

Your Fax No.: 07 54 1 331 4278
Attention of: JORDI ARBONÈS.
From: Matthew Tree
My Fax No.: Barcelona 302 24 42
Date: 19/6/91

Estimat Jordi,

Moltíssimes gràcies per una entrevista esplèndida. Trucaré [^]l'AVUI la setmana que ve, un cop que ho tingui tota redactada (sencera!). L'Antoni farà molt aviat fotocòpies dels tres llibres, per enviar-te'ls, i mentrestant segueix amb aquest fax una còpia de la carta 21/7/50 de Miller a J.Rives Childs, on parla de l'autenticitat de Opus Pistorum. L'amic anònim que hi surt amb el nom censurat (Ferguson ha esbrinat que es tracta de un tal George Howard) havia escrit abans a Rives Childs: "Regarding Henry..We saw him recently on our way to San Francisco and we got from him some additional manuscripts. Do you remember the three I had in Washington? They were in a binder with "Mara-Marignan" and "Quiet Days In Clichy". You read them all there. I have since gotten hold of another copy of the manuscript and three additional pieces of the same length which I think completes it. If you want the six pieces I can send them to you..You have read "The French Way", "Black Mass" and "Rue de Screw": It's excellent Miller material; probably never will be published..I don't know of any other complete set except the one Kinsey has and I helped him complete his. Let me know [^]if you want it. It will cost you \$60". Sobre aquest episodi, Robert Ferguson diu: "Miller always denied having written them and..there have been persistent rumours to the effect that the pieces are in fact forgeries": Cita l'exemple de l'expert en eròtica Gerson Legman, que va insinuar que ell mateix els havia escrit en un pròleg no publicat a l'edició de Grove Press de 1983 de "O.P.". Segueix Ferguson: "That hard-core pornography was written by Miller, Nin and their friends is not in dispute. The issue is whether Miller was responsible for these particular stories...No original scripts exist, and the argument for forgery rests on the frequent appearance in the stories of sexual slang like "jism", "John Thursday" and "bonne-bouche", words which do not appear anywhere else in Miller's writings, published or unpublished. On the other hand there are numerous Miller trademarks in the writing: the cunt as a clam, the presence of a distinct anglophobia, a passing reference to Dostoevsky and even to the chess champion Alekine, as well as an eight page section of "France In My Pants" which contains no sex at all and could have come straight from the pages of "Tropic Of Cancer"..Beyond this there is the evidence of George Barker, (amic de Nin), who succinctly dismisses Miller's denials as "absolute balls" and confirms that the writing produced for private collectors in and around 1940 was of the grossest sort..Copies of all 6 pieces have been a part of the H.M. Collection at UCLA since 1962. Miller took a keen interest in this collection and was aware of their presence. When Lawrence Clark Powell, the librarian in charge of the collection, asked him outright whether he had written them he did not say he had; but neither did he deny it." No em queda espai, Jordi, escriuré aviat, mercès per tot, espero que això et serveixi pel pròleg. Adéu!

all the best,
Matthew

Attention of: JORDI ARBONÉS.
From: Matthew Tree
My Fax No.: Barcelona 302 24 42
Date: 19/6/91

Destinat: Jordi,
Millesimes gràcies per una entrevista esplèndida. Trucaré l'AVUI la setmana que ve, un cop que ho tingui tota redactada (sencera). Antoni farà molt aviat fotocòpies dels tres llibres, per enviar-te'ls, i mentre tant segueix amb aquest fax una còpia de la carta 21/7/50 de Miller a J. Rives Childs, on parla de l'autenticitat de Opus Pistorum. L'emic anònim que hi surt amb el nom censurat (Ferguson ha esbrinat que es tracta de un tal George Howard) havia escrit abans a Rives Childs: "Regarding Henry... We saw him recently on our way to San Francisco and we got from him some additional manuscripts. Do you remember the three I had in Washington? They were in a binder with "Mafar-Marignan" and "Quiet Days In Clichy". You read them all there. I have since gotten hold of another copy of the manuscript and three additional pieces of the same length which I think completes it. If you want the six pieces I can send them to you. You have read "The French Way", "Black Mass" and "Rue de Sèvres". It's excellent Miller material; probably never will be published. I don't know of any other complete set except the one Kinsey has and I helped him complete his. Let me know if you want it. It will cost you \$50". Sobre aquest episodi, Robert Ferguson diu "Miller always denied having written them and, there have been persistent rumours to the effect that the pieces are in fact forgeries": Cita l'exemple de l'expert en èrctica Gerson Legman, que va insinuar que ell mateix els havia escrit en un pròleg no publicat a l'edició de Grove Press de 1983 de "V.P.". Segueix Ferguson: "That hard-core pornography was written by Miller. Nan and their friends is not in dispute. The issue is whether Miller was responsible for these particular stories... No original scripts exist, and the argument for forgery rests on the frequent appearance in the stories of sexual slang like "jism", "John Thureday" and "stone-pouche", words which do not appear anywhere else in Miller's writings, published or unpublished. On the other hand there are numerous Miller trademarks in the writing: the cunt as a clet, the presence of a distinct anglophobia, a passing reference to Deweyevy, an even to the chess champion Alekine, as well as an eight page section of "France In My Pants" which contains no sex at all, and would have come straight from the pages of "Tropic Of Cancer". Beyond this there is the evidence of George Barker, (amic de Nan), who succinctly dismisses Miller's denials as "absolute balls" and confirms that the writing produced for private collectors in and around 1940 was of the grossest sort. Copies of all 6 pieces have been a part of the H.W. Collection at UCLA since 1962. Miller took a keen interest in this collection and was aware of their presence. When Lawrence Clark Powell, the librarian in charge of the collection, asked him outright whether he had written them he did not say no had; but neither did he deny it." No em queda espai, Jordi, escriure aviat, mercès per tot, espero que això et serveixi pel pròleg. Adéu!

all the best
Matthew

Attention of: JORDI ARBONÉS,

From: Matthew Tree

My Fax No.: Barcelona 302 24 42

Date: 19/6/91

Dear Jordi:

Moltíssimes gràcies per una entrevista esplèndida. Trucaré l'AVUI la setmana que ve, un cop que ho tingui tota redactada (sèncera!). Antoni farà molt aviat fotocòpies dels tres llibres, per enviar-te'ls, i mentre tant segueix amb aquest fax una còpia de la Carta dirigida al Març de Rives Childs, en parla de l'autenticitat de Opus Fictum. I amb cada un que hi surt amb el nom de Robert Ferguson ha esbafinat que es tracta de un tal George Howard) havia escrit abans a Rives Childs: "Regarding Henry. We saw him recently on our way to San Francisco and he got from him some additional manuscripts. Do you remember the three I had in Washington? They are the same length as the three I had in Washington." of the manuscript and three additional pieces of the same length which I think completes it. If you want the six pieces I can send them to you. You have read "The French Way", "Black Mass" and "Que de Screw". It's excellent Miller material; probably never will be published. I don't know of any other complete set except the one Kinsey has and I helped him complete his. Let me know if you want it. It will cost you \$600. Sobre aquest episodi, Robert Ferguson dit: "Miller always denied having written them and there have been persistent rumours to the effect that the pieces are in fact forgeries"; Cita l'exemple de l'expert en eròtica Gerson Legman, que ve insinuar que ell mateix els havia escrit en un pròleg no publicat a l'edició de Grove Press de 1983 de "O.P.". Segueix Ferguson: "That hard-core pornography was written by Miller. His and their friends is not in dispute. The issue is whether Miller was responsible for these particular stories. No original scripts exist, and the argument for forgery rests on the frequent appearance in the stories of sexual slang like "jism", "Judas Thureday" and "bonne-bouche", words which do not appear anywhere else in Miller's writings, published or unpublished. On the other hand there are numerous Miller trademarks in the writing: the cunt as a slang, the presence of a distinct anglophobia, a passing reference to pornography, as even to the chess champion Alekine, as well as an explicit mention of "France in My Pants" which contains no sex at all and should have come straight from the pages of "Tropic of Cancer". Beyond this there is the evidence of George Barker, (and he is not to be summarily dismissed) Miller's denials as "absolute balls" and his claim that the writing produced for private collectors in and around 1960 was of the grossest sort. Copies of all 6 pieces have been a part of the H.M. Collection at UCLA since 1962; Miller took a keen interest in this collection and was aware of their presence. When Laurence Clark Powell, the librarian in charge of the collection, asked him outright whether he had written them he did not say he had; but neither did he deny it." No en queda espai, Jordi, escrits aquests, mercès per tot, espero que això et serveixi pel pròleg. Adf

all the best
Matthew

Arbc/0210 (4)

A/A: JORDI ARBOWES

2.

Big Sur; July 21, 1950^T

Dear Mr. Childs -

Your letter of July 6th, quoting from _____'s letter - what a coincidence! Just a very few days ago I wrote a Hollywood bookseller (Lee Treeson) who tried to sell three of these pieces (*) to a friend of mine, another bookseller, in Sacramento, that they were definitely not mine. He had bought them of a friend of a friend of mine - names not mentioned. Said I had offered them for sale when hard up - in New York. The whole works - all in typescript - had been given the title - "Opus Pisorium" (?). The titles of the three you mention I could never have invented! They are completely out of my "line." I abhor erotica - this sort - "smut for smut's sake" - as I suppose them to be. Now, it is possible "they" invented these titles too - perhaps for pieces I *have* written - but I doubt it strongly. I know every thing I have written - and I know I never sold any one, or gave any one, typescripts of unpublished material.

As for _____ - now it becomes truly delicate and still more puzzling! I am quite certain I did *not* give _____ any MSS. when he was here a year or so ago. I do not even recall giving him "Mara" or "Quiet Days." I have a suspicion he got them from the bookseller Ben Abramson (a good friend of his), of the Argus Book Shop.¹ I gave Ben these two scripts to publish privately - several years ago. He never did. He never returned the scripts either, though I have asked for them repeatedly. And to think poor Dr. Kinsey believes all this crap to be mine!

What confirms my convictions is this. In Hollywood five or six years [ago,] I was shown, by a book dealer, some typescripts he had bought to which my name was signed. He paid a good price for them. When I told him they were not mine, he seemed incredulous. I have a feeling they are the same scripts. Unfortunately, I no

longer remember the titles of these. I read a few pages of each and was amazed that any one could have believed them to be mine. I am amazed that _____ should also think them mine - "excellent Miller material." In another way I am not - because _____ is interested almost solely in the "erotic" element. And then the price! That amazes me still more. If I had "given" them to him, as he says, was it to sell them? It's incomprehensible.

I *have* sold MSS. - hand & typewritten - *after* a work was published - for the value of the "corrections" and "revisions." I never sold even the slightest thing for *ten* dollars. Absurd. I was reluctant to put a price on yours, first because I felt indebted to you, second, because what I would like to receive for such things I never have the nerve to ask.

But - to be absolutely sure of what I say - mail these three scripts to me, if you like. I will tell you the truth on reading them. But before doing so, compare with my other writings! Perhaps it will then be unnecessary. I don't have a left and a right hand - in writing, as you probably know. If I had, I would have made money writing for the paying magazines. If this letter is a bit tart, believe me, there is no animus directed towards *you*. Your check is entirely satisfactory to me, and accepted graciously. I'm glad you had the impulse to write me as you did. And it was kind of you to offer to lend me the "Mara" (to retype) should the original be lost. I'll never get the ones that went to Abramson, I realize that. He's probably waiting for me to die.

If you feel inclined, try to look up Blaise Cendrars - now living at 100 Blvd. de Port-Royal, Paris. I think you will find him a rich character - and undoubtedly an admirer of Restif. Phone or write him first, though! He's touchy.

I'm going to look up the reference you give to-night. Wrote you a few days ago - about the book - after a first dip into it.

About _____ - use your discretion! I wouldn't want to

H. M. to J. R. C., July 21, 1950

hurt his feelings. But there's something damned "*louche*" about the whole business.

Warmly yours,
Henry Miller

P.S. Oh yes, if you are floating about in Paris, have a look in on Pierre Laleure, a good bookseller friend - fond of Montaigne. He lives on avenue Hoche but his shop is elsewhere. See the Bottin!

P.S. If you have an address when abroad, let me know - may want to write you. If possible, try to get some inkling of *who* or *what* is behind the current police attacks on my books, yes? I have a notion *our compatriots* are back of it.

* "The French Way," "Black Mass" and "Rue de Screw." Never even thought of writing about a black mass-beyond mel Rue de Screw-an insult to the French! It makes me furious, these titles. [Miller's note.]

¹ In 1939 Childs visited Abramson's New York bookstore and purchased some unbanned Miller books. At that time Abramson and Frances Steloff of the Gotham Book Mart were the only dealers in New York trying to carry them. Later Abramson opened the Argus Book Shop in Chicago and in 1941 met Miller and sought to become a clearing house for his books and manuscripts.

H. M. to J. R. C., July 21, 1950

Arhc/0210(5)

SORDI ARBONES

2

Big Star, July 21, 1950

Dear Mr. ...

Your letter ... from ...
 - what a case ... a few days ago I wrote ...
 Hollywood ... (a friend of mine, another book-
 seller, in ... that they were definitely not mine.
 He had bought them ... instead of a friend of mine -
 name: not ... I had offered them for sale
 when hard up in New York. The whole works - all in
 typescript - had been given the title "Opus
 Pictorium" (P.I.) ... of the three you mention I could
 never have ... they are completely out of my
 "line." I ... - this sort - "smut for smut's sake"
 - as I suppose ... it is possible they have
 vented these ... perhaps for pieces I have written
 - but I doubt ... I know every thing I have
 written - and I ... told any one, or given any
 one, typescripts of unpublished material.

As for ... it became, truly delicate and still
 more puzzling ... I did not give ... any
 MSS. when ... or as ago. I do not even
 recall giving ... "Quiet Days." I have a suspi-
 cion he got these ... bookseller Ben Abraham (a
 good friend of ... the Aquas Book Shop." I gave Ben
 these two ... probably - several years ago.
 He never did ... the scripts either,
 though I have ... them repeatedly. And to think
 poor Dr. K ... all this crap to be mine!

What could ... in this. In Hollywood
 five or six ... shown, by a book dealer,
 some typescripts ... to which my name was
 signed. He ... for these. When I told him
 they were ... I have
 feeling the ... Unfortunately, I do

long to remember the titles of these. I read a few pages of
 each and was amazed that any one could have believed
 them to be mine. I am ... that ... should also think
 them mine - "truncated Miller material." In ... way
 I am not - because ... it ... about solely to the
 "cloak" element, and then the ... That someone
 still ... If I had "given" them to him, as he says, was
 it to sell them? It's incomprehensible.

I have sold MSS. - hand & typewritten - after a week
 was published - for the value of the "conventions" and
 "revisions." I never sold even the slightest thing for ten
 dollars. Alas, I was reluctant to put a price on yours
 first because I felt indebted to you, second, because what
 I would like to receive for such things I never have the
 nerve to ask.

But - to be absolutely sure of what I say - and since
 I have written to me if you like. I will tell you the truth on
 reading them, but before doing so, compare with my
 other writings. Perhaps it will then be unnecessary. I
 don't have a left and a right hand - in writing, as you
 probably know. If I had, I would have made money
 big for the paying magazines. If this letter is a bit tart,
 believe me, there is no animus directed towards you.
 Your check is entirely satisfactory to me, and accepted
 graciously. I'm glad you had the impulse to write me as
 you did. And it was kind of you to refer to hand me the
 "mime" (no stype) should the original be lost. I'll never
 get the ones that went to Abraham, I realize that. He's
 probably waiting for me to die.

If you feel inclined, try to look up Blaise Cendrars -
 now living at 100 Blvd. de Port-Royal, Paris. I think you
 will find him a rich character - and undoubtedly an
 admirer of Pastil. Please or write him first, though He's
 laundry.

I'm going to look up the references you give to-night.
 Write your ... about the book - after a first
 dip into it.

About ... - use your discretion I wouldn't want to

41

H. M. to J. E. C., July 21, 1950

... nothing damned "ouche"
 ...

Warmly yours,
 Henry Miller

... I have a book
 ... of
 ...

... I know -
 ... to get some making
 of ... behind the current police attacks on
 my ... you? I have a notion our counterparts are back
 of it.

"The French War," "Blue & Mauve" and "Bare de Sore" never
 even thought of writing about a Black man beyond and the de-
 scribe as ... to the French! It makes me furious, these titles.
 [Miller's note.]

In 1929 Cady visited Abraham's New York bookstore and
 purchased some unissued Miller books. It had these Abraham and
 French ... of the Colman Book Mart were the only dealers in
 New York trying to carry them. Later Abraham opened the Depot
 Book Day in Chicago and in 1941 sent Miller and sought to increase
 a ... for his books and manuscripts.

H. M. to J. E. C., July 21, 1950

42