

83 Stafford street
DUNEDIN

Wednesday 29 ~~November~~ August?

Dear April,

Hi! You have really started something
Down (or up) here, if you know what I mean.

Enclosed is some bombes for you. Please give one to
each country going to the congress. I've put names
on all of them, and enclosed the 'master' copy so that
you can make some more if you want. Sorry about
spelling the name wrong. I think that^{it} is in the
spirit of things to leave it that way! (it was a mistake
in the first place)

Enclosed also is some other stuff. The most valuable
is the hankerchief with Muldoon's picture on it. This
is from the past - I also had a tee shirt with the same
thing on. I made it a couple of years ago, and if
their (fuck it. I am typing in a hurry) start again;
there was enough time I would do a new one with Reagan's
head in the same frame, with the words "JUST JOKING"
underneath. Do you have a Tee shirt plant over
there?

I am putting a 'contract' out to get a poster made to
start off the war. It will be a Guy Fawkes anniversary
job - 5th November. - good date? I'll send some
over.

FC 16 is still on the secret list here in Dunedin. Only
10 copies out to friends so far. Next will come one
copy each to selected media. - 10 copies? - don't know
when. Then will come POSTERS! (P 16 blown up and

stuck in about 25 places. (Dunedin is pretty small!)

FOR SALE:

We have a new shipment of books at hand. Three titles at \$1.30, \$4.32. and \$6.48 respectively. RED ARMY FACTION, THE POVERTY OF STATEISM, and A NEW WORLD IN OUR HEARTS. First in, first served.

83 Stafford street
DUNEDIN

Sunday 2nd September

Dear April,

looks like we've run out of time. I notice that the exhibition is only 3 weeks away. By now you should have two parcels from me. I can't remember if the first one - containing Free Copys #4 (Logan Park), #8 (a taste of Victory), #12 (Black Flag), #13, #14 (1/2 page Ad in Weekender), and some other stuff from Bruce that I can't remember - was registered or not, but the second one certainly was. Both were sent airmail. The second parcel contained 46 copies of Free Copy #16 (the masterpiece), each one numbered (No. 1 up to No. 47. - No. 12 going into the archives, as always), and with the name of one of the 46 invited countries on the front. This second parcel also contained some stuff from Bruce.

We are busy spreading whispers around Dunedin, at this moment in history. The Whisper revolves around revolution. Revolution coming from Italy. At the end of this month. From the Anarchists. (Did Stuart Christie really tape dynamite to his chest, rush up and hug Franco, pull the rip cord, and then discover, to his horror, a fizzer!!! - if so, how come that he is not still in some Spanish Jail?) Will the remnants of the Red Brigade or the Baader/Meinhof be in attendance at Venezia? Who is going to be there? (Thanks for the invite, sorry I can't make it this year - maybe some other time).

I have taken the liberty of giving your address to two other artists here in Dunedin. One Sue Heap, who has done a masterpiece consisting of an outline of her hand with the words "Jis Cunts" underneath. (The word Jis is pronounced with the j pronounced as y as in the Scandinavian yump/jump. Thus jis becomes yis (yiz), if you get my meaning. Dave may b

over to you. We would appreciate reading about it in the newspaper
Murray How about a review of the art?



dear april,

this is all that i can do. i havnt
heard back from you yet. hope that the stuff is
getting there ok. cheers,

muzz

(over the last few
months the media in
N.Z. has launched a
"sustained drug menace" in
essentially the way set
out in the glue sniffing
(King.)

LANCASTER PUBLISHING

P.O. Box 78-104, Grey Lynn, Auckland, Aotearoa, Terra.



ZA 6769ae
October 30 1984

April Retter,
via le Monza 255,
20126 MILANO, Italy.

Dear April,

Many thanks for your letter, poster, wine label, & programmes from the @ gathering. The poster is magnificent: I now have it on my bedroom wall, & a number of comrades have inquired if more might be left over they can have too. Any chance of your sending another 6 or so?

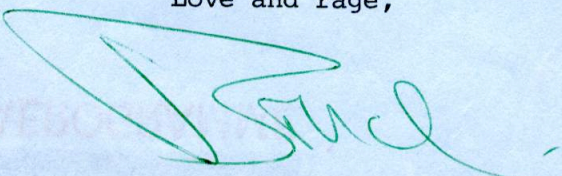
Sorry I wasn't able to make it over, I'm sure the wine at least would make the journey well worthwhile. Seriously though, it was quite good to hear your report that it went well, so I have xeroxed your letter & circulated it as a report on how things went. I am extremely pissed off that the Post Office fucked up my parcel of goodies, after all the hassle getting the info organised. Hope you can still use it in Anarchist Week next year.

Glad to hear the Occussi-Ambeno article made it into print. I have had a few letters from Italian readers & will reply to them shortly. As for the journalist you mentioned from a national weekly, I would appreciate your doing what you can to put him off. I have no desire for OA to be exposed to the "straight" readership! It is one thing to tell comrades & sympathisers what is happening and quite another to tell the straights. So I urge you not to see him, try to put him off with some delaying tactic maybe, like "I spoke to Bruce last week & he says he is sending stuff over, wait till it comes, I'll ring you then" etc... Or better, ask him for his card, & say you'll send it to me for direct reply. (Just to let him help fill the coffers, you might suggest he sends over US\$50 and requests some OA stamps; I don't mind taking bucks off them!) But I would rather the story not reach the mundane audience at all. They are still targets for future plans as far as OA is concerned.

Did you get the material from Murray Menzies in Dunedin, that he sent for the Exhibition? He is planning on beginning a magazine next year, it will probably be the Swftair in-flight magazine, called "Out of it" (kiwi slang for stoned on marijuana), so if this comes to fruition, it will doubtless have a good bit of anarchist content as well as the more fanciful OA gossip. I'll be sure to send you copies of anything we produce over here.

Keep in touch April. And if your journo mate does actually print anything on OA, I'd appreciate a photocopy please. Hope you can help on the posters!

Love and rage,


Bruce Grenville.

(A)

xx

10,000
+ package

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AEROGRAMME



April Retter,

Centro Studi Libertari G. Pinelli,

via le Monza 255,

20126 MILANO,

Italia - Italy.

Issued by the New Zealand Post Office for posting
in New Zealand to overseas or inland addresses

SENDER'S NAME Lancaster Publishing,

AND ADDRESS P.O. Box 78-104,

..... Grey Lynn, Auckland,

..... New Zealand.

p.s. yes OK - we (DA) will do a stamp commemorating Venezia 1984. Should be issued late Nov. Will send more details when known. It shall be a 15¢ one. (fifteen cents)

BG

To open slit here

Milan, 6 November

Murray Menzies
Dunedin, New Zealand.

Dear Murray,

By now you have probably given up all hope of hearing from this part of the world - I really must apologise for the extreme delay in writing to you but, before the gathering it was really quite impossible (the main reason that we are not planning a replay is quite simply the amount of work involved!) and October turned out to be a month of relaxing for all those who had been involved. But now that energies have been renewed there is really no excuse for leaving letters unwritten!

First and foremost I want to thank you for all the material that you sent for the exhibition. Unfortunately, what with the general unreliability of the Italian mails not all of it arrived in time and there was, in the end, no panel of New Zealand. However the exhibition is now to be revised and improved and there will definitely be an N.Z. contribution. I now have to write an overall summary (not very long) to tie all the material together - any suggestions that you may have are more than welcome.

The gathering was an unforgettable experience for, I am sure, all of those who managed to get there. There were, of course, problems and various people found that it was quite different to what they had expected but these are inevitable problems and just the experience of meeting and being together with so many people from all over the world who, whatever may be their disagreements between themselves, all agree on certain basic ideas, was worth every minute of the work. Fortunately many of those who came were interested in the idea of another such gathering before too long - hopefully in another country - so you should start thinking about getting to it if and when it comes - believe me, it's worth it.

You mentioned that you would like to see the text of the Art and Anarchy exhibition - there is a slight problem as the only text is the one on the panels and we are hunting for a more convenient version to use for translation as it was only available in Italian with a rather brief summary in English.

I've just been looking back over your letters (I'm typing this at home and I'd forgotten to bring them from Centro Studi). I do like your idea of a Christ for the Christians but just at the moment I can't think of anyone suitable. If I do I'll let you know! It makes my mouth water just to think of it! And if your Mum and Dad do make it to Italy tell them to get in touch as I will certainly do what I can for them.

Is it too much to hope that you could keep on sending anything interesting from the Dunedin scene - both for myself and the others here (they're even more ignorant about what's going on there than I am) Anarchists here do tend to be rather hard and fast in their orientation and there are some who would have great difficulty in understanding the motives of an anarchist in standing for Mayor but the article on Occusi Ambeno, which has just been published here, has whet their appetite and before too long they may be able to sort out the why's and wherefor's of participation in an election rather than an anti-voting campaign. But things are starting to warm up here and one of the most hopeful things about the new energy is that it is very often

combined with a new flexibility and a renewed desire to "get out of the ghetto".

One last thought - it seems that there was a report about the gathering on the radio (my Mother didn't get to hear it but she heard about it from friends who she'd told about the gathering) - did you by any chance hear it? If so can you let us know more or less what was said. From what my mother told me it wasn't exactly one hundred percent correct but it would be good to know more about it anyway - we did reach the Guardian in the UK with a long article by Colin Ward, and the Italian press gave us reasonable coverage as well and Australian and US radio and television.

I hope to hear from you soon - with more tidbits about the southern scene!

'Bye for now.



April Retter
 Centro Studi Libertari
 "G. Pinelli"
 V. ie Monza 255
 20126 Milano
 ITALY ... (I suppose!)

14 November 1984

Dear April,

Bruce (Grenville) has sent me a copy of your letter and spec's for the exhibition at Venice, and told me to send it airmail, so there must be some urgency. That doesn't make much sense does it? neither does anything else. Goody - I love confusion. start again.....

Bruce has asked me to send you some Free Copys so that you can get some perspective of aspects of contemporary anarchism in Dunedin. There are some things you should know, however.

1/ "The New Zealand Party", Bob Jones version, is the one all of New Zealand is familiar with. Bob Jones is a property millionaire who got pissed off with the NZ Govt. about a year ago, and formed his own political party - ultra right wing. He stole the name off me, and I am busy hunting him. The case is currently in the hands of the Ombudsman/Secretary of Justice, and I expect to have my claim to the name confirmed shortly. We have just been through a snap election which saw the old Govt thrown out and replaced with a Labour Govt. This is good because the new Prime Minister is "into it" and we expect great things. Bob Jones' NZP got about 12% of the vote nationwide (candidates in every electorate). I stood in the Dunedin North electorate as sole candidate for our NZP and got a grand total of 58 votes! Free Copy 14, which appeared in the local giveaway paper, was the only electioneering I did. The \$265 to get the ad put in was donated by a freezing worker admirer and the \$100 nomination ^{fee} came from the local Trimpuh motorbike shop. All very sleazy.

2/ Free Copys are printed as and when I can afford them (I'm on the dole), and there are usually about 20 of each made. These are given to selected people - the police, the court, the newspapers etc. They have an effect far in excess of their numbers - mostly a sort of planting of seeds in the minds of those who get them. It seems to take about a year for the ideas to filter through, and I am never accredited with anything - never mind - at least it seems to be working. FC 14 was the first that most Dunedinites knew of Free Copy. And probably the last. There are no Anarchists in Dunedin - tee he snigger!

3/ The bit about Dunedin being singled out as an intelligence network centre is perfectly true. I intend to upstage the whole thing. I have already established contact with the UN, and when my claim to the NZP is finalised (either way), I, on behalf of the New Zealand Party, am going to write a series of coherent letters to the UN et al asking their advice (their computer's advice, sorry, no room for subjective opinions or egos in this game) and how to fix the

things that need fixing. I will publish these letters that I send away, so that it doesn't matter what the answer is - or indeed whether or not there is an answer. I am good at writing letters which don't really need an answer! Actually this whole caper is on autopilot now and doesn't need any particular planning or work - softly, softly, catchy monkey

4/ The 'glossy policy manifesto handout' problem was easy to handle. the govt gives away UN booklets for free, so I wrote away and got about 700 copies - didn't even have to pay postage! Nobody, but nobody, can argue with these things! - that includes Stuart Christie! very cleverly put together documents. Rule books actually. That should have 2 'l's in it, sorry.

5/ I still haven't figured any other way to get the christians than by supplying them with a christ to follow. Do you know of anyone foolish enough to play at being christ? if so, please let me know. Someone who has a terminal illness, and who is a good actor would be fine. No payment apart from the dole and a bit of grass to smoke. Actually, I think that this seasons christ should be a woman. that would really fuck them up.

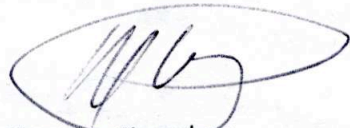
6/ My Mum & Dad, who are perfectly straight respectable working class people, are going to go to Italy for a holiday next year. They have been saving for it all their lives (Dad was there in WW2, and fell in love with the place). It would be nice if there was someone there who could look after them, and show them around. they are not even remotely interested in politics, and probably think that Anarchists still throw bombs all the time.

7/ I see you asked Bruce to make you some stamps. Bruce was the perpetrator of a scam a few years ago which resulted in a issue of perfect stamps being placed on sale in stamp shops throughout the world. I think that they were printed by the Swiss Government on a share of the issue deal. The scam was that they were for a country called Occusi Ambeno (OA), which existed only in Bruce's imagination. I will send you one. They are quite valuable, so don't lose it. Bruce has continued his interest in stamps for OA, but they are no longer of the same quality. If he doesn't send you any, I will do the art work necessary for production on modern hi-tech multicolour photocopying machines if you like. Sewing machines make OK perforations!

8/ If you use any of this stuff in the exhibition, I would really like a photo of the display and/or photocopies of anything that might be translated or whatever. Nice to have in the archives.

Best of luck with your project,

Solidarity,



Murray Menzies

PS

I would help us a lot if Dunedin was to be identified as a nuclear refuge, in Europa. Visions of hoards of unwanted people fleeing from Europe and descending on poor old peaceful quiet Dunedin! Lovely stuff - scare shit out of local government. Eek - a mouse!



State Bank of Occussi-Ambeno



(Constituted under "The State Bank Act, 1968" as National Bank)

✪ LONG LIVE THE SULTAN! ✪

M. CHUBNEAT, Manager

Ground Floor, Treasury Building
4 Memorial Drive
Baleksetung 2.

SBOA 47/3
December 5 1984

April Retter,
via le Monza 255,
20126 MILANO, Italy.

Dear April,

Further to our correspondence about the commemorative OA stamp to honour VENEZIA 1984: we are almost ready to print it, and I am enclosing a bromide of the stamp here: a 15¢. The ornate shapes at each side represent the gondola prows for which your city is famed.

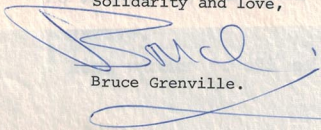
Date of issue is 22nd December 1984. Why don't you reproduce the illustration in your bulletin, advising readers that copies and First Day Covers may be obtained by sending a few thousand lire or francs to the Occussi-Ambeno Overseas Philatelic Bureau, P.O. Box 876, Auckland, New Zealand. *Can you peer the illustration & details to "Review B" also? Thanks.*

I shall send some of the actual stamp and FDC for you and the Venezia committee as soon as they are ready, and if you are planning a stall at your travelling exhibition of anarchist history, maybe you can sell some there next year? Let me know how many you would like, and this can be one way I can assist you financially.

Would you please confirm that you received a bundle of material including the magazine "FREE COPY" from Murray Menzies in Dunedin? He sent a big package over a month before Venezia and is disappointed not to have received any acknowledgement from you.

I would love a couple more copies of the big Venezia poster you did, if you have a few left you can spare for your homeland! Thanks April, and keep it all happening there in 1985!

Solidarity and love,


Bruce Grenville.

Milan, 8 December 1984

Bruce Grenville
Lancaster Publishing
Auckland
New Zealand

Milan, 9 December 1984

Dear Bruce,

Here is a draft of the text for the panel on New Zealand in the exhibition. Please feel free to make any changes that you think are better. I have also sent a copy to Murray Menzies asking for his comments. I left the part on Occussi Ambeno partly because I haven't got the copy of your article here at the moment and partly because it seemed far more logical for you to write it directly. I would be grateful if you could let me have your comments as soon as possible - I have been a bit late in getting this done and time is now running out.

Talking about Occussi-Ambeno - I spoke to the comrade who had first spoken to this journalist about the article but it seems that he is not the sort of person that we could ask not to publish it and, since he had already got all the information that he needed from the article in "A-Rivista Anarchica" (which has a circulation of several thousand copies) it would have seemed suspicious to try and stop him at the last minute. So we just let it go and I am not sure if the article has been published or not as even that was by no means certain. If it does come out I will send you a copy anyway.

I have sent off another couple of posters - I'm afraid that that is all we can spare as they virtually all went in Venice.... The only ones that are left are those on card, signed by the artist which are still available at 10,000 lire each plus postage and packing. If anyone is interested in mounting it the poster does look great in its "de-luxe" version!

I can't remember if I sent the enclosed cover of "A" last time I wrote so I'm sending it again just to make sure - it does give a pretty good idea of what the week was like although it does not quite get over the sheer size. We are still receiving reports and comments about the gathering, mostly positive, and are now starting to hunt for ideas to make the anarchist week next year just as successful - always bearing in mind that the Venice phenomenon is bound to be unrepeatable and so we have to come up with something new.

There is no other news from this end - we are in a phase of reconsideration of almost all the undertakings and it will probably be a while before there is much productive happening. I'll let you know when things get happening again - and I am waiting to hear any news from your part of the world.

Have a happy - and anarchist - New Year!

Love

April Retter

Milan, 9 December 1984

Murray Menzies
Dunedin
New Zealand

Dear Murray,

This is just a quick note to ask you for any comments, changes, additions (without much changing the overall length) etc. for the enclosed draft of the text for the panel on New Zealand in the final version of the exhibition on History and Geography of Anarchism. Writing it very much from the outside was not easy and it is rather general so any more details would be greatly appreciated.

I'm not sure if I sent you the enclosed cover of "A-Rivista Anarchica" or not so I'm putting it in just to be sure as it does give a pretty good idea of the nature of the week in Venice although it doesn't get across the sheer size of it all - most of those things were going on at the same time in various different places.

There's no other news from this end - do keep in touch and, if you don't make it over here before then I hope to see you in 1986 when I'm planning a visit home - only for a couple of months though - I like what's happening here too much to leave it at the moment.

Happy Anarchic New Year



SULTANATE OF OCCUSSI-AMBENO

Occussi-Ambeno
Overseas Philatelic Bureau

P.O. Box 876,
Auckland, New Zealand.

OAPB - aeo
December 25 1984

Dear April,

Thank muchly for your letter & enclosures. Great to see the front cover of the November A-REVISTA with the photos of Venezia. Very clear printing; I look forward to seeing the full zine. Is that the same one that had the OA article in it? Paolo says he has posted me some of the OA issue by seammil, though I'm still waiting on that. Please keep me a copy of the straight press article on OA if it does actually appear. Pity it couldn't be stopped; I try not to be so explicit to the straights as we can still do lots of nice things with OA as long as someone thinks its for real!

I have now finished printing & issuing the special OA 15¢ stamp marking Venezia; a copy enclosed here for you. Murray wants me to send you 46 First-Day-Covers of it (so you can send one to each of the participating countries, is that figure right?) but I wonder if it would be better if I send you 200 of the actual stamp unused or cancelled so you can send it out with the post-Venezia report to delegates who came. How many would you want? I printed 600, so can spare up to half that for souvenirs to attendees.

I appreciate your sending the posters to me, & look forward to receiving them. Good to see them in the photos too. Pass my compliments to the artist, and ask him/her if they would like to do an OA stamp design some time.

Your draft on NZ @ looks pretty good. I'll xerox it & get comments from others before returning it to you with suggested amendments. As I don't know how much space you want to devote to OA, I would recommend you do a precis of my A-REVISTA article, as I found even that difficult in terms of what to include and what to leave out! So could you draft something as your precis & let me have a look at it? Good to hear you may make it back to Aotearoa; I should be able to arrange accomodation around the country as your letters are photocopied & circulated to let all the team know what's going on, so try to allow yourself time for a tour round NZ while you are here. Was that 1985 or 1986 you are planning to come?

Murray Menzies is now staying up here in Auckland & asks that you send correspondence to him to the Lancaster box number. He asks if he may please have the xeroxing master copy of his issue entitled CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERIMENT, VENEZIA 1984 (apparently he sent you 46 copies for each of the "countries") (why are us anarchists still so stuck with this distinction of states I wonder?) & he sent the original in case you needed to xerox more. I can send back that original he will be most happy to see. I can send the back that he is getting rave re photo on

Take it easy comrade, keep thin

Love & rage,





Milan, 7 February 1985

Ocussi-Ambeno
Overseer Philatelic Bureau

P.O. Box 876,
Auckland, New Zealand.

Bruce Grenville

Lancaster Publishing

Auckland, NZ

Dear Bruce,

The OA article came out today - we thought that we had managed to stop it but in the end they printed it. I'm rather displeased with it, or rather with Mauro Suttora - just as well that he has decided to give the money that he receives for it to one of the groups here. But, anyway an article published in what is only one of many weeklies in Italy shouldn't put too many limits on your activities, especially as I doubt that it is read much outside Italy (seeing that knowledge of Italian is not particularly widespread).

It is probably better if you let us have the copies of the stamp itself as there were no official representatives from the various countries and, in some cases we ourselves did not even go to meet them but only heard about them through others (the Egyptian being a case in point). But we can distribute individual stamps to those people who were involved and who we think might be interested.

I will draft a precis of the article when I manage to get hold of it in English. I don't know if I told you that the idea of making a book of the exhibition is being tossed around - when and where is still by no means decided.

Please tell Murray that I will send his original back to him - it is still buried with some of the post-Venice mess which is only getting sorted out very slowly but it will definitely arrive.

Best wishes to all of you there - keep up the good work.

P.S. NZ has even hit the Italian news - good to hear that the mouse is managing to give a twist to the lion's tail!

Take it easy comrades, keep this

Save 3 page