

**Arp on Arp:**  
**Poems, Essays, Memories**  

---

---

**by Jean Arp**



EDITED BY MARCEL JEAN  
TRANSLATED BY JOACHIM NEUGROSCHER  

---

---

NEW YORK THE VIKING PRESS

# Contents

Introduction by Marcel Jean	xv
Translator's Note	xxxiii
kaspar is dead	xxxiv
 <i>1920</i>	
Manifesto of the Dada Crocodarium	3
From <i>The Cloud Pump</i>	4
From <i>One Bird in Three</i>	5
From <i>The Swallow's Testicle</i>	6
 <i>1922</i>	
And Pounds and Pounds and Pounds	11
It Will Turn into a Head	12
The Water Remains Empty	14
Cluck Cluck Cluck	15
one after another	16
 <i>1924</i>	
Fire-i	19
in front of the spinning-rooms lions	20
 <i>1925</i>	
the medal rises . . .	23
 <i>1926</i>	
Introduction to the Natural History of Max Ernst	27
 <i>1927</i>	
Star-in-Boots	33
dear monsieur brzekowski	35

1929	
but what will replace it	39
1930	
the kings groom the forests . . .	43
the whips crack . . .	43
1931	
Strasbourg Configuration	47
<i>Three Exemplary Novellas</i> (Hans Arp and Vicente Huidobro)	
Save Your Eyes (posthistorical novella)	49
The Gardener of Midnight Castle (detective story)	55
The Stork Enchained (patriotic and Alsatian novella)	61
1933	
The Air Is a Root	71
1934	
I Am a Horse	75
<i>Je suis un cheval</i>	77
<i>ich bin ein pferd</i>	79
The Elephant Style versus the Bidet Style	80
1937	
He Sings He Sings	85
<i>Spotches in Space</i>	87
1938	
Cloud-Carrier	93
The Age the Lightning the Hand and the Leaf	94
The Soundproof Blue	95
Infinite Millimeter Manifesto	96
From <i>Gamut Sawdust</i>	
Configuration	97
Configuration	99
The Feet of Morning	100
Does That Shrivell	102
The Hunchbacked Pigeons	104

1939

From <i>The Man Who Lost His Skeleton</i>	
The Skeleton on Vacation (Chapter Four)	109
Flour Flowers	111
The Seasons Their Asterisks and Their Pawns	113
Fruit Free-for-All	115

1940

Bestiary with No First Name	119
-----------------------------	-----

1941

for robert delaunay	123
From <i>Poems with No First Names</i>	
the blocks of dawn crumble	124
the star dims	125
on tiptoe	125
i am a point	127
using the polite or the familiar form	128
you've got to play it square	128
so there	129
the winter is neither a man nor a woman	130
the flowers are black with joy	130
the droning of the propellers of the moon	131
a stream comes up . . .	131
the elephant is in love with the millimeter	131

1942

The Great Unrestrained Sadist	135
-------------------------------	-----

1944

Concrete Art	139
Sophie Dreamed Sophie Painted Sophie Danced	141
You Were Clear and Calm	143
<i>Sea-Shell Laughter</i>	
add the white pitch of ivory . . .	145
the navels of the orange utangs swell up	145
collage poem	146

the goats climb upon children's waves	146
the three flowering heirs . . .	148
 1945	
Roses and Stars	151
Sophie	152
Arabesque Story	153
<i>The White Man with Negro Feet</i>	155
Lickable Monuments:	
August and Alphonse and the Diplomat	158
The White Etc.	158
The Great White Woman	159
The Tirolean Elephant	160
 1946	
. . . Oasis of Purity . . .	165
Eyes of Wax	166
From <i>The Seat of Air</i>	
Dream Flesh—1915	168
1917—1935	
The Flesh	172
Summer Monster	173
The Age the Lightning the Hand and the Leaf	173
The Sky Is an Egg	174
The Table The Chair	176
The Stone of the Universe with Sandwich Hair	177
The Man. The Woman	179
The Seat of Air	180
Onion Dance	182
Domestic Stones	183
Arabesque Story	184
The Tale of the Three Decanters the Three Little Clocks and the Little Table	185
Place Blanche	186
The Big Mosquito the Mustache and the Little Mandolin	187
Splotches in Space—1936	189
The Seasons Their Asterisks and Their Pawns	194

Gamut Sawdust—1938	195
The Quadrangular Pigeons—1938	198
Profile File and Space:	
you didn't always applaud	202
Flour Flower	202
Hive of Dreams	203
The Seasons of the Clock the Strawberry the Velvety Animals and the Cradle—1944	205
1945:	
Red Violets	206
Black Veins	207
<i>1947</i>	
Ground Tension	211
Comfortably through the Tunnel of Matter	212
The World of Memory and Dream	215
Kiesler's Egg and the Hall of Superstitions	217
<i>1948</i>	
Sophie Taeuber-Arp	221
Sophie Taeuber-Arp	225
Kandinsky	227
The spider embroiders . . .	229
From <i>On My Way</i>	
Beauty Has Not Vanished beneath the Ruins of the Centuries	230
Sacred Silence	231
Dadaland	232
I Became More and More Removed from Aesthetics	237
The Navel Bottle	239
The Magician	240
Art Is a Fruit	241
Stone Formed by Human Hand	242
The Germ of a New Plastic Work	243
Concrete Art	244
And So the Circle Closed	245

1949

Kurt Schwitters	251
Place Blanche	253
. . . And Stars, Stars . . .	255
Quatre Piraine	256
These lithographs are collaborations. . . .	257
Wings and Phoenix	258
Flyweight Glory	259
Francis Picabia	260

1950

Hans Richter	265
The Hulbecks	266
Breath	268
Signposts	270
FORMS	274
humor	276

1951

Rose for Rose	279
In Space	280
Isabelle and the Dishes	281
Kandinsky the Poet	282

1952

From <i>Dreams and Projects</i>	
Between the Lines of Time	287
The Udders Have Run Dry	288
Into the Radiant Silence	289
If You Ask the Wings	290
Shadows	291
The Inner Language	292

1953

Twins of Vim	297
Against Those Clouds	299
Quick Quick	301
In Flesh and Blood	303

They've Seesawed Enough	305
Sprouts	307
Cloud Shepherd	308
Michel Seuphor	309
Absolutely Modern	311
<i>1954</i>	
Mortal Danger	315
The State of Painting in 1954	316
Rodin	317
Before the Torcello Mosaic	318
<i>1955</i>	
Mendes Memento	325
Signposts	326
Collages	328
The Endless Column	330
Antoine Poncet	331
Victor Valera	332
Marcel Jean and Henri Pastoureau both belong . . .	333
Gabrielle Buffet-Picabia	335
Conversation at Meudon	337
A dreamer can make . . .	340
With Lowered Eyelids	341
The collection <i>Die Wolkenpumpe</i> . . .	342
A horse is a horse . . .	343
The next day gets up . . .	344
<i>1956</i>	
Interview with George L. K. Morris	347
The man who wants to shoot a cloud down . . .	351
<i>1957</i>	
Arpadian Encyclopedia	355
The Persimmon Tree	359
Josef Albers	361
Little Poems for Viani	363



The little obese woman	366
To say good-by	367
From <i>The Windjammer in the Forest</i>	
The Father, the Mother, the Son, the Daughter	368
Cook Me a Thunderbolt	370
O Mezzanine	371
As Sealed Swans	372
Sponge-Snouts	373
On Your Back or on Your Stomach	374
Muscular Fruit	375
The Air	376
The Self-Criticism of Swans	377
Toad Skin	378
They Have Gone Off	379
I Want to Salute Raw	380
Cotton-Handled	381
On Mountains of Foam	382
 1958	
Our Little Continent	385
The Inconceivable That Resounds	387
Sempere	388
What Is That?	389
The Copyist of Chauvigny	390
Nor Gathers a Candle More	391
Hullabaloo	392
Copley is a laughter of clouds	394
Dear Kassak	395
Enigmatic Swimmers	396
Moonsand	397
The inhabitants of the continent . . .	400
 1960	
The Heads of Hans Richter	403
Games of Golden Ears of Corn	404
Moonscape	405
Try to become starched wind	406
Gondeler	408

From *Toward the Infinite White*

The Cathedral Is a Heart	409
What Is That	411
Toward the Infinite White	413
Across the Myrtles of Dream	415
The Master Nailer	417
Precipice	418
Doll	419
A White Wave	420

1961

Lair of Dreams	423
Homage to Magritte	426
A Round	427

1962

Star-Foam	433
National Poem	434
Triffi	435
Collage-Preface or Menu Torn Up in Belle Vue	436
Wifredo Arcay	438
Gislebertus of Autun	439
Fruhtrunk	443
He	444
Rowers of Rodents	445

1963

A Transaction between Forged Lights and the Supernatural	449
Lucien Billy at the Furstenberg Gallery	450
Marcel Janco	451
Palimpsests	453
Motus Motus	455

1964

Picasso	459
vestiges	460

1965

Hans Richter's Planks of Sea and Love	463
---------------------------------------	-----

1966

From *Unpetaled Days*

The Bulbul Kind	467
On the Dexter Side	468
Pegasus Projects	470
Lazuli Double-or-Nothings Himself	472
Philibert or Not Philibert	473
Night Resealed	474
They peck between . . .	477
Shirts	478
And the Stag Moans	479
Monsieur Tour du Veau	480
The city is inhabited	480
Torricelli's Void	482
Oral Oriflamme	483
in a drawer	485
The Philibert Battle	486
Tongue-Soothers	488
A Palm Tree of Azure	492
On Tiptoe	494
Worlds Crumble	496
Echoes of Mirrors	497
Challenging the Winds	500
Commodes	502
the bilabials	505
cities	507
In Air-Stone	508
On the Tongue	510
A four-stemmed sheep	512
Arp as I Knew Him, by Marguerite Arp	515

*Documentation*

Bibliographical Notes	525
A Bibliographical Survey by Bernard Karpel	548
Index of Authors and Titles	561
List of Illustrations	572