

Don't forget...

- MILK
- BAGELS
- ICE CREAM
- HARVARD
- REVIEW
- (SPRING '98 #14)
-
-



A circumcision is
No prick nick.
Lucky Number: 2-14-17-22-23-33
--A.R. Ammons



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\$10.00 U.S. ~\$13.50 CANADA

\$10.00 U.S. ~\$13.50 Canada

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SOCIÉTÉ IMAGINAIRE

THE SOCIÉTÉ IMAGINAIRE: PHASE TWO

The Batuz Foundation's *Société Imaginaire* is an independent, non-profit organization that operates worldwide and is concerned with communication and the relationship between culture and political science. Its goal is to bring together people from different nations, cultures, and religions through personal contact in such a way as to generate a deeper understanding of the conditions of life in each other's societies.

The *Société Imaginaire* was brought into being twelve years ago by the painter Batuz, who considers it the logical manifestation of his life and art. Batuz is an American of central European origin, who has lived and worked in Latin America for many years. His deep knowledge of the cultures and ways of life in different parts of the world compelled him to create a foundation that would make possible the sharing of his experience. The *Société* has no ideology or predetermined point of view to be adopted. Each associate's beliefs and ideas are a source of enrichment for the others. All of its projects have one goal: to preserve and promote diversity.

For the past twelve years, a broad circle of prominent artists, writers, scientists, and public administrators from Europe and North and South America have met and corresponded with each other in order to generate and investigate ideas. They have been making their findings available to anyone who wishes to make use of them. During this first phase of its existence, the *Société Imaginaire* laid the groundwork for and went a long way toward furthering its unique task.

Since 1994 the headquarters of the Batuz Foundation has been located at the old monastery of Altzella in the Free State of Saxony (Germany). Its facilities, occupying several buildings, comprise offices and conference rooms, accommodations, studios, an art gallery, and a museum of photography. Future plans include a sculpture garden and an outdoor theater.

Speaking on the transformation of Altzella, the Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf, said, "Batuz, the Batuz Foundation, and the *Société Imaginaire* have performed a miracle: after hundreds of years they have brought new life to the Cloister, a place of work and prayer. They have resurrected the ancient monastery as a place where creative people from around the world can gather in the common knowledge that it is through art that we are closest to the Creator."

Recently, the *Société Imaginaire* has been active building alliances and initiating sponsored projects with sister foundations and other international artistic, scientific, educational, economic, cultural, and intercultural organi-

zations. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the European Union, Mercosur (the Latin American free trade zone), the National Gallery in Washington, DC, Harvard University, and MIT are a few cases in point. The task ahead calls for an expansion of infrastructure to facilitate a growing number of partnerships in North and South America and Central and Eastern Europe.

Last year there was a series of cultural events organized by the *Société* and sponsored jointly by J.M. Sanguinetti, President of Uruguay, Kurt Biedenkopf, Prime Minister of Saxony. It featured performances in Chemnitz, Dresden, and Altzella of tango-dancers from Rio de la Plata, and of German musicians and instrument-makers in Montevideo. Exhibits in the capital of Uruguay included archival material of the *Société*, representing the correspondence between Alvaro Mutis and Michel Butor, and between Enrique Molina and Miklos Meszoly; the paintings of Raul Lozza; the work of three young painters from Poland, Uruguay and Germany, who won the 1997 Batuz Prize for Painting; and the work of five photographers nominated for this year's prize.

A joint project commemorating the *Société's* quintessential theme of "correspondence," was undertaken by the artist Ricardo Pascale, who used a nine-meter tall oak trunk from Saxony and other wood from Uruguay to construct two identical sculptures titled "Hommage à la Correspondence." This monumental work has been installed in the grounds of the Presidential Palace of Uruguay and in the court yard of the Monastery of Altzella.

Speaking on "Hommage à la Correspondence," President Sanguinetti said, "Ancient wood shaped by Pascale: resurrection of old tree trunks, logged and milled, now stand free once again in the open space. Inspired by the *Société Imaginaire* under the guidance of Batuz, they are born anew at Altzella. The dialogue between cultures continues, enriched: an old German oak trunk from Saxony, noble in strength, is joined by an artist with wood from America, thus fixing a point of reference that transcends time."

The sculptor of "Hommage à la Correspondence," Ricardo Pascale, said, "It fills me with pride to have been able to make a contribution to the significant, constructive rebellion of a person such as Batuz in his endeavor to bring together cultures and traditions and, along with these, people and nations as well."

President Sanguinetti has recently made available to the *Société Imaginaire* special facilities at the official site of the Mercosur, so that it can be in a position to carry out its tasks more effectively.

Another recent development centers on a proposal by Professor Stanford Anderson, Chairman of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning, to establish an ongoing program of urban design studies at Altzella. Under discussion are projects such as the formation of a study group of MIT and German art and architecture historians, generating plans of urban renewal for the City of Dresden and contributing toward the realization of "inventive,

light structures that will enhance the meaning and use of Altzella by the Batuz Foundation and its associated groups."

Finally, the Batuz Foundation has submitted a proposal to the giant industrial corporation, Siemens AG, recommending the establishment of twelve prizes in literature and the arts in Europe and North and South America. The International Siemens Prizes of the *Société Imaginaire* will be given each year to six outstanding writers and six artists, each from a different country, and will consist of 5000 DM and a ten-week residency at Altzella, including travel, room and board.

The joint *Société Imaginaire*—Konrad Adenauer Foundation conference, now an annual event taking place at Cadenabbia, Italy, has been scheduled for May 24-29. The agenda: "The European Union and Mercosur: Culture as the Link in Global Political and Economic Relations."

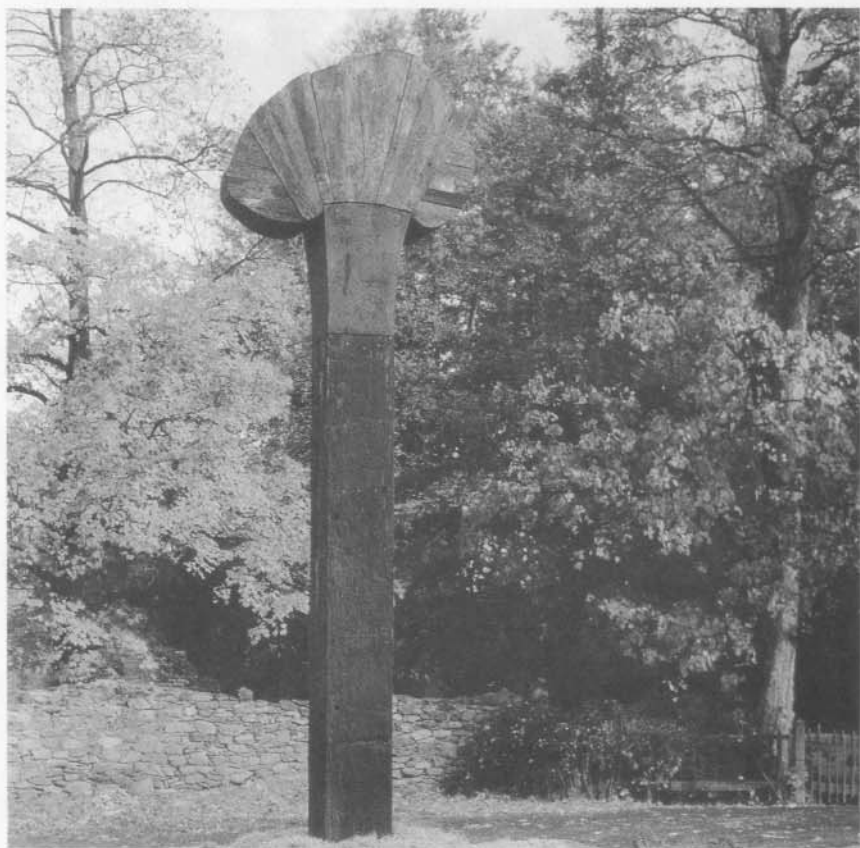
Read all about it in the fall issue of Harvard Review.

Stratis Haviaras



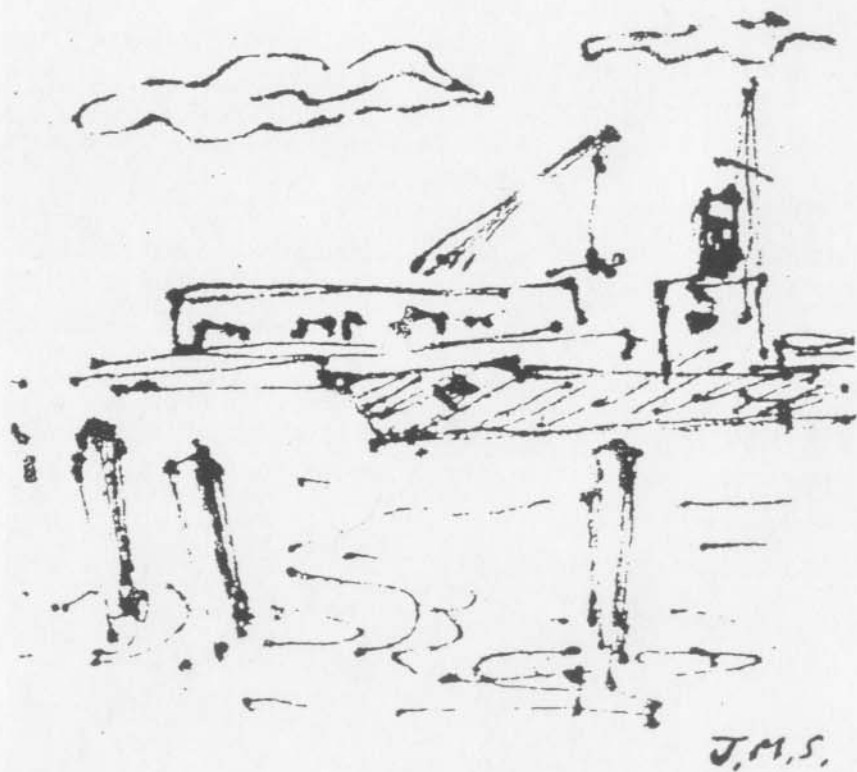
Ricardo Pascale, J. M. Sanguinetti, and Batuz

SOCIETE IMAGINAIRE



"Hommage à la correspondance" by Ricardo Pascale

SOCIETE IMAGINAIRE



Port of Montevideo by President Sanguinetti

SOCIÉTÉ IMAGINAIRE

Montevideo, setiembre de 1887

Presidenta de la República Oriental del Uruguay

Las maderas de Pascale :
resurrección de rijos troncos ameri-
canos, recortados, ensamblados,
dispuestos nuevamente en el espacio.
Ahora renacen en Altzelle, de la
mano de la Société Imaginaire
y con la inspiración de Batus.

El diálogo de las culturas
prosigue y se enriquece : un rijo
roble alemán, tronco según de
noble fuerza, se asocia con el
artista y la madera de América,
para formar una referencia que
atravesará los años.

Julio Sanguinetti

President Sanguinetti on "Hommage à la correspondence."

Dresden, den 16. Februar 1998

Dem

Presidente de la Republica Oriental del
Uruguay

Estimado amigo

Man stellen die Höher von Prucala im Park
des alten Klosters Alzella, als Geschenk der
Kunst Hues Landes, geleitet von der Société
Impériale und der Inspiration von Itatuz -
so wie Sie es uns persönlich kochen.

Zu weiteren Werken wird ein pleiktes Symbol
unserer Gemeinsamkeit in einem Park der
Sculpturen einen würdigen Platz finden:
Sächsische Eiche, die sich verbindet mit ehr-
würdigen Hölzern aus Hues Land.

Beide werden sie Zeugnis ablegen von der
gemeinsamen Wurzeln, die uns einen und
uns ermutigen, den Dialog der Kulturen zu
finden und zu bereichern und so ein Fundament
zu schaffen für die Freundschaft unserer
Länder und Hues Völkern.

Dafür danken wir Ihnen!

Kurt H. Biedenkopf

Letter of Prime Minister Biedenkopf to President Sanguinetti