

was there. And he's there when you're short of cash; he'll buy something to keep you going. And the museum of Stuttgart is one of the jewels of Europe, and it's wonderful that the archive is there.

My letters to George and to Daniel Spoerri are at the Getty now, and it's too bad they're not in Stuttgart.

And tell us what plans you have now.

Well, **Mr. Fluxus** has been translated into German, Lithuanian, Japanese and English. The German translation came out first, and it was from the English original. The English edition is larger, since it has more new material in it. And we have several Fluxus books by this one publishing house in England, Thames & Hudson, including the Fluxus show at the Tate. Ben Vautier and I have done a tape of our ICA performances in London.

In March, I have been invited to Australia as President of the Museum in Lodz, Poland and I plan to work with the Aborigines, as well as doing performances in Melbourne. Perhaps I will also visit the Fluxus Collection in Queensland.



UMBRELLA NEWS

According to news about Tony Blair's changes in the Brand-New Britain, bowler hats and rightly coiled umbrellas are no longer seen around the Bank of England.

•The cover of the 26 January 1998 issue of *The New Yorker* has a pope and Castro enjoying the sunset sitting in chairs on the beach, Castro with a typical cigar in his hand and the Pope with a drink and a little umbrella in his drink. Hurrah for the Pope in remembering Umbrella's 20th Anniversary!

•An article in the *New York Times*, under the title of "Coping" by Robert Lipsyte discusses the life of an Egyptian, Khairy Gurgis, who came to New York in 1983, and it was raining. He borrowed \$20 from his wife and bought a dozen umbrellas wholesale, selling them on 6th Avenue for \$3 each. Then he brought a dozen more, and kept doing it. He made \$75 profit that day, after repaying his wife with the initial \$20. It rained the next day, and he was happy to do it again, but the police came and confiscated his goods and directed him to go to Consumer Affairs to get a license. He has been selling things on the street including scarves, hats and gloves for 8 years, as well as manufacturing batik dresses and hand-woven coats under his King Tut label.

Although he has had to go before the courts because the City of New York has issued a list of dozens of streets to be placed off limits to vendors, the public has signed petitions to keep the vendors as a vital component of the community. The Umbrella Man wants to be considered a "real human being with a place in my community".

• "The Umbrellas of Yorgos Zongolopoulos is a lighthearted stainless-steel sculpture that became the emblem of the Cultural Capital of Europe in 1997, Thessaloniki, Greece.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UMBRELLA MUSEUM

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