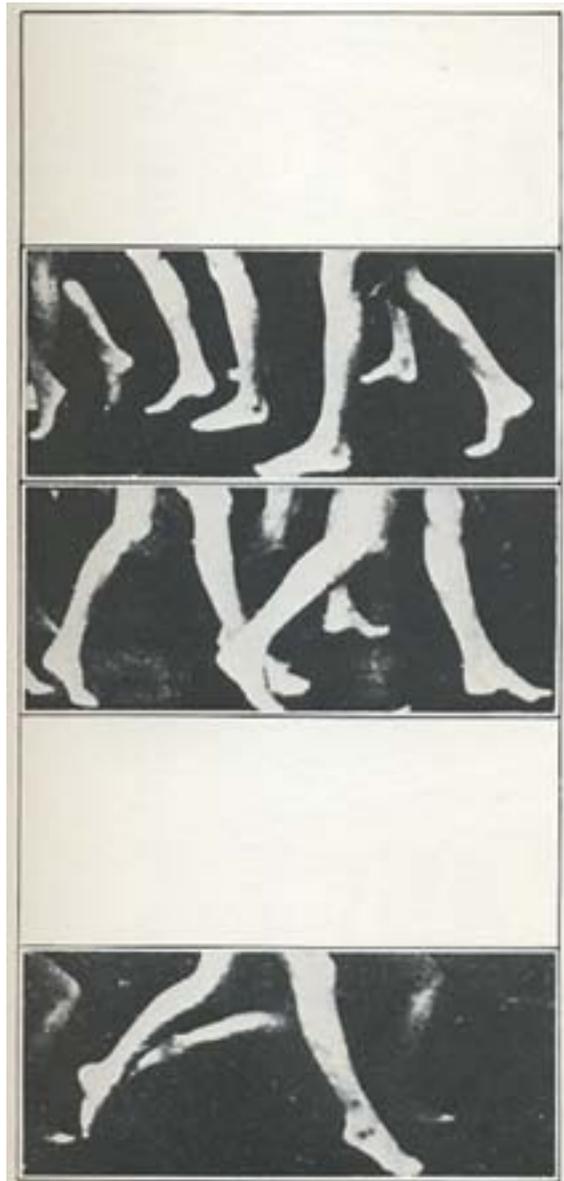




**Page Sixty-Six**  
**From Juan Luis Martinez' *La Nueva Novela***  
*Translations, Mónica de la Torre*



A. This figure once featured people who are impossible to locate on this page now, since they have headed to witness the events taking place on page 99.

B. The people featured in this figure came back to this page minutes before you took this book. They've returned from reading the endnotes and being detained for a few days on page 99.

C. Suppose that the people appearing in this third figure came straight from the prologue and are on their way to figure B on page 99, where you will find them upon their return from rereading the endnotes.

D. Suppose also that the people who should appear in this figure are now somewhere on a page between the endnotes and figure C on page 99.

E. The person you see in the foreground is the author of this book who, in an effort not to delay the reader any further, has hastily headed to wait for her on page 99.

**Page Ninety-Nine**



A. On page 61 you might have supposed that the people in figure A would have arrived to witness the events taking place on this page. These people are now in figure B on page 61, after having stayed on this page for a few days.

B. The people in this figure are the same whom you encountered in figure C on page 61. Back there they were returning from having read the foreword. Now you find them back on this page, after having reread the endnotes of the book.

C. Suppose that the people in this third figure are the same whom you encountered in figure D on page 61, and who back then were somewhere between figure D on page 61 and this figure.

D. The people who you can't find anymore in this figure have left this page and are rushing to page 61. (If you've read this book in an orderly fashion, you must have encountered them somewhere between that page and this one.)

E. The (author's) intention was to wait for the reader to arrive at this figure, but given that she has fallen behind in her reading, (the author) is again on page 61, waiting for the next reader, who hopefully will be faster and will be able to catch up with him on this page.

# The Next Page

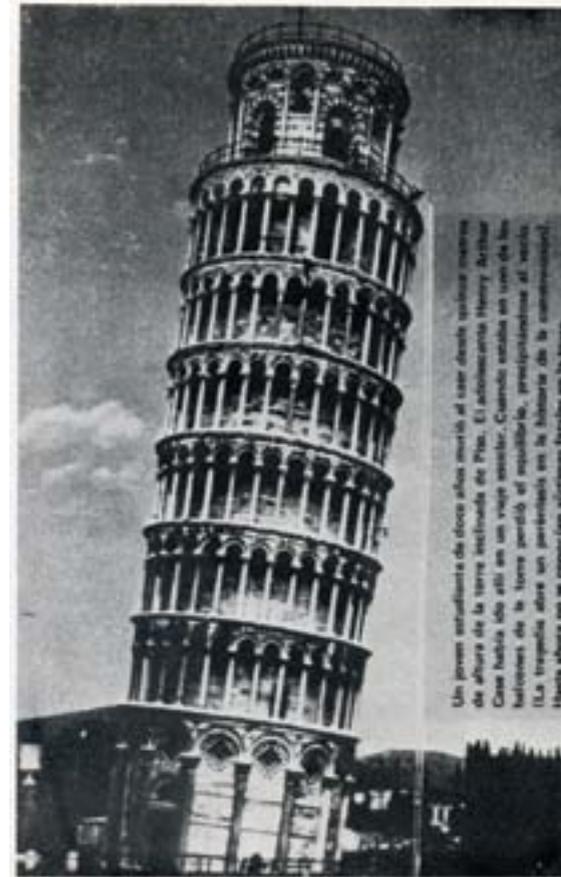
## To Henry Arthur Case



Distance moves away from us  
in order to continue being itself.

- Suppose that the cyclists in the photograph travel at an average speed of 25 miles per hour.
- Calculate how many miles they have traveled from the moment you picked up this book.
- Calculate how many more miles they will travel by the time you put down or forget this book.

# The Previous Page



- Suppose the tower you see in the photograph leans about half an inch every year. Suppose also that Henry Case fell out the tower at the exact moment that you took this book.
- Calculate how many eighths of an inch the tower has leaned and how many miles the cyclists on the previous page have traveled from the moment you took this book and Henry Case fell out the tower.
- Calculate how many more eighths of an inch the tower will have leaned and miles the cyclists will have traveled from now until the moment you put down this book and have forgotten Henry Arthur Case.

“The past is behind and the future ahead of us. Yet we cannot see the future; we see the past. Curiously, we lack eyes on our backs.”

—Ionesco, *Diaries*

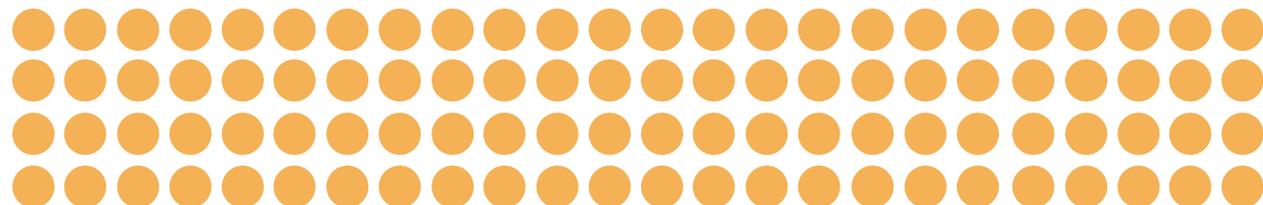
# Cheshire Cat

## “The Naming of Cats is a Difficult Matter.”

T.S. Eliot

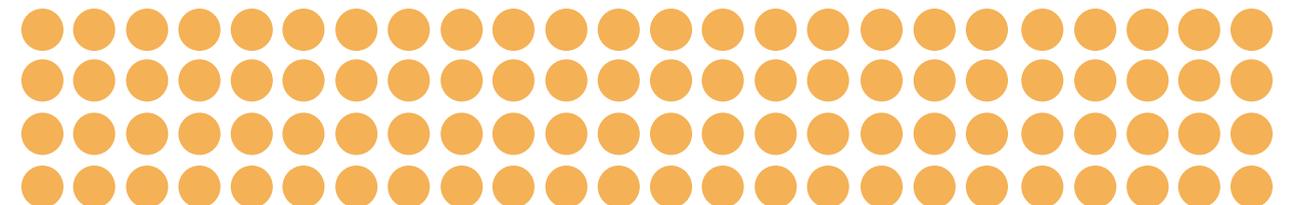
Imagine that you are Alice and you're spending a season in Wonderland, where you find a cat without a body whose head floats in space. This disembodied cat appears and disappears at will. It displays a permanent, mysterious smile. You introduce it to the King, but this strange friend of yours is not to the King's liking, so he decides to eliminate it. The executioner does not think a beheading is possible unless there exists a body from which to cut off a head. The King claims that anything with a head can be beheaded. ~~FIND A SOLUTION.~~

- 1) To behead means to sever the head from the body.  
The cat is missing a body,  
therefore I am not able to behead it.
- 2) To behead means to cut off the head.  
The cat has a head,  
therefore I am able to behead it.
  1. The nature of this cat-HEAD prevents its top = HEAD  
from being severed from its non-body.
  2. Of the cat's body:  
“It is, then, more an infinite infinity of nonbeing.” Q...

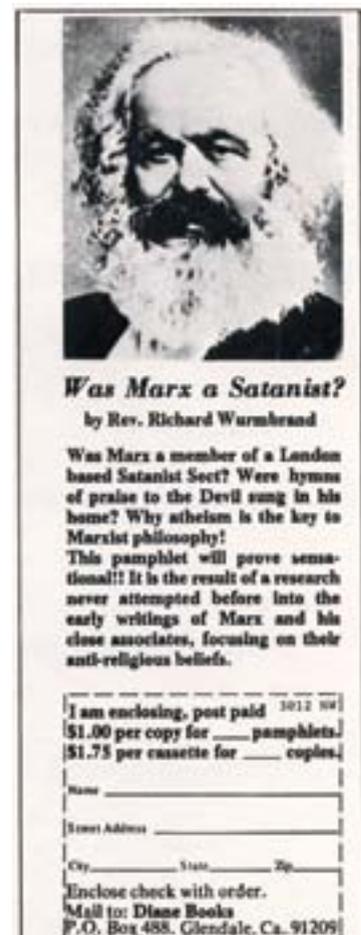
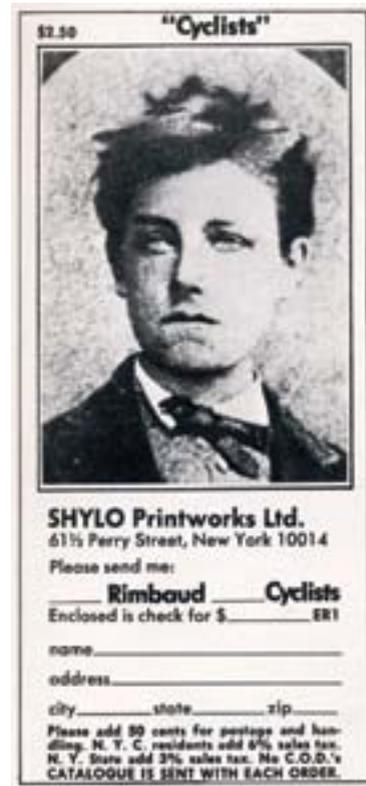


3. ~~THE CAT IS THE HEAD~~  
~~THE BODY IS THE BODY~~  
Or contrariwise  
neither the cat is the head  
nor the body is the body  
~~OR CONTRARIWISE~~  
the body is the body  
the head is not the body  
or contrariwise...
4. ~~The cat's body is immersed up to its neck~~  
~~in the “infinity of nonbeing.”~~
5. ~~The CAT-HEAD is VISIBLE~~  
~~The non-body no CAT is not visible.~~
6. That its body is invisible  
does not mean that the cat is missing a body.  
That its head is not invisible,  
does not mean that the cat has a body.

THE CAT'S NECK IS THE INDETERMINATE, VACILLATING POINT  
BETWEEN THE VISIBLE AND THE INVISIBLE.



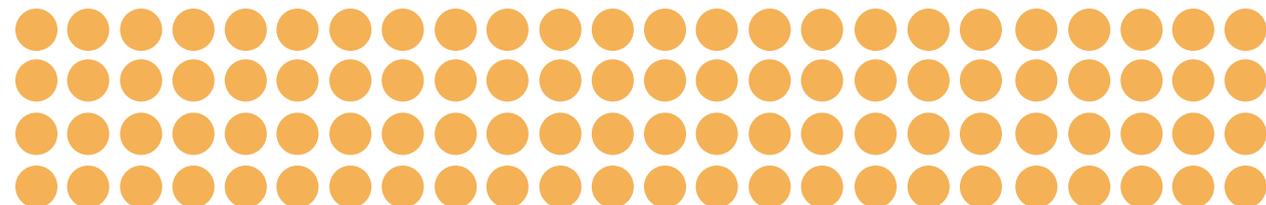
# The Eternal Return



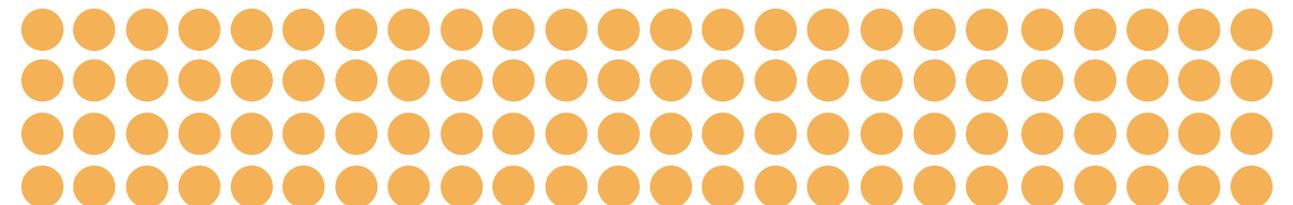
Abridged bibliography:

“Le mythe de Rimbaud en Russia tsariste”, Etiemble, C.D.U., 1964.

“Marxism and Poetry,” George D. Thomson, *Marxism Today Series*, London, 1945.



The sardonic and picturesque imagination of Fantômas could find, in its own excessive vulgarity, an aggressive value that achieves its maximal power, here and on the following pages, in the exacerbated expression of its literary impotence:



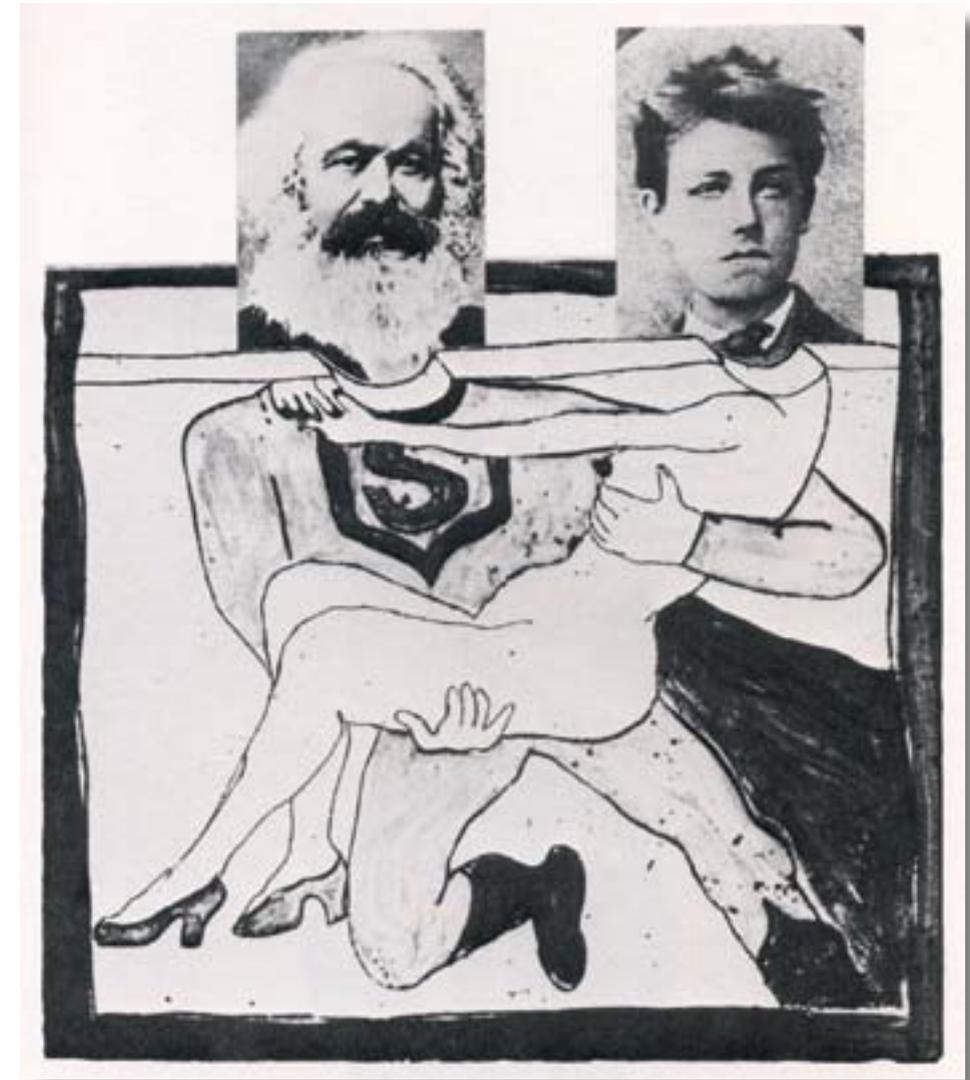
## The New Novel: The Poet as Superman

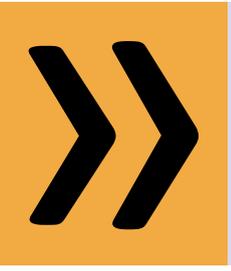
“The bow-legged man and the hunchback woman love each other madly and, therefore, offer, in their double appearance, the best guarantee for an ‘harmonic effect’ of a secondary order.”

–Friedrich Engels

SUPERMAN became extraordinarily popular thanks to his double and perhaps triple identity: having descended from a planet that disappeared due to a catastrophe, and being bestowed with prodigious powers, he dwells on Earth: first under the guise of a journalist, then a photographer, and, finally, behind the multiple masks of a young and disconcerting Chilean poet who even renounces the property of his own name in order to show himself as a being both shy and aggressive, blurry and anonymous. (This last disguise is a humiliating one for a hero whose powers are literally, and literarily, unlimited.)

In essence, the myth of SUPERMAN satisfies the secret nostalgias of modern man, who knowing himself difficult and limited, dreams of revealing himself one day as an “exceptional character,” as a “hero” whose sufferings are destined to change the ontological patterns of the world.





# From “Answers to Problems by Jean Tardieu”

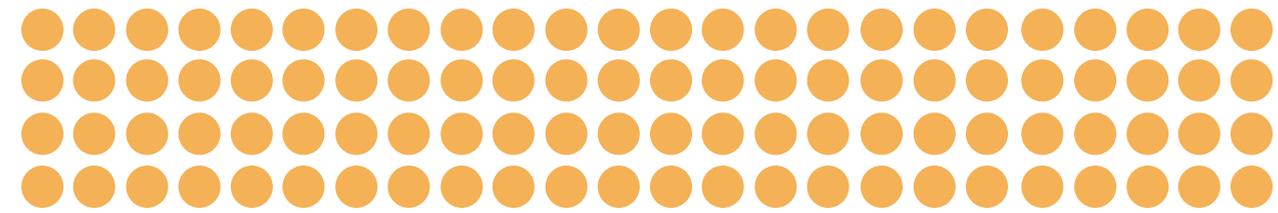
## Space

Prolong a straight line to infinity:  
what do you find at the end?

—You find the beginning of the same straight line transformed into a curve with a propensity for any kind of regression.

Given a wall, what happens behind?

—There are men building another wall. Facing this new wall, return to the question “Given a wall, what happens behind?”—There are other men building another wall before which you ask yourself: GIVEN A WALL, WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND? ... GIVEN A WALL, WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND?



## Morals

A young man has stolen a valuable ring so he can give it to his girlfriend as a gift. The girl doesn’t like the ring, however. She refuses to take it. What should the young man do?

## Personality

Carefully observe your left hand and say to whom it belongs. Suppose you are not yourself: find a replacement.

