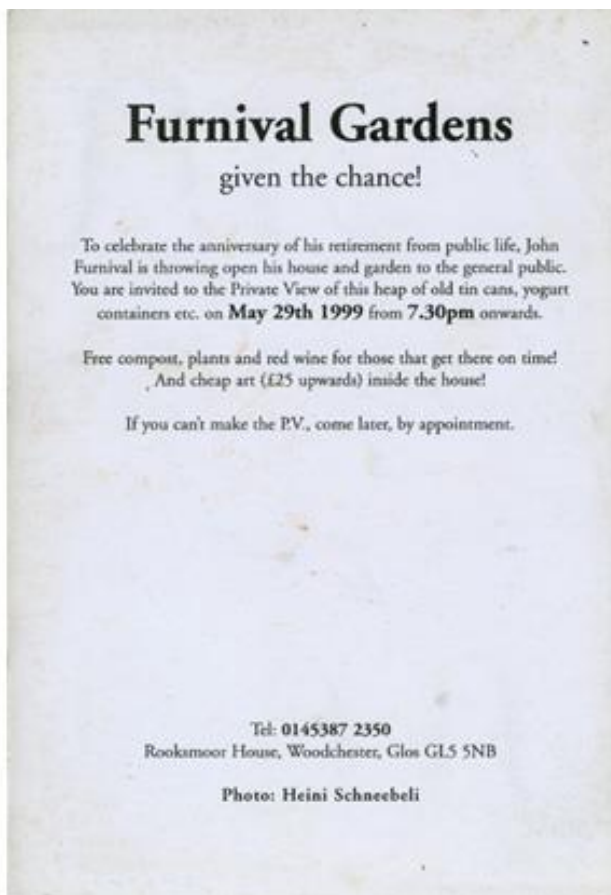


## A John Furnival Archive Featuring: Concrete Poetry and Mail Art



“Furnival Gardens given the chance!” May 29, 1999.

*To celebrate the anniversary of his retirement from public life, John Furnival is throwing open his house and garden to the general public. You are invited to the Private Viewing of this heap of old tin cans, yogurt containers etc. on May 29th 1999 from 7.30pm onwards.*

### John Furnival (1933– )

John Furnival studied at the Royal College of Art from 1957–60. In the 60s and 70s he taught at Gloucestershire College of Art and at the Bath Academy of Art, Corsham. In 1964, he and Dom Sylvester Houédard began the seminal concrete poetry press, Openings, which published Augusto de Campos, Richard Kostelanetz, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Tom Phillips, Edwin Morgan, Houédard, Furnival and others. In 1965 he was included in the “First International Exhibition of Experimental Poetry” as well as the “Between Poetry and Painting” exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (London), curated by Jasia Reichardt.

John Furnival’s essential role and his many contributions to the international concrete poetry movement is reflected by his inclusion in nearly all survey exhibitions and reference works on the genre.

Furnival has also been an active participant in the international mail art movement since the 60s as well as a frequent collaborator with his many artist and writer friends including Ian Hamilton Finlay and Henri Chopin. Perhaps his best-known collaboration was with his dear friend Jonathan Williams,





**Kay Cresswell Roberts, ALS to Astrid and John Furnival, March 18, 2007.**

Kay Roberts and John and Astrid Furnival are longtime friends. In this 2007 letter she writes to Astrid and John: "Have got a new Irish neighbor, bad news for noise as he is a party animal! Bring ear plugs."

In 1975 Roberts and Simon Cutts founded Coracle Press and gallery space. She was active with Tarasque Press prior to the formation of Coracle. She published and exhibited with Coracle in the mid-seventies before striking out on her own. She continues to be an active artist and curator in England.

The archive contains two folders of correspondence from Roberts.



**Henri Chopin, TLS to Astrid and John Furnival, May 30, 2001.**

Henri Chopin writing to Astrid and John: "me voice revenue ici, en famille, suite à des difficultés de marcher... Sans doute l'âge..."



**Note sent by Francesco Conz to John Furnival.**

"Si prega di Conz Grazie."



Front and back of postcard announcing the Fourth Workshop of Francesco Conz's "La Livre: An Homage to Ezra Pound" project held at the Brunnenburg Castle, May 23, 1989. Signed by all of the participants: Pierre Garnier, Ladislav Novak, Jacques Spacagna, and Francesco Conz.

Francesco Conz's "La Livre: An Homage to Ezra Pound" project was begun in 1987 and was uncompleted at the time of his death. Over the years he held a series of seven workshops with writers and artist at the Brunnenburg Castle, where Ezra Pound spent much of his later years and is now the home of Pound's daughter, Mary de Rachewiltz.



In personal correspondence to Steve Clay (included in the archive), Furnival writes: "I don't know how much you know about Francesco Conz, but I can fill you in quite a bit, as I, perforce, knew him very well! No. 1 — He had a supersize ego, which was matched only by his arch-rival, Sarenco, and Verona was their battlefield ... No. 2 — Francesco was extremely rude and impatient, a terrible, and dangerous driver (he almost killed us once!) ... I could go on, but won't — funnily enough, everybody misses him!"



Francesco Conz, TLS to John Furnival, February 14, 2007.

Francesco Conz writing to John Furnival: "The 3rd Station has arrived and will be put together with the other two and, finally, they will be together and will represent the history of a certain Monsieur named Jesus Christ. Hermann Nitsch used to say that the Passion was the greatest event in the history of Happenings."

Ulma, 18-1-08

Dear Astrid + John,  
 We have received your cards,  
 thank you very much.  
 In the meantime, H. Chopin is  
 peace fully dead at home  
 and we are in contact  
 with his daughter Brigitte.  
 Many thanks many wishes  
 to the  
 Franca

Card sent to Astrid and John Furnival by Francesco Conz, January 18, 2008.

Francesco Conz was a great supporter of both John Furnival and Henri Chopin. Both, along with Dick Higgins and Jean Dupuy were participants in the fourth of the "La Livre" workshops. Conz, writes only two weeks after Chopin's death: "... H. Chopin is peace fully dead at home..."

July 26, 1989

Dear John,  
 Thanks for your letter and information about due financing. All these years of hard to mouth existence & has success spoiled for the other way or is it simply girl (Sue) met boy (?)  
 Did not do anything about ending funds for a 2 night camp are now right with the history of our country, purchase, computer, foundation etc. However, still puzzled about conflicting payments by Guberman we report  
 regarding an exhibition in Brazil in 1992. Your name for some of our efforts but I'd like you to think about some drawings - about complete set of drawings to that area or similar for it. You may see spectra - perhaps the night with the work in an alternative idea  
 Best  
 Marvin

P.S. "Sue" is the girl who is still in the  
 P.O. Box 1000, 1000, 1000

THE RUTH AND MARVIN SACKNER ARCHIVE OF CONCRETE AND VISUAL POETRY  
 300 WEST DIVO ALDO DRIVE - MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139 - (305) 532-6209

Marvin Sackner, ALS to John Furnival, July 26, 1989.

Ruth and Marvin Sackner are longtime supporters and friends of John and Astrid Furnival. Writing to John, Marvin exclaims: "Shocked about Sue leaving Ian. All those years of hand to mouth existence & has success spoiled Ian Hamilton Finlay or is it simply girl (Sue) meets boy (?)."

Feb 16, 1989

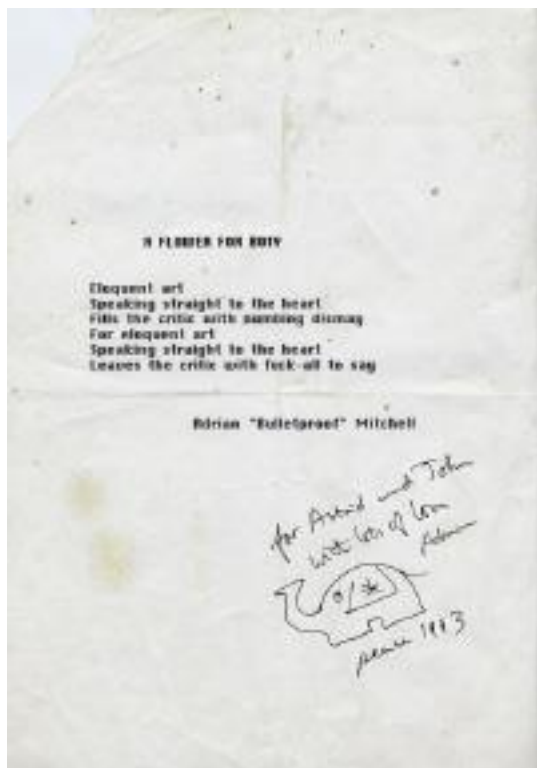
Dear John,  
 Happy to hear that everything is going well with you. Finished my catalogs shipped & it should go to printer within the next few weeks. Doing a lot of business for my new business - off to Hawaii tomorrow for a week.  
 My hope sold for collector today. So I'm the only collector with a comparable collection to Brown & Sohm who is still independent of museums. As we try to realize that we're competing with the Getty & Stuttgart Museum!  
 Best,  
 Marvin

P.S. Richard had the book "Birthmark" and

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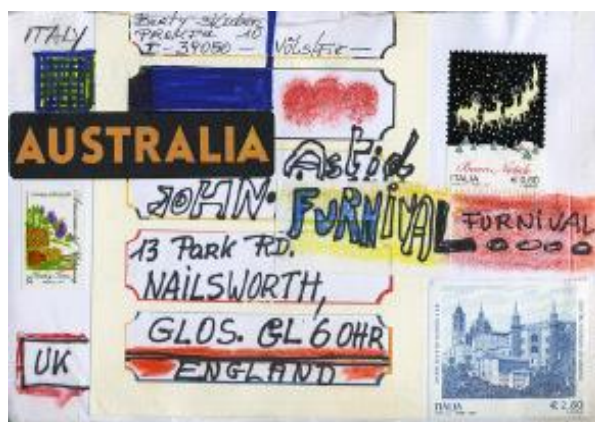
Marvin Sackner, ALS to John Furnival, February 16, 1989.

"Jean Brown sold her collection to the Getty! So I'm the only collector with a comparable collection to Brown & Sohm who is still independent of museums. An ego trip to realize that we're competing with the Getty & Stuttgart Museums!"



Adrian Mitchell, "A Flower for Boty."

Poem inscribed by English poet, novelist, playwright and activist Adrian Mitchell, 1993. In personal correspondence to Steve Clay (included in the archive), Furnival writes: "...I don't know how much you know about him — he was one of the main 60's protest poets, along with Mike Horowitz, Anselm Hollo et al. — the equivalent to the Beats, I suppose. He was a good friend of ours, although his poetry is definitely not our cup of Lapsang — he was just a very nice person — ditto his wife Celia." Mitchell died in 2008.



Four of many collaged envelopes from Berty Skuber to John and Astrid Furnival.

Italian-born artist Berty Skuber has been exhibiting since the late 60s and her work is in numerous European and American collections. She is married to translator and critic Henry Martin and she is the Venice Gallery Manager for the Emily Harvey Foundation. Her many cards and letters to the Furnivals are often accompanied by colorfully collaged envelopes. The archive contains two folders of correspondence from Skuber and three of her artist's books inscribed to the Furnivals.



Left: Chain letter on Satie's Faction stationery started June 23, 1982.



Right: "Palimpsest' chain-envelope project," n.d.

Left: This chain letter was started on June 23, 1982, and was to be returned to John Furnival when finished. There are only three participants on this sheet: The Gerlovins (contributing a pornographic image and string), Jon Hendricks, and Dick Higgins.

Right: The "Palimpsest" chain letter was to be returned to John Furnival for an exhibition at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol. Participants in the project include: Lucien Suel, John Furnival, Barbara Moore, Jon Hendricks, Jon Gibson, Ypdu Anagrammiste (Jean Dupuy), Olga Adorno, and Gianfranco Mantegna.



Postcard from artist Rémy Pénard, May 13, 2006.

French mail artist Rémy Pénard is recognized for his use of rubber stamps and stencils, he has participated in over 1200 mail art exhibitions.







*Solidarte Informa*, no. 1. Aug 1982.

Newsletter of the Arte Correo Mexico de Solidaridad Internacional (Solidarete: Mexico Mail-Art for International Solidarity). On the back is a manifesto in Spanish and English.



Front and back of collaged envelope sent to John Furnival by Darrel Rees. Feb. 4, 2014.

Darrel Rees was a student of John Furnival's at the Bath Academy of Art and is now a well-regarded illustrator. In addition to 10 of these collaged envelopes there is a folder of additional correspondence from Rees.





A1 Waste Paper Co., Ltd. *U-mak-it (No Talent!)*.

*U-mak-it (No Talent!)* by mail artist A1 Waste Paper Co., Ltd. (Michael Leigh) was issued as part of *Photostatic*, no. 28, Jan. 1988.



Rimma Gerlovina and Valeriy Gerlovin, ed. *5 Year Plan. Collective Farm, no. 5*. [Gerlovins], 1987. This is no. 40 from an edition of 100 copies.

Silk-screened envelopes bound and unopened, each around a specific theme. Artists in this issue include: Robert Atkins, Mike Bidlo, Jean Dupuy, Peter Frank, Ken Friedman, John Furnival, Valeriy Gerlovin, Rimma Gerlovina, Richard Hambleton, Tehching Hsieh, Donald Lipski, Igor Makarevich, Robert C. Morgan, Charlie Morrow, Carolee Schneemann, Fred Truck, and Paul Zelevansky among many others.

## Archive Inventory

The archive consists of four boxes of correspondence and two boxes of books plus oversized broadsides and posters.

The following are represented in the archive with correspondence, ephemera, books or all three:

A.1 Waste Paper Co. Ltd. (Michael Leigh)  
Ackerman, Diane  
Adams, Clive  
Adams, Heather and Michael  
Agrafiotis, Démosthène

Kentish, Charlotte — Arcadia Gallery  
King, Ron and Willow — Circle Press  
La Fosca, Francesco  
Larcombe, Sam  
Leibowitz, Herb

Aguiar, Feraanado — Associação Poesia Viva  
 Alcock, Kate (ex-student)  
 Allen, Bill  
*The Ampersand*  
 Anderson, Don and Sally — Roswell Artist-  
 in-Residence Program  
 Andrews, Steve  
 Anleo, Xoan (artist book)  
 Archive of Artistic Works and Projects about  
 the Amazonic World (Ruggero Maggi)  
 Arends, Vickie and Stuart  
 Arnolfini  
 Atkinson, Terry  
 Bailey, Peter  
 Baker, Bob  
 Baroni, Vittore  
 Bawden, Richard  
 Beaudry, George  
 Beam, Jeffrey  
 Bean, Victoria  
 Bellaart, Gerard  
 Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
 Blaine, Julian  
 Breckenridge, Colin  
 Broadhurst, Caroline — Ingleby Gallery  
 Brown, Jean  
 Broxton, Peter  
 Bulatov, Dmitry  
 Bunting, Basil  
 Burge, Josephine  
 Butera, Virginia Fabbri  
 Bulter, Frances — Poltroon Press  
 Carus-Wilson, Anna  
 Causley, Charles  
 Cernotto, Andrea  
 Chopin, Henri  
 Christie, John  
 Claire, Paula  
 Clark, Thomas A.  
 Cohen, Ryosuke  
 Conz, Francesco  
 Coover, Robert  
 Cowcher, Helen  
 Culbert, Pip and Bill  
 Cutts, Simon and Erica Van Horn — Coracle  
 Davies, Hugh  
 Davies, W.H.  
 Dawson, Liz  
 Day, Graham  
 de Charmoy, Cozette  
 della Grazia, Paola  
 Dias-Pino, Wladimir  
 Dupuy, Jean  
 Edeline, Francis  
 England, Jane and Peter (England & Co)  
 Erisson, Leif  
 Essary, Loris  
 Falafrivka, Nick  
 Fedden, Mary  
 Ferro, Luigi  
 Lumb, Michael  
 Koch, Suzanne  
 Kostelanetz, Richard  
 Lenoir, Pascal  
 Lora-Totina, Arrigo  
 Lowe, Tony  
 Marsh, Wendy and Stanley  
 Martin, Henry — Emily Harvey Foundation  
 Mathieu, Didier — Centre des Livres d'Artistes  
 (CDLA)  
 Meeuwissen, Tony  
 Melchert, James and Mary Ann  
 Menezes, Florivaldo  
 Menezes, Philadelpho  
 Metcalf, Paul  
 Meyer, Thomas  
 Michelon, Olivier  
 Millington, Terence and Pat  
 Mitchell, Adrian  
 Mordvinter, Dmitri and Zoa  
 Morrison, Andrew  
 Mukherjee, Trilokesh  
 Mullery, Kevin  
 Openings  
 O'Shea, Susan and Patrick  
 Oyama, Reiko  
 Packer, Robert Mark  
 O'Shea, Susan and Patrick  
 Oyama, Reiko  
 Packer, Robert Mark  
 Padin, Clemente  
 Papadopoulos, Philippe  
 Partridge, Frankie  
 Pawson, Mark  
 Pénard, Rémy  
 Pennie, Marlene  
 Phillips, Tom  
 Portella, Manuel  
 Power, Kevin  
 Pride, Nick  
 Quartermain, Peter and Meredith —  
 Slug Press  
 Rabascall, Joan  
 Random, Steve  
 Rees, Darrel  
 Reese, Sandra Liddell and Harry —  
 Turkey Press  
 Reichert, Hans Dieter and Veronika  
 Rheidhardt, Jasia and Nick  
 Riches, Eileen  
 Roberts, Kay Cresswell  
 Rogers, Martin  
 Rogers, Maxine  
 Ross-White, Malcolm  
 Russell, George  
 Rypson, Pytor  
 Sackner, Ruth and Marvin  
 San Millan, François  
 Sarenco  
 Scott, Susan

Finlay, Ian Hamilton  
Fontana, Giovanni  
Fortune [Burger], John and Emma  
Frank, Peter  
Frayling, Christopher  
Frykman, Gérard and Geniève Seillé  
Fuller, Mossy and Ron  
Furnival, Astrid  
Furnival, Jack, Harry and Eve  
Furnival, John  
Galántai, György — Artpool (Hungary)  
Gerber, Alain (France Musiques)  
Gerlovin, Rimma and Valery  
Gore, Mozella — Zella Nine Gallery  
Gosling, Ray  
Greene, Jonathan  
Groh, Klaus  
Hair, Ross  
Hall, Lee  
Halsey, Alan  
Hapgood, Marilyn and Robert  
Harker, Jonathan  
Harwood, Lara  
Hoss, Theo  
Hosszü, Michael — International Stamp Art  
Project  
Houédard, Dom Sylvester  
Humphreys, John  
Jaffe, James S.  
Jenkins, Jessica  
Joki (Jo Klaffki)  
Jones, Hazel  
Kato, Kowa  
Kempton, Karl  
Seille, Genevieve  
Sensini, Roland  
Shiels, Tony “Doc”  
Shirreff, Jack  
Shohachiro, Takahasi  
Skuber, Berty  
Smith, Derek  
Smith, Roger  
Stein, Donna  
Stewart, Rory (MP)  
Suel, Lucien  
Tänzer, Gerhard  
Thomkins, André  
Thompson, Sheila  
Townshend, Piers —Tate Gallery  
Trinkewitz, Karel  
Tucker, Paul  
Tullett, Barrie  
Verey, Charles  
Vince, John  
Volta, Ornella  
Warner, Marina  
Weldon, Fay and Ron  
Whalley, Robin and Karin  
Williams, Danny  
Williams, Emmett  
Williams, Jerry  
Williams, Jonathan  
Williams, Steve  
Wilson, Bill  
Wise, Gillian  
Zagajewski, Adam  
Zelevansky, Paul and Lynn