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CHARLES HENRI FORD  
Printed Matter 1929 – 1969

May 15 – July 2, 1999

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## POEM POSTERS

The "Poem Posters" were published in 1964/65 in the workshop of the printer, Vassily Papachrysanthou, in Athens. Ford's landmark artist's book, *Spare Parts* (see below), was published there the following year. The Poem Posters were produced in extremely limited runs employing an industrial photo-offset lithographic process and many are monotypes. Ford, in conjunction with the Papachrysanthou engineers, employed camera, filters, inks, film coatings, plastic and aluminum plates and the "roaring, fully-automated press" to devise his compositions "on the spot." The results are large "collage-like" posters – unique syntheses of cut-up words and images.

1. *Claes Oldenburg mis à demi-nu*
2. *Philip La Montia as a Transvestite*
3. *Jayne as Jayne* (Orange/Ochre/Green)
4. *Jayne as Jayne* (Yellow/Blue)
5. *Jayne as Jayne* (Violet/Blue)
6. *Jayne as Jayne* (Violet/Red Heart)
7. *Charles Henri Ford as Narcissus*
8. *Charles Henri Ford as Narcissus*
9. *One of the World's Giant Queens*
10. *Wystan* (W. H. Auden) as *Dracula* (Pink)
11. *Wystan* (W. H. Auden) as *Dracula* (Red)
12. *Wystan* (W. H. Auden) as *Dracula* (Green)
13. *Irving Rosenthal as l'Epoux Abandonné*
14. *The Ace of Spades is Me* (Ted Joans)
15. Untitled
16. *El Cordobes as Endymion* (Blue/Purple)
17. *El Cordobes as Endymion* (Sleep in a Nest of Flames)
18. *El Cordobes as Endymion* (Orange/Red)
19. *Fallen Woman*
20. *Chemistry of the Wish*
21. *Gerard Malanga as Orpheus*

## POEM POSTERS – THE FILM (1967)

An artful documentary of the exhibition of **Poem Posters** held at **Cordier & Ekstrom**, 978 Madison Avenue (@ 76<sup>th</sup> Street) from May 18 – June 12, 1965: from the installation of the exhibition; to the personalities who attended (**William Burroughs**, **Al Hansen**, **Robert Indiana**, **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Marisol**, **Gerard Malanga**, **Jayne Mansfield**, **Jonas Mekas**, **Claes Oldenburg**, **James Rosenquist**, **Edie Sedgwick**, **Jack Smith**, **Virgil Thompson** and **Andy Warhol**, among others); to the de-installation and trucking away. The interviews by **Al Hansen** were recorded at the opening. The poetry, heard intermittently over the jazz compositions and performance by **John Handy**, consists of readings by **Ford** from the **Poem Posters**. This was **Ford's** first film – conceived, produced and principally photographed by him. The editing was done by **Ford** in collaboration with **John Hawkins**.

## VIEW

View Editions, New York, 1940 – 1947. Edited by **Ford**. 24 loose issues of 32 total issues published. Covers by **Georgia O'Keeffe**, **Fernand Leger**, **Marcel Duchamp**, **René Magritte**, **Isamu Noguchi**, **André Masson**, **Jean Helion**, **Pavel Tchelitchew**, **Alexander Calder**, among others.

## THE ARCHIVE

### **BLUES. A MAGAZINE OF NEW RHYTHMS.**

Privately published, Columbus (Mississippi), 1929. Hardbound lacking individual wrappers. Volume 1, February – July 1929. **Signed by Ford**. Printed name and dated "1929" by Kathleen Tankersley Young (associate editor). (9 1/4" x 6 1/4")

### **BLUES. A MAGAZINE OF NEW RHYTHMS.**

Privately published, Columbus (Mississippi), 1929. Original paper wrappers. Volume 1, March 1929. **Signed by Ford**. (9 5/8" x 6 3/8")

### **POSTCARD**

ALS of Ford and Pavel Tchelitchew to "Carlo" (Carl van Vechten) dated "Padua, 27 Sept 1930." With a drawing by Tchelitchew enhancing the recto. (3 1/4" x 5 3/8")

### **THE YOUNG AND EVIL**

The Obelisk Press, Paris, 1933. Co-authored with **Parker Tyler**. With the original band stating that the publication "cannot be bought in England or [the] U.S.A." **Inscribed by Ford**, "For **Cecil Beaton** / his white heart, / his rd soul x / Ch x Ford / Tite Street / 4 July 1934." Housed in a half-Morocco slipcase. (7 7/8" x 5 3/4")

### **A PAMPHLET OF SONNETS**

Caravel Press, Majorca, 1936. **Signed by Ford**. Reproducing a drawing by **Pavel Tchelitchew**. (9 3/8" x 7 3/8")

### **THE GARDEN OF DISORDER AND OTHER POEMS**

Europa Press, London, 1938. #C (of A – K)/500. In original dust jacket (reproducing a drawing by Pavel Tchelitchew) and tissue wrapper. One of eleven hors commerce copies signed by Ford, the publisher, George Reavey, and the illustrator, Pavel Tchelitchew. This copy is inscribed by Ford to the publisher, "To George / with / assorted wishes, / finest quality, / fresh from my / garden, / Charles / London / 21 July, 1938." (8 7/8" x 5 3/4")

Europa Press, London, 1938. #118/500. In original dust jacket (reproducing a drawing by **Pavel Tchelitchew**). **Signed by Ford**. (8 7/8" x 5 3/4")

Europa Press, London, 1938. #61/500. Lacking original dust jacket. **Signed by Ford.** (8 7/8" x 5 3/4")

New Directions, Norfolk (Connecticut), n.d. (but with "10/4/41" in pencil in inside of book cover). In original dust jacket (reproducing a drawing by **Pavel Tchelitchev**). **Signed by Ford.** (8 7/8" x 5 3/4")

### **ABC's**

The Press of James A. Decker, Prairie City (Illinois), 1940. **Signed by Ford** on the free front endpaper. Cover design by **Joseph Cornell.** (10 1/4" x 7 5/8")

The Press of James A. Decker, Prairie City (Illinois), 1940. **Signed by Ford** on the free front endpaper. Cover design by **Joseph Cornell.** (10 1/4" x 7 5/8")

### **NEW DIRECTIONS IN PROSE & POETRY 1940**

New Directions, Norfolk (Connecticut), 1940. Edited by James Laughlin. Reproducing **ABC's** and with other contributions by Ford. (9 3/8" x 6 3/8")

### **DIOGENES 1**

Arthur Blair and Frank Jones, eds., Madison (Wisconsin), October/November 1940. **Signed by Ford** on contents and his poem entry. (8 3/4" x 6 1/8")

#### **Collection of Gerard Malanga**

### **THE OVERTURNED LAKE**

The Little Man press, Cincinnati, 1941. One of 400 examples. Cover and title page reproducing a painting by **Matta.** **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "To darling **Gypsy [Rose Lee]** / on my birthday - / Charlie / Feb 10 / 1942." (7 1/2" x 6 5/8")

The Little Man press, Cincinnati, 1941. One of 400 examples. Cover and title page reproducing a painting by **Matta.** **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "Dear Dougie: / Love me, / love my book! / Charles Henri / 19 Oct. / 1941." Laid in to this copy are **three Ford typescripts** entitled *Somebody's Gone*; *I Wouldn't Put It Past You*; and *A Sentimental Playlet* (**inscribed by Ford**, "To the original / Roger / from Charlie") comprising seven pages in total. The typescripts are in fragile condition. (7 1/2" x 6 5/8")

The Little Man press, Cincinnati, 1941. One of 400 examples. Cover and title page reproducing a painting by **Matta.** **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "Happy to know / that Tom Wrigel / has this copy! / Charles Henri / at the Dakota / 3 Aug 85." (7 1/2" x 6 5/8")

The Little Man press, Cincinnati, 1941. One of 400 examples. Cover and title page reproducing a painting by **Matta.** **Signed by Ford** on colophon. (7 1/2" x 6 5/8")

### **THE MIRROR OF BAUDELAIRE**

New Directions, Norfolk (Connecticut), 1941. "Poet of the Month" series. In original dust jacket reproducing a drawing by **Henri Matisse.** Edited by Ford and with a preface by **Paul Eluard.** **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "To dear Alice / to while away / your tropical hours / Charlie / P.S. I am not / responsible for the / translation - / for everything else, / yes -" (8 7/8" x 6")

New Directions, Norfolk (Connecticut), 1941. "Poet of the Month" series. In original dust jacket reproducing a drawing by **Henri Matisse.** Edited by Ford and with a preface by **Paul Eluard.** **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "To my own dear **Gypsy [Rose Lee]** / with ravishing love / Charlie Ford / Feb 10 / 1943." (8 7/8" x 6")

### **A NIGHT WITH JUPITER AND OTHER FANTASTIC STORIES**

View Editions, New York, 1945. In original dust jacket. Edited by Ford and featuring **Henri Miller** and **Paul Bowles**, among the contributors. **Inscribed by Ford to Helena Rubenstein** on the free front endpaper, "For Princess Gourielli - / Homage to her gift / for infinite fantasy - / Ch Henri Ford." (9 1/2" x 6 1/4")

### **POEMS FOR PAINTERS**

View Editions, New York, 1945. #217 (of 500 signed and numbered examples)/1,500. Jacket illustrations by **Yves Tanguy** and **Leonor Fini** (blue/green). **Signed by Ford.** (12 1/4" x 9 1/8")

View Editions, New York, 1945. #255 (of 500 signed and numbered examples)/1,500. Jacket illustrations by **Yves**

**Tanguy** and **Leonor Fini** (grey/green). **Signed by Ford**. (12 1/4" x 9 1/8")  
View Editions, New York, 1945. #339 (of 500 signed and numbered examples)/1,500. Jacket illustrations by **Yves Tanguy** and **Leonor Fini** (grey/green). **Signed by Ford**. (12 1/4" x 9 1/8")

View Editions, New York, 1945. One of 1,500. Jacket illustrations by **Yves Tanguy** and **Leonor Fini** (yellow/red). **Signed by Ford**. (12 1/4" x 9 1/8")

#### **THE HALF-THOUGHTS. THE DISTANCES OF PAIN.**

QVS Press, New York, 1947. #16 (of 20)/420. Decorated cloth cover designed by Dimitri Petrov. **Signed by Ford**. **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "To my **Gypsy [Rose Lee]** sweetheart / from Charles / 20 Oct 47." Change to the text in the author's hand in the first stanza. (5 3/4" x 5")

QVS Press, New York, 1947. One of 420 examples. Paper wrapper designed by Dimitri Petrov. **Inscribed by Ford** to Paul Goodman on the free front endpaper, "For Paul Goodman - / man of good - / from Charles / Feb 26, 1947." House in a custom-made black cloth slipcase with a black morocco label stamped in gilt. (5 3/8" x 4 3/4")

QVS Press, New York, 1947. One of 420 examples. Decorated cloth cover designed by Dimitri Petrov. **Signed by Ford**. (5 3/8" x 4 3/4")

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#### **SLEEP IN A NEST OF FLAMES**

New Directions, New York, 1949. In boards and worn slipcase. With **Ford's "compliments of the author" handwritten card** laid in alongside an **ALS (postcard)** from Paris to Lucie Davidson dated 11/8/1949. **Signed by Ford**. (10 1/2" x 6 1/2")

New Directions, New York, 1949. In boards and worn slipcase. **Inscribed by Ford** on the half-title page, "Welcome to the / Dormitory, Tom! / Charles Henri. / 3. Viii. 85." (10 1/2" x 6 1/2")

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

For the exhibition "**Poem Posters**" at Cordier & Ekstrom, May 18 – June 12, 1965. (17" x 11")

#### **SPARE PARTS**

Vassily Papachrysanthou, Athens, 1966. #24/950. Original lithographed and stenciled paper wrappers. **Ex Libris of Robert Duncan and Jess** dated 8 – 30 – 68 and numbered "4290" on inside front cover. Publisher's prospectus laid in. (14" x 10")

Vassily Papachrysanthou, Athens, 1966. #24/950. Original lithographed and stenciled paper wrappers. Publisher's prospectus laid in. (14" x 10")

#### **SILVER FLOWER COO**

Kulchur Press, New York, 1968. Hardbound with silver photomontage cover. **Inscribed by Ford**, "To Roz and Bill Targ / Happy to meet you! / Charles Henri Ford." Publisher's prospectus laid in. (10 1/4" x 7 3/4")

Kulchur Press, New York, 1968. Softbound with silver photomontage cover. **Signed by Ford**. (10 1/4" x 7 3/4")

#### **EXTENSIONS No. 2**

Suzanne Zavron and Joachim Neugroschel, eds., New York, 1969. Containing a reproduction of a "**Poem Poster**" in the centerfold. **Signed by Ford** on the Poem Poster. (9" x 5 7/8")

#### **[JOHN WILCOCK'S] OTHER SCENES**

John Wilcock, May 1969, No. 5. Reproducing a "**Poem Poster**" in the centerfold. **Signed by Ford** on the Poem Poster. (17" x 11 7/8")

#### **7 POEMS**

Bordo Matrix, Katmandu (Nepal), 1974. #180/500. Original cover photograph by **Ira Cohen**. **Signed by Ford**. (8 1/8" x 5")

**OM KRISHNA I. SPECIAL EFFECTS**

Cherry Valley Editions, Cherry Valley (New York), 1979. One of 100 hardbound examples with an original photograph. **Inscribed by Ford** on the free front endpaper, "For Felice Picano / Happily too! / by Charles Henri / 6. Jan. 88." (8 3/4" x 5 7/8")

Cherry Valley Editions, Cherry Valley (New York), 1979. One of 900 examples with paper wrappers (total edition of 1,000 examples). **Inscribed by Ford to Gerard Malanga** on the half-title page, "For Gerard / Grandeur in a capsule / Charles / NYC / 10.1.82." A **postcard from Ford to Malanga** laid in. (8 1/2" x 5 1/2")

**OM KRISHNA II. FROM THE SICKROOM OF THE WALKING EAGLES.**

Cherry Valley Editions, Cherry Valley (New York), 1981. One of 1,000 examples. **Signed by Ford**. (8 1/2" x 5 1/2")

**OM KRISHNA III. "SECRET HAIKU."**

The Red Ozier Press, New York, 1982. #17/155. Reproducing drawings by **Isamu Noguchi**. **Signed by Ford and Noguchi**. (8 3/4" x 5 5/8")

**FLAG OF ECSTASY**

Black Sparrow Press, Los Angeles, 1972. #73 (of 200 hardbound examples)/1,226. **Signed by Ford**. (9 1/4" x 6 1/2")

**EMBLEMS OF ARACHNE**

Catchword Papers, New York, 1986. #Q (of A – Z with cloth wrappers)/276. **Signed by Ford**. (8 5/8" x 5 5/8")

Catchword Papers, New York, 1986. #85 (of 250 with paper wrappers)/276. **Signed by Ford**. (8 5/8" x 5 5/8")