woran Tury (nna Luny Rotunda Mount for and numbers North Dock better rule a tramling I san from the cattlemarket to the river & That's the Emision future ( that's my programme ) au what use is it? But our (bucco Vanderdeckens in their phantom (ship) of finance. an Elector: (Three times three) for our Chief "myistrate. ) He me Anoral Mas 489.01 The Torchbearers: (Hooray)! 479.02 There seem to be connections with the forgoing to mages were found in the closing pages of Ulm Roi and Ulm Enchained M The last scene of the last act of Whon Enchanced (act 5, Sc. 8) has: AN = Convicts ( chanting in rhythm as (they row.) Let's mow the great meadow with subeps of our scrythes! Pallba: Yes, green is the colour of hope. flatter courses the Cert us await a happy ending to all our adventures, ma Ulm: What strange music ) ... < 1480E [Note that Bloom is making a political speech in which he is promising programmes for a better future ?

117 for rever and ever and ev... rolonged applause The AJ > Pallbu: and so you all swear to full the King good and nover all. We swear it. (Jong live Old Uby) = 29 Venetian maste, maypoles and festal arches spring up ... the chapter of the "sainte of Ginance in their " plutocratic order of precedence, 480 - digression -7.7.94 10:57P 10.24.94 a couple hours ago reading the Chapter of Barathustra 3:34 PM C. 7 The Jule Second Part) titled "In Great Events" I realized that it may very well have been influenced the by the opening ploragraphs of "alice in Wonderland" and that it itself (The Mietzsche) very likely influenced Jarry in breath, The creation of his Manego Marine Bushop Mendacions These (from 7 australl) and his > monstrous toak < 2185 m also from Faustrall HANDAR The Nietzsche chapter opens with ? There is an island in the sea, on which affere - spewing mountains smokes continually; and the people say of it ... that it has been placed like a huge rock before the gate to the underworld and that the narrow both that leads to This gate to the underworld greathrough the lire-spewing mountain. How I was during the time when Zarathustra was staying on the blessed isles that a ship anchored at the island with the smoking mountain and the crewywent ashore to shoot rabbits. around noon however when the capitain and his men were together again they suddenly saw a man approach the bugh the ar and a voice said distinctly "It is time !! It is high time " and when the shape had come a closest to Them - and it flew by swiftly as a shadow

[" anna fivia Rhurabella ... [i] not only a "poule" (a hen, a whore a puddle) JJ 940 shere also wee (small, our and wel-wee or wine; for as H. C. E. is 201 940 associated with creative defecation so she with making water.) 249 t. molli ned 5.8.96 In the Joyce annual, 1995 piece Jarry in Joyce 9:49A We mention the likelihood that Joyce's Spl tischute Finnegan (erse) (solid man - 3 For relater to sarry madra c - (shit of Finnegan) Fantistle m In The parrys title, > Concerning the 3 Specity Sea c is echoed at the end of the first para of ward i between the makes dead dodyce is identified hope - This dead body is not Toalyan island but a man? he is pleased to call himself Baron Hildebrand of the \$ Squitty Sea, 6200 Si The annotation by Simon Water Taylor tells us "The author tide" mer d'Habundes "phonetically "merde abunde" derived from Rabelaus (I.9); a cul foyard toujours abunde merde" ("squitty ass never lacks for shit ". 2635W Note that a Joyce Trax "erse" [ arse ?] solid man [ shit is refered to as "solids' where wine is liquids ] as well as "petijschute" which resembles some the setter translators attempts at rendering "merdre in English - Watson's our branslation is ("Pschitt. (21 U.R. Grove) usert (940 A) 10:10 A AJ - (in the title): The Olfactory Lighthouse 200 SW 1 7 Rota peck of pa's (malt had them or Shen brewed by arclight and rory and to the regginbrow was to like seen bring some on the aquatace & 3 Fu Here on the first stage of many a strand stighthouse odorus. On the second junge / text we have : 117 ... Finnegas ave lig :10A . Like Haroun Childeric Eggeberth he would Caliculate by multiplicables the all titude and maltitude until he seesaw by (neatlight of the liquor where turn) twas

William Anastasi, me innerman monophone, 1991-1996, page 944

943 Thur (arclight) and vory end to the 5.9.96 117 brewed by Real 11:20A regginbrow bogen trainblue was to be the aguaface - 3FW [me dagh's annot seen ring some on > at the Frainbows) end Lew and the colour red at letter, is T HSW Is have rained all day and watch flows repin the subterraneah sea. reputined its course towards the has billow and I do not see the sun. behind the twin Pellars of Heracles rainbow with both its ends upheld by the two distant capitales = D+N78 The humpty hillhead of hymself prumptly 117 ... sends an unsu uring one well to the westin his tumpty tumtotes: 11:48 5.12.96 4:40P AJ - and I saw like a concular dance bringue around a crater The naked and droped rectesses who thrico to to ramparts in the opposite direction bassagest the inhotersed by the encorching rotation moment Sunder the Elou stome tray I a red alow smouldered around an io su its redder gleam spread across should Tobeliscolychny - 4724N 01 shore.) a di beliscolychny From Rabelaus annot. lighthouse AJ+ Every lorm of anobelist ] night & a law by nestlight of the liquor wheretwin Inaks was born his roundhead staple of other days. Fo ageless undress marsoning uptanded Da: mandelse. ruse resurrection ( joygrantit!), Cauralworth of a skyerscape of

944		-	
~ ·		AJ = Tuse in andre	as maisonry.
	~ most enotal entourerly	/ •	0
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wheretwin	Jalass wall and aas	e at my missto alue	1 doso
was born	to me standid?	the lignit rea a	.77 D1 N
mon	glass well and gaze at my ming glued dose to me, standing in the cliquid seca. 477 P+W		
5-13.96	Balapath Corr	estsondences	
1] > thegray	Badabally Corr	AJ	
eards orgh			ver 76 PH
nonastery,	past	- the face of the ocean ru - I have astrony throughout the - Poseidon does not wish to h	entere island
ponthe	1	- Poserdon does not west to the	alt 1600
ettlechope	\$	/ Celler to the office of the	
tthey have	Eve and adams	. lettle a papel that they	have
ATHOLIC ATHOLIC	(adam + Eve's Church Aublin)	· lettle chapel that they christened EATHOLIC MI	XIMUM S
ART EOI SN			- A11707-1
	from swerve of shore	neswifaced upon the island	shore "TA
		resurfaced upon the island (	ound its shore
		0	C
	to bend of bay	the shell that is the sea's r	nouth 170
	brings us by a commodius	Lake a light circular dance	e around
	brings us by a commodius view of frecirculation back.	a crater 77 DAN	
	,	who thrice twened around	the namparts
		in the opposite direction to to	
		impressed by the encirclings	ea. 770
		has trawled me back	bke a net
		over the face of the aceand	River), on
		its perennal course eng	enders a
		pircular, swirl 770+2	
		. like the soul of the lymn	ala from
08:07		its (spiral shell 760+N	• 1
	1		200

He decarles that bewanted to hill art (for myself") . I harbor a brute secret. My tonque may 31 won't loosen to afford me the relief. as the the within pressure accumulates an inner voice says," Why not meeze". (Written Rotten) that 19/91 6021,2 many p 67A The secret 1. harbor is that 2 am a brute. Jung after reading allysses, said that Joyce would have gone crouged if he had not watteret Bat Perhaps theat can be said about every great other and great work of art & tacrator. Blustowny It is only that pind of wigney which can create a masterpiero. I believe that it a squally the for The Trial + 4'33', of as it is the forty glats or Etant donnes How do you peep love new? How do you peep art new? D. Rept his art new by consulting an almost inexplainstable rowice. affred joing From 1912 to the sixties the last decade of his life, the garry connection nerrowingth continued asster unabated. Now he must have loved giving, It is easy to love someone who is Odead. We know that Jarry was what you would call impossible in life. Impossible to live with or eventinea all but impossible to love. But that and that way of turning everything upside down and yet almost never predictably. His relationship with his impossible mother was similar to Duchamp's

for as aboartist and as ( Where do you twen to if you want to make art after Duchamps? # slavest It does seen tough to do something new if you look calefully through this complete works There is hardly a development since Dechamp which doesn't peem to have been prophesied somewhere in his work. You get the feeling that his did everything. He himself talked about the medium function of the artist. I see him as a medium between going and us. as gaving functioned as a buffer between himself and the idea of his motthey he functions as a buffer between Sorry and us I believe that he used the harris writings of gaving the attitude of Jarry the life posturo of gaving and the hale of Jarry the way John tall way that John Cage used the idea of chance in his bork. By trying to translate words, the written words, behavior, Jutterachees barry notions and attitudes instor winds autitues this own when of another into Will or sof minuted visual entities, his own imagination was given wings. If it at any moment seemed even too wild for himself, he could serretly blamt it on Jarry This may efplain fising R. mith as a pseudenom

a painting which doesn't shock in t worth painting no. 17 A (A) a painting - / a singing the grant is delivered to Duchanty's spilet this (A) Here 12 a painting bend we find broking doto destatestily introd with kannatuck the the know of the fit : Mora mothe Shalong in my the stant sub angertake tuca inth nother Lucher folder bolangon calmly smoking a light new cigar as he to burny exitatically in the solid fice of the basement of the minth / wick of hell sult -- you chte mother: fuckermarin Doal

30) BOTTLE DRYER gloss It was revolving on its own agis, corpscrewing through the fair 32 (Duchamp hung the bottle drys) + THE .. in the form of a toboggin but more of a corkerie BOTTLE Splash, and not vertical channeling of the DRYER Incounter at the bottom of the slopes. (75) ... the (mobile ] will splash the gas which has become liquid and arrived at the bottom of the slopes" [ the bottles are held upside down so that they can drain and dry T Direct these splashes which should be used for the manoeuvering of the handler of gravity 76 gravity drains the bottles Slopes of flow Planes of flory bullet shaped car BZ them trajector analogous to had been "turned loose", that of a bullet. p. (84 s'reller bullet trapet and then replaced by a trumpet in the form of a toboggin but more of a and the Splashat A in an corpscrew. uncorking The group may be described sense of model - upcorking in the The fall to A of the three - crashes helps the uncorking -The splash ( nothing in common with champagne) ends the strice of bachelor operlations ... (8) 200 yards in diameter at the base and 100 yds high

William Anastasi, du jarry, 1991-1994, page 0 (numbering restarts after page 76)

Gech Check 5464 54645 5 checque Bruno 547 AS apr1,1991 -The Cloth in Bridgelp 1964. 545 A5-193F Door - 546 AS - 496 497 UBU - Tongar in Cheete -536 AS (54) drain = Bouche - Ever 1964 - 544 NS REX 300000 11. Some lace plein 521 Yearwhells, Cogs 19 in the for Travelling 472) and bays 506 look up the large glass in Schwarz next Spoon 531 AS West Try at 12:15 PM my 3:30 to 4 suptur miles of string 515A5 For Cenn O'H (356) PI- jaintor + wanter - near bottom Torture (flies) 536AS PZ. RMUt - top The Locking Spoon - 531AS The Locking Spoon - 531 As comet - 519AS P3 why not sneeze 94 Etant downer The concrete alphabetis forms of 45 indefinition languages (88 45 indefiniti 97. LHOOR, Rembrandt ... having their alphabet 33 much too forfetched 50 Waterfall - onanism moersion - 40 Tata forky pace 50 Bows Pyrho-p.38 As m 12 TU M' 24 I often unacrewed winds the large scissors E2 15 not a breath of air "Society to charge for air - in case 1944 of non-programment, cut off the air "Kill. with a permit. 24 preeding 16. Houstroll - standard stoppages & dust breeding Shadow - Frost M.D: (Playfal Physics) (6) 18. TOM' corfeseren 43 Whide Descending Staircase 19 invisible - R trose Selary Painting of precision, and beauty of 20 21 - Hanging - a shing methogallows indifferences of He Javrig's influence = see p. 123 Sattack, written 1946 H-INCESTICIDE 28- insteam (marchiel) Fautroll The Clock in profile. and the Inspector of Emplosed Space P97 playful Physics 35 Really mode inspiraten 37/38 - + 48

Marcel Duchamp: Road hog indefinitely (1) (marcia) average ned - gavery - The superinterry (1) (mischance) (2). Which Duckampfrom The Supermale Characteristic insignificand (2). and would have almost marged into the wood work (2) The pictorial matter of this was paris road will be wood (2) the varnishes wood of the sleeping and then which we call foligue (3) car reappeared (3) Traveller's physical epploits \$3 Folding stem which we call fatigue (3) Underwood Repetition produces habit - and ability & Metaste is habit (Underwood desire notories until you exhaust the infinited series of numbers & constant province ly, Haman copacities have no limits 3 series megneto a effice The Bridelies organs that work and rest ... and give the illusion of a motor mever stopping (4) denre magnets, 2 ... of her constant life (2) she furnishes the love of fuel for the human machine ... @ love gasoline (5) gasoline (20) guiden (20) and is anemic ( Frest density and in perpetual for the love gasoline (21) " against a train (5) motion movement not at all biged. in the infinite series of numbers ... the male say places infinity lifty vorgins I this virgin blossome (2) for the blossoning of this virgin (16) . Cerebral stimulation (8) . that's just a youne (9) .. contrary to all physical lows [] universal destref dishelief (2) alilii (12) even were he to commit vines (12, he had never seen his penis (13 Jacket 1956 He had never looked at himself in a micror (13 348 AS between the left side and the hight thereis ... above (13 a tailor's mesfit (3 Waistcoat for Bay, Peret P35 wints 9 live the There is great windows in modeling ones Soul on that of lefe of par one's fanitor (4) Ireally have the life of a restaurant weather. (abarme and for this water running in the grounds to perfect the ater machinery to light them (15) brockdor machine (E whose brook radii led to all the horizons (3) There is certainly no reason for men to build enduring works if they do not vaguely imagine that these works must wait for some additional blanty with which they themselves cannot invest them but which the

	3/1 D
	in this area, the ridele remains unsolved, Inevitably the ridele giver is left with a doit of disdain - an understandable shepticism atom regarding the intelligence of the sub-
	understandable shepticism all regarding the intelligence of his audience. 9 think that the Wanted \$2000 Reward 1923
7:25A	9 think that the Wanted 1/2000 Reward 1923 and the Monte Carlo Bond 1924 speak the disdain.
9:50 A	The timing of Wanted 2000 Reward, 1923 seems to reinforce # the earlier observation about 5 year intervals playing a part in
	about 5 year intervals playing a part in the garvy - Duchamp connection. Le Surmale published 1902 (Duchamp is 15)
	The earliest dated notes in the green boy which
	Signal Daving the beginning of Jarry maria 1412 (Duchamp is 25) TUM' in which Duchamp had clearly intended to call it a day with
	his Jarrynania, 1918 (Ductions was perhaps prototly started in 1917, the same year as "Foundain", a milestone of Jourymania
	Toundain" a milestone of Jourymania so literally derived from Jarry "instructions" That Duchdays never definitively owned up to authorship (Duchamp is 30) and oben Warted
	\$ 2,000. Reward ' 1923 (Duchamp is 35) - We see by this that coincidentally or otherwise
	in 1902 there are 5 important relevant events
	f ferrir ferrir for the starter,

		333
33	- Javry as Oendipus -	
Thur	gavry. Dam the Son, Dam your.	son I
12/26/91 10-17 A	Javory. Dan the Son, Dan your, and the Spirit, I am your thusbo all sternity your hubboud and you	und in
	oh pure go casta.""" note relation	hip to
	oh pure go casta . "" note relation. The cabala medieval texts praising the Virg	
	Javry - for one must in accord is	rith
	Jorny for one must in accord u tride theology destroy the beast s which one thas fornicated. ""	with
	M.D. as Oedipus	none million
	Duchamp: an incesticide must s	leep
	M.D. as Oedepus Duchemp: an incesticide must s with his mother before killing her	105 55
non	In "I'amour absolu" "morestuous atto	artin
12/30/	twens ultimately to hatred leading	1 mille
12:25A	In L'Amour absolu "incestuous atter twens ultimately to hatred leading to the murder of his mother, 175 KB JE murder of Varia	mmanueli
	murder of Varia	6 J J W
7	note how literally M.D. seems to follow gary's	instructions
3:17P	another example of how M.D. seems to i literal "permission" from Jarry . the p line of the earliest dated notes in the gree O. the Maching with 5 hearts the price of nickel and platinum must dominate the ge road " 8 6B	insiston
	literal permission from Jarry - the p	list
	line of the earliest dated notes in the gree	en voy;
	O. The Maching with 5 hearts the pure o	held of
	nichel and platinum must dominate the fe	ra-Paris
	road 18 GB	
	Byst at this stage of my research, seeing or	how
	all parolions consistently questions that	orop up
	Byst at this stage of my research seeing of all questions consistently questions that reading Q's notes are an evered by BEARING	looking
	Through garry's work, it seems more than a likely that Whitehold D's "mickle relates 7	little &
	likely that the hat a D's mickle relates 7	to:
(	any: The circular prames of the serve - circ	ular
0	forks of the gyrostats are made of nickel."	881W

336 D. The bachelors serving as an architectonic base for the Bride . and there come men, and more men, and yet more men, 236KB according to K.B. Gavry invented the poem in protection (chaps (KB) M.D. - a 'delay inglass' as you would say a "poem in proce" ... 503 Ini 1/3/92 10:52 A LHOOQ Sar Josephin Peladan 1 Koran " who was at that time the authoritative translator of Leonardo's writings" write The mora Lisa we look at never episted. That unhistorical lady was only a pretext, for Leonardo was potenting himself under that mask. If we compare this portrait with his self-portrait we see that Leonardo looped and smiled with the eyes and lips of the Gioconda: the intellectual power of the man of genius merges into the voluptuousless of the seductive woman: this in moral hermaphroditism." Jorry was a homosexical who sometimes dressed as a woman. thereforerascon Putting Jarry's moustache and goatee on a portrait by a homosepial genius which may have been "elle a chand on cul" I she has a hot ass ] seems

Acharting con t 465 Del 8 and Dail and Hights lec 9 digression (and repetition, to some extent) 9;48A In 1961 Duchamp raid: "I want to tallast ... for myself " What I sense, for starting around 1912, is a desire to "fuck art, and marking or at the least, give it an enema, I believe that "The King and Jueen Traversed by Swift nudes," und "The King and Queter Traversed Bureassad by Swift mides" menorates both of Cyril 1912, and portrageneric total may well be and abstractions intended to portray sexual intercourse. Part of a letter the from Duchamp which was published in the surrealist magazine "Medium" in Febr 1954 reads " Stisla pleasure for me to see that there is more "thay "arbssugait" ["art'a succes" or "successful art" I in Paris. By plagiarizing Jorry we can put "pathet" up against the Scurrent pomposity < Duckan po may be saying " current art is full of shit. Remember that going's most figure famous line was the opening word of Ulba Roi > Merdre < and invented word based on "Merde", shit. and in the Boy of 1914 he wrote: > avrhe est à art ceque merdre est a merde < (- works is to art as shitte is to shit =) Since workes means "deposit" he may be suggesting sey here: fucking is to art as Jarry's shit is "to

Joyce aches the monster/ shade of this mother for the wind Then he says "shite and these proven to throttle her with his cane, lifting his cane to all men over his head and shattering the hanging lamp in the brottel, (The program later tillo without the word known to all men is "love") - fook up ishite in Whyses Concordance - and whole scene.

and for a more secret refuge, he funda the women with the tenderest salp-wood Vectius jested "It was really Priopus. I saw him repeated messalina, obstinately, " 7 or us hereofter according to the most indisputable boular testimony the physician concluded, Priapus is a frigid man-MJ (Oculist's) charts - Dazgling of the splash by the oculist's charts 8566 Sculpture of drops (points) which the splash forms after having been dayyled across the (oculist's charts, each drop acting as a point and bent back mirrorically to the high part of the glass to meet the 9 shots = Mircorical Fretwin - Each drop well pass The 3 (planes) at the horizon between the perspective and the geometrical drawing of 2 figures with which which will be indicated on these 3 planes by the Wilson - Junch system ( i. e. leter the (fortraits) which seen from the left show Welson seen from the right show fincoly seen from the right the fequre may give a square for yample from the pront and seen from the left it could give thesame spears seen in perspective The microrical drops not the drops themselves ALLEE P565 ES morerical morer F5 2 states. two morers 65 portraite portrait is planes

619 There of Bride is of Ison Lowed Effect and Thouse [ Not given in 1973 Catalogue diagram D Pulley Jom Jarry's Ubn Poi First Noble: Malt Count of Vitebske Paulon: What are your revenues? Just Noble: Three Million zlotys Pallbu: Yuilty: (He takes the noble with the (hook and drops him down the hole.) 33 UR copelin Inchang, in his green boy notes dance uses the word "pulley" on the same page on which he uses the I word " Wrap door" +960 The diagram accompaying the words is clearly a mechanical drawing of a hanging, substituting a bottle for a hutman MD > Instead of a single weight, several in the form of brand bottles, desping quickly and falling from the top of the Backelor Macking (pulley) attaches to the 3rd coolating plate Tropdoor 21. 9 holes - 9 down the hatch 22 pulley. hook gallows

678 indeterminate variable and uncontrollable weight - 13GD [ ) have offered that the > Chocolate Grinder < is based, at least import, on = Pa Ubu < "Uncontrollable" sums up This character, this greedy and ruthless force of nature. MD = Handler of Gravity make the rod as a spring ( to be studied : perhaps?? / Handler These 2 terms are completing. 8468 -This drawing seems directly borrowed from - Pa Ubu < who has a spirat on his stomach and makes a habit of using a - hook to as the implement with which to drop unwanted personaged > through the trap-door < into the bleeders they dungeon L On This page of the English version of the green boy notes, Richard Hamilton addo this note: TENDer's MD's English equivalent for his French Sorgneur." Gaze's Concise Dictionary of French-English : Sorgner N.a. to take care of to look after the (pop.) to scold to blow up, to thrash. - The "(pop.) translation fite both , Ma Ubi's - habita of behavior towards

		-
		698
-71m 1-12.93 /(-30	(1) Waspe = [ called = a. Wasp or Sey Cylinde 1973 latalogue listing] tothe mys m chapter 2, Book 5 of = Days and Night word > waspe & occurs in this sentence: -	~ the
	AS > The fort of hosts would male at alon porphyry mountain a scenic (railway) wago from the carcass of an enormous wasp of the complaisant and (usefully) underweed str of Mr. Sisyphus, and would thus recoup vari First, note that > railway wagon < ties in with	I thising intelising eng the Duchamp's
	> The chariot is supported by runners which slid > The sleigh mounted on numers socialed into underground noil = 4008, as well as by I drawing (on the samprist the "chariot queto she runners of the sleigh on two red tracks or ris	an his orving the
	The chapter in " Pays + Nights" tells the Javory of the Sisyphus legend. At storts: AS > Sengle took his morror and reread there story of Sisyphus.	's version
ì	The mountain was constructed with great In the shape of a tetrahedron or pyra	care: mid formed
	by three found staircases, whose steps, accord one fixed law, appeared to become proportional as they norrowed Towards the summit. <133 D+ Duchang & notes till us MMMMMMMMM. > The Bride is basically a motor. < 1660	ely stuper
	ð	

700 from whose base comes one with a cup on a handle construction to a back assistants a string with a simple ball attached. and a second, the same, except that my cherry mangeness coming out of the cup is a pertrusion, and instead of a simple ball, a somewhat enlarged ball with a hole through its center. The note concludes with > Jorry of course, chooses the nother more obscene variety. ~ (0) So that when gaving the writes: = ... and never putting the head on the palo's shoulder. < 340N We have a perfect parallel for Duchamp's backelor's who were seen, the second from Duchamp's notes, to the resemble the bull who never get gets beyond pawing the ground with his hoof, unless you consider his - grunding his own chocolote as getting somewhere and just as - the backelors . live on coal or other now material and I he motor Ewhich is and organ of the Brude any ... is activated by the love gasoline <2068, "The Sternal Tella Sisyphus: AJ > "and each day & shall give you." multiman and an ort of mildewed bread, 2 ist Duchaup's drawing on the page in the green boy titled ~ Sex Cylinder - (Wasp). has depicted, and captioned, = admission tubes for the love gasoline = 216B

7	701	772
and begins and the all in the second shall		tilt of the tilt
and bears a great resemblance to the "ball-and-ch brancings given my by Jarry's translator, which mus	t have	between Luture and past, and which can be
been a common toy during gary's life and Duchen childhood towards the alter tries but	mp's	symmetrical to our Present a dead center Wetween future and past and which can be designated precisely as the Amaginary Present.
brauengs given they by Jarry's translator which must been a common toy during Jarry's life and Duchen childhood, conside the allon-type hot Root to receive the dear		
Sex Coluder -		The remaining words on Duchamp's page of notes are captions adjacent to and blow the drawing of the bottom Target a
to only the ey		A Bashate
Townshe the type conter of the Bride Rotation guine lighting the Bride		3 stats
		3 shota
puter needle		A.B.C. We
for the love gasoling		Car Balt
Note Heat in Durchang's braving consistent with me	)-	A B 3 shots
Aservation we aris the hapless backelors the phallic protrusion is "limps" compared to the "erected" versu		• 3 shota
the drawing of the toy. If the toy was designed like		3 shota 3 shota C
"play." and so it often is in life; and so glas . with "the bachelors" as Duchamp has designed the	t is	A.B. C. are
with "the bachelors" as I whomp has designed the MANDAN MADDING made	im.	not ma plane of any object whatever
Jorny a story ends on a different note from Duch	iongo ie	and represent the schemoir of the demultiples body
his Simplus is made of sterner stuff than the & of Duchung's backelore: > and the Eternal opened his mouth and as	tup b	Ine passage of Javry is worth re-reading here, remem- ering that for Duchamp, evidently, - demultiplication-
> . and the Eternal opened his month and as Wer. Sisyphus, and the Eternal listened, and Ma	r dið	is his code word for traveling backwards or into
Suyphus spuke thus: Dear Master,		the past. AJ > The present is extended in three dimensions
" sear master,		future, this point will be present and extended in the

## William Anastasi | Selected works from 1961-69



Six Sites, 1966, Photo silkscreen painting on canvas Installation view, West Wall, Dwan Gallery, New York, 1967



*Untitled* (subway drawing), 1968, pencil on vellum 8 x 11 inches; John Cage Estate



*Diptych*, 1967, Polaroids 4.25 x 3.25 inches; John Cage Estate



Untitled (pocket drawing), 1969, pencil on vellum 11 X 14 inches; Collection: Museum of Modern Art, New York



*Displaced Site*, 1966, Corrugated cardboard and plaster 3 x 4.5 x 8 inches



Three Conic Sections, 1968, Steel Installation view, Dwan Gallery, New York, 1970



Sink, 1963, Hot-rolled steel and water 1 x 18 x 18 inches; John Cage Estate



Twelve Ounces of Tap Water on a Floor, 1966



One Gallon Industrial High Gloss Enamel, Poured, 1966



One Gallon Industrial High Gloss Enamel, Thrown, 1966



Untitled (three Polaroid photographs on a blind drawing), 1964 11 x 8.5 inches; Collection: Museum of Modern Art, New York



Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, 1965, magnetic analog tape



Free Will, 1968, video camera and monitor



What Was Real In The World, 1964, bricks 21 x 16 x 18 inches



*Issue*, 1966, wall displacement Collection: Philadelphia Museum of Art

## **READING A LINE ON A WALL**

*Untitled*, 1967, word mural 4.25 x 80 inches



Statue of Titanium White, 1969, limestone 3.75 x 3 x 8 inches



whowasit youwasit propped (originally without title), 1965, pine



Papering, 1967 The installation before the performance



*Papering*, 1967 The installation after the performance

## A book engaging work by artist William Anastasi in relation to literary and artistic predecessors and contemporaries including Jarry, Joyce, Duchamp and Cage

With contributions by Thomas McEvilley, Steve McCaffery, Joseph Masheck, and William Anastasi and an introduction by Osvaldo Romberg



"If it should happen that [William Anastasi's] hypothesis proves untestable, it will hang in the air as a living web of thought that waits tantalizingly for a resolution that never comes–a ghostly presence of the avant-garde of the twentieth century, a haunting memory that seems both ancient and somehow still alive in its appeal." —Thomas McEvilley

"[T]he more I remedially review the contribution of William Anastasi to art and the general morale of art in his generation... the more fully I comprehend an uncommonly perspicacious neo-Duchampianism that now in a surprisingly Joycean way, with Jarry as provocateur to both, persists in sustaining the great game that is art." —Joseph Masheck





Front image: William Anastasi, page 1 of du jarry; Back: Me Altar's Egoes at Slought Foundation, 2004