

FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry it's been such a long time since the last issue, but I traveled to the East Coast to attend my 50th high school reunion after taking down my show in Minneapolis and I contracted a terrible cough. First there were over-the-counter medications, but that didn't help, so I finally went to the doctor and found out I had a lung infection. After a week of cortisone, it subsided, but then recurred a few days later, which necessitated my finally taking a regime of antibiotics, but it hasn't been a speedy time—it's been eight weeks of hell. So forgive me for the delay, but there is so much material that I am surrounded by thousands of pieces of paper—and cannot wait until I can clean up my office and start again.

And just after I did the last issue, the computer developed a virus that could not be erased—rather than lose all my files, I had to give up the old ghost (the computer that replaced the one that had been stolen from me in 1996) and buy a new Dell—which is a dream, but which I will be paying off for years—anyway, I have a new computer, with new speed, and a new technician who is Dutch and a miracle-maker—so we are off to a new beginning with this new computer, says I. But a few weeks ago, the SirCam worm came into my computer (I do not open up attachments from people I do not know), and luckily my technician could wipe it out with his special tools, but it came into my computer through Norton Anti-Virus software, believe it or not. We wiped out Norton and put in a new 2001 edition and it is fine now. If you want to know where my spring went—it went to hell. And that's just the beginning.

Anyway, here we are again, contemplating the era of electronic everything, when a good many of you have indicated you prefer the hard copy—and so we will remain with the hard copy edition, but I'm going up to \$20.00 a year for individuals in North America starting in 2002, because the postage rates have gone up twice in 2001 in the U.S. and since I have not increased subscription rates for years, I will be asking domestic subscribers just a little more to help me with mailing out the computer.

If any of you are interested in going to the Frankfurt Book Fair, this year the dates are 10 - 15 October and Greece will be the country honored. Of course, the artist book publishers will be concentrated together, and there have been changes in the buildings to be used, but I think it

will be a good Fair this year. And electronic technology will obviously be booming at the Book Fair.

I will be in Chicago in September to install Women of the Book exhibition (a selection only, but a good part of it) since the National Council of Jewish Women have decided they have to have the show in Chicago, and so they have rented a storefront one-half mile away from the Jewish Community Center. Then on to New York City, so there will be lots of news in the next issue about the Fall Season and its many treats.

And for my international subscribers, I now have a Paypal account online and if you have an e-mail address, you can pay for your subscriptions by transferring money from your bank account to my Paypal account without a check, without electronic transfer, without any bank costs. So think about it when you renew. Look at Paypal.com and think about paying that way. It makes it simple and direct.

Please send material for covers for Umbrella, news about artist books, artist publications, anything you think might be of interest to Umbrella readers, and have a good rest of the summer.

— jah

Coming next issue: An exclusive interview with Ben Patterson, Fluxus artist.

Cover: Page from a book made by Hans Waanders for me using handcut rubberstamps from erasers and a sewing machine to perforate the stamps. May he rest in peace!

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