

## Invention and art will win

Correspondence 1967-1970  
Kyoto/California/Switzerland/Italy

typography & design by  
Jean-Baptiste Levée  
edited by Paul Kahn

The letters from Franco Beltrametti to Philip Whalen are from the Philip Whalen Papers, BANC MSS 2003/93 p, Box 16, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

The letter from Philip Whalen to Franco Beltrametti are found in the Franco Beltrametti Archives.

Drawings by Franco Beltrametti that appear as marginalia in these letters, reproduced on p. 15 and p. 18 in this issue, have been redrawn from copies of the original letters. The Carta della Regione del Ginkiakuki drawing on p. 21 is reproduced from a scan of the original work.

A selection of drawings by Philip Whalen included as marginalia in his letters which appear on pp. 7, 8, 9, and 19 in this issue, have been selected and redrawn from photographs of the original letters.



To  
Franco Beltrametti  
Lecturer, Dept. of Architecture  
California State Polytechnical College  
San Luis Obispo, California  
U.S.A.  
22.IX.67 postmark

From  
Philip Whalen c/o Kitamura  
73 Higashikubota-cho  
Kita-shirakawa, Sakyo-ku  
Kyoto JAPAN

Dear Franco & Judy & Giona,

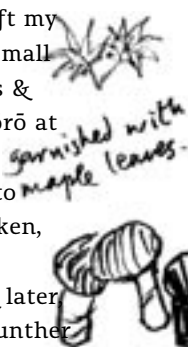
I am all worn out from a long walk in the country. The map shows that Ohara village is just a little way beyond Yase, so I took the train to Yase & began walking. I walked & walked & saw beautiful mountains & fields, & the Takano River & many villages & farms, & a beautiful 11-headed stone Kwannon standing near a little logging road, & at last, a small fat policeman who stood near the highway guard rail {which was all bent & broken} & he insisted upon taking me in his prowl car to Ohara & showing me the road to Sanzen In temple & to Jakko-In. So I arrived at last, in style. Enclosed photos show the nicest buddhas at Sanzen In. I think that the garden there is a huge success. I had a nice walk to the Jakko In, then back to the Amida temple

very good plain wood  
11-headed Kwannon there, too  
a little larger than life size.  
Big Amida, & a 1/2 life-size  
Bishamonten & Fudo. Behind,  
on a shelf, there was a fairly good  
Fugen on a laughing elephant.




just beyond Sanzen In—I had left my flashlight on the steps. There was a beautiful small lunch near Jakko In—rice & soup & vegetables & pickle & tea, very fresh & good. Noodles & tōrōrō at Sanzen In are very good. Back in the city, I went away to the bath & then to Kamo-Hachi for fresh mushrooms, beer & chicken, & so home again.

There have been great visitings & travels. Pico— & later Mamo & Nanao were all here, & your friend, Gunther Nitchkie from Tokyo & another German architect with a black beard & sad brown eyes & big cheerful wife Léonie {if I remember the name right}... all of the architects & Hal Gold & Mieko & I went to a big special Takigi Nō last Saturday, in memory of Meiji's father. They played TAKASAGO, and the short "new" Nō which had no distinction, & ATAKA {Benkei & the subscription list} & a great kyōgen about 2 men dancing in 2 halves of a hakama, & the SUMIYOSHI play about Genji & the Akashi Princess accidentally meeting at Sumiyoshi shrine, & a final mad dance



of jubilation &c. performed by 2 mountain spirits in long red wigs. Tuesday we all went to Manpukuji for the chanting & the big lunch {ten of us} & Wednesday, four of us went to the grand initiation ceremonies on Hieizan — it is held only once every four or five years.

8 or 10 boys being initiated also dressed in Heian mode plus gilded crowns with artificial cherry blossoms. They were maybe 7 to 12 years old.

The 2 high abbots parade about in their lacquer sedan chairs, as does an Imperial Messenger {in full dress, Heian jidai} all carried by costumed bearers & attendants. At one point, about a hundred priests came slowly out of the founder's hall, 2 by 2, chanting the Hokke-kyo. They wore enormous gold brocade kesa over beautiful red & white robes & big Chinese shoes  which were gold with red or green flower designs. Each one carried a round gold filigree plate before him, with a copy of the sutra open upon it. 4 long {weighted} ribbons hung from each plate, almost to the ground. They marched part way around the temple & then back inside again. Then the whole outfit moved to the Kompon Chudo for more {secret} ceremonies & then back to the Founder's Hall again.

It took about 4 hours.

The Dalai Lama & Alan Watts are both staying at the Miyako Hotel. I haven't seen either one of them. Mamo & his great straw raincoat & pilgrim hat left for Fujimi Ashram today. Next comes {12 OCT.} the Ushi Matsuri at Koryuji, & the Kurama fire whoopee & the Jidai Matsuri. I am enjoying a 2-week vacation between semesters of school.

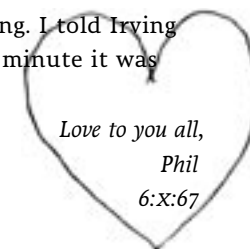
No money has arrived from Harcourt Brace & World, but everyone writes me encouraging letters & so I {foolishly} expect it will come any minute. When it does I will have to figure out what I must do next.

Ginsberg is in Milan with Nanda Pivano & he doesn't like that city as much as Rome. He was taken to Rapallo to spend the day with Ezra Pound, who scarcely spoke 3 words, but was gentle & kind. Allen plans to come to Kyoto late this winter or early spring.

Today was lovely, but when I think about the cold weather coming & that damned kerosene stove &c. &c. I begin to find San Francisco a more possible & entertaining prospect. Right now I'm cranky & dopey because I'm not writing anything; contrariwise,



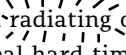
I don't want to start anything & then get all hung up about moving out of Japan &c....Oh well. Anyway, HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Giona & Franco, and much love to Judy. I hope that life in San Luis isn't really desperately impossible. Oh - the little Adam & Eve book, THE INVENTION OF THE LETTER, is nearly finished printing. I told Irving Rosenthal to send you all a copy the minute it was completed.



Love to you all,  
Phil  
6:X:67

Dear Phil, Dear Gary,

I'm recovering - somehow.

Phil, thank you for yr wonderful rainbow=letter, now hanging and  radiating on the wall. You see what gave me a real hard time was to discover that such a greatness of space/mountains/prairies/forests/ocean is not inspiring the people and their life — that for all that beauty there is all that ugliness, all that desolate materialism, all that junk you know, and that all that junk is still increasing...rushing towards some kind of collapse that will happen/must happen. Though we are beyond all that, free of it, at least getting free of it, we can't help looking at all that with a mixture of compassion and of rage — that was/is one thing.

Then you see these guys teaching here - and I've to see them everyday! — don't have any idea of what's hap=pening and of what it's all about - like old bodies at a *14 juillet défilée* they are absolutely out of control - but still cheering, in their unhappy grey ghostly world of limited dimensions.

Fortunately others are worrying, praying, working, writing, having visions, making love, growing teeth, going thru hells and paradises FOR THEM TOO...

~

From  
Franco Beltrametti  
Lecturer, Dep't of Architecture  
California State Poly College  
San Luis Obispo, California, USA

To  
Philip Whalen  
c/o Kitamura  
Higashi Kubota=cho  
Kitashirakawa  
Sakyo=ku, Kyoto Japan

San Luis Obispo  
27:IX:67

When you are with somebody who tells you deadly serious:  
“see that car full of Mexicans you better watch out”  
you can’t help tell him go to hell - I’m Mexican  
I’m Chinese/Tibetan/Eskimo/Etruscan AND I don’t  
watch out... I’m getting along fine with the students  
because I talk like one of them, listen to what they  
say without the I-know-what’s-wrong-with-you-smile  
and tell ’em not to take seriously all the deceptive  
mess around and to find themselves, go ahead. (Stand  
up, swokes!)

On the staff here is one guy who is not totally hope-  
less. He spend one year in Spain, is interested in  
Buddhism/China/India/Japan etc., built a real good  
redwood house by himself for himself etc., he is kind  
of helping me to avoid too much bullshit/organiza-  
tion of the college, of which he is fed up, but he can  
handle all that — I’m not even going to try: end of  
spring I will just disappear. Now, in order to survive  
I’m appealing to all kinds of magical/Taoist/guerrilla  
like resources, tactics and devices.

Judy and I plan to go soon again to S.F., meet again Jim  
K., Bill Brown, the Mahalila tribe etc.— and probably  
to stay up there 3 weeks or so in December/January.  
Yesterday we went to Morro Bay, Baywoods etc. The  
ocean, the rocks are majestic. South of Morro Bay, on  
the coast, there is a wide marsh, miles of water, mean-  
ders, bushes, yellow wild flowers, open sky — I imagine  
in a month it will be full of birds... and Giona will be  
walking...

I miss you and Gary very much - love to both of you, and  
to Masa and Mim and Nanao. Tell me more of yr sha-  
man activities.

LONG LIVE GREEN MIKANS! \_\_\_\_\_ *Franco*

Dear Phil,

Your messages are enchanting and woke our joy!  
It’s like receiving irish middle age manuscripts or “les  
belles heures” miniatures or persian hashish visionary  
garden or terrific apparitions of tibetan - (Rabelais)  
blue / red / green dancing letters...

I hope you’ll be here before the end of November  
so that (maybe) you can do all the work for your  
book with Jim and then we can all go rock hunting

(and climbing) and visiting deserts and canyon and  
mountains and everything.

Thru Jay (Blaise) and Issyo Saijo we met a young archi-  
tect here, Bill Tickell, he knows you (he is a friend  
of Lew Welch) and is a real free person - we had a  
wonderful night with him (grass and visions - this  
was two days ago), met a group of local teachers (yes,  
sophisticated and intelligent, but... that alone does  
not help) - danced in happiness all night at their party,  
dance is better than “intelligent” talk, is not so?

Tell us exactly when you think to arrive in San Francisco  
if you already know it.

Yes - Kyoto is hard to leave - LOVE

*Franco*


*From*  
*Franco Beltrametti*  
*Lecturer*  
*Dept. of Architecture*  
*Cal Poly*  
*San Luis Obispo, California, USA*

*To*  
*Philip Whalen*  
*c/o Kitamura*  
*Higashi Kubota-cho*  
*Kitashirakawa*  
*Sakyo-ku, Kyoto Japan*

*San Luis Obispo*  
*1:XI:67*  
~

Dear Phil<sup>æ</sup>,

Bolinas mesa is a good place where to hide!

We’ll come to S.F. (at Jay Blaise’s) as soon as we can -  
maybe very soon, and of course, first on the way,  
come to see you at Bill’s house. But first I have to  
finish getting things done here (school ... ).

I’ll tell you everything then.

See you very soon. Love

*Franco<sup>æ</sup> Judy<sup>æ</sup> GIONA<sup>æ</sup>*

*San Luis Obispo*  
*9:XII:’67*  
~

Love to Zoe, Bill, Jim K., Cassandra, the goats and dogs  
and birds and cats and trees... yes - California trees are  
beautiful and so are the hills, 山, ... creeks, stars...

Meanwhile you’ll have got my first (recent) letter...

Dear Phil,

Even Milarepa sometimes was kind of stuck in (I guess)  
Lhasa/etc/etc/etc and I’m sure you’ll turn in beauty  
and delight that (maybe) “egregious mistake” of being  
back in S.F./etc/etc/etc

From  
Franco Beltrametti  
Lecturer, Dep't of Architecture  
California State Poly College  
San Luis Obispo, California, USA

If you feel like changing air come down with us (Judy is preparing some elaborate bread and a very elaborate hopefully delicious soup/Giona is trying to climb a table/there he is: on the table/no, stuck between table and chair, howling/but usually is a very quiet place/if the rain is not beating on the (shingel) roof/the wind not etc/etc/etc it is in fact very quiet)

To  
Philip Whalen  
c/o Rick Duerden  
1506 Masonic St.  
San Francisco, California 94117

Did you go to the Sierras with Claude?  
I forgot to tell you in my last letter that Gary recently wrote proposing us to join him in going to live up there, so that (of course) I answer yes and wrote to Dick Baker too (as Gary suggested) though I don't know Dick (only a 10 minute I silent, meeting)  
Anyway if I can afford it I'll buy a piece of land too - if not, just help. (all of you). Anyhow tell me how this place looks to you - I'll try to see it as soon as somebody (Dick Baker or Claude or?) will guide me - I've no idea where it is, Nevada City (?) If you're not coming here as I hope, I hope you will find a place very soon/please write soon. love and love!

San Luis Obispo  
27:1:68  
~

Dont you think of building a FUDO shrine (close to a waterfall) in the Sierras?

O-Phil I forgot to tell you how I bought already 3 weeks ago if I remember well a beautiful "BUCK,, pocket knife (very expensive)- it is like a samuri sword and makes me happy to look at it and cut paper, fruits/etc./etc

Can you write me the name of Marpa's wife? If you remember it. (you know, Marpa Milarepa's guru).

28:1:68 Yesterday after writing you ↑, Judy and I went out for a walk, nighttime. Went in a blue truck with inside frozen whale (entrance 35 cts) Well it was like visiting a friend killed by somebody. Poor beautiful friend. Sometimes, Phil, I like better fishes and animals than many human beings

how about you? I m[ean how] do you feel about that[?]

(From One of Those  
Condor People,  
Franco Beltrametti, 1970)

Bank of America College Square, San Luis Obispo  
20.45 nobody around

-----  
JERRY MALONE PRODUCTIONS INC.  
presents  
LITTLE IRVY  
20 tons 38 feet  
-----

a whale in a truck  
frozen on two rails  
35 cents to enter  
see oncle Americo the misfit killed 1933  
in Santa Maria, California  
ten seconds & out  
in the chilly January night  
shiney cars slide on  
highway one

I'M NO MORE A CIVILIZED MAN  
\* \* \* \*

We arrived in Switzerland since a few days and already are in the mountains. We met Hans and Kim at Saanen - where Kirshnamurti is giving talks. Chrisophe too is with us. There are fantastic streams and forests and rocky peaks, and we all take long hikes all day long. Giona is more and more active, and now is screaming in the mist.

To  
Philip Whalen  
2427 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California USA  
[forwarded to Box 434,  
Stinson Beach CA 94970]

love Franco Saanen 23:VI:68

Dear Phil,

We are all fine, but getting out of money (including Christophe). Giona was two years old 3 days ago and we had long festivities. I'm sending you "HOTCHA !,, a paper published here by a fine young guy, poet himself, Urban Gwerder. I'm seeing him a lot, he is publishing Julian Beck, Sanders, Jean Jacques Label, and others. He just met the Fugs people in Germany.

From  
F.B.  
c/o CP N40, Muralto, Switzerland

I thought it would be fine if you send me an unpublished poem or drawing or poem/drawing for his paper. (The poem would be printed in English with German translation that we can do).

To  
Philip Whalen  
P.O. Box 434  
Stinson Beach  
California 94970, USA

HOTCHA ! is widely read and getting popular among students and young people in Switzerland and Germany.

Zürich  
10:X:68  
~

He is going to publish some of my stuff too. Well, that's all. I'm writing to Jim too, because Urban could organize some bookshop for "Coyote books," and will advertise them free in his paper.

Today is very sunny and beautiful, Kim came by (he is building beds for friends) and my father is here too and is going to cook for everyone tonight -

Love Franco

I hope to be able to go to Milano soon and will then visit Nanda Pivano

Dear Phil,

From I'm glad to know you'll be back in Kyoto soon.

Franco Beltrametti  
c/o Beriger  
Forchstr. 38, Zürich, Switzerland

Now that it's all decided you can take a long dedicated look at America..., how wonderful to leave again under the Bridge!

Our plans:

To in 2 weeks we go to Milano (←and see Nanda), Roma and Sicily (Dola)

Philip Whalen  
P.O. Box 434  
Stinson Beach  
Calif, 94970, USA  
On the way I'll start looking for land, especially near  
1) Volterra 2) Carrara 3) via Cassia, north of Roma  
4) Gaeta=Terracino 5) Calabria.

I'll dedicate the next months to find a place, possibly hidden. Ok—I started playing a flute (recorder): it's fantastic. Judy with guitar, Christophe with pans and drums, another with juice harp, a fifth with cembalo. I was yesterday very high (*without grass=just naturally*) and understood a koan (the one of tree-wind-moving-it's your mind moving you know?)

3:11:68  
~

Well, I have to go out work a few hours with Christophe-that house is nearly finished. It's snowing.

love

Franco  
Judy  
Giona

\*

Love to Gary and Masa (if arrived). To Jim and Cass and baby (arrived?) To Zoe and Bill B. To everybody.  
I just met a strong group of young maoist=anarchists etc.: they are out of sight and beautiful people.

#

Dear Phil,

We're just back from Italy. In Milano we met Nanda and Ettore (they were very nice and overwhelmingly friendly) and Larry Ferlinghetti (has he gone to Kyoto?) I'll start writing for their PIANETA FRESCO (including the translations of yr poems I did in Kyoto if you agree-Nanda would like to print some of yr BOSATSU drawing too. I'll bring them down in a few weeks). She would like to have yr last books too. It was a fantastic traveling, met all my friends and made new ones, in Sicily. Great people, preparing a real revolution-I may go down again soon with them while looking for land (now there was no time for that).

Zürich  
11:1:69  
~

In another letter I'll tell you more  
Judy and Giona are very fine.

I just finished arranging 2 pages on you for Hotcha!-like this:→

It will be out end of this month. The same number will have Gary's WHY TRIBE (English & German) and a page of mine poems.

Now we're totally running out of money-so next week I'll have to run around trying very hard to find some-hopefully enough to carry us on until autumn... the guys in Sicily would like us to stay with them, but they are extremely poor so if we go down I don't want to be a weight on them-though they wouldn't mind it at all.

Here two views of Siracusa my preferred Sicilian city. the FONTE ARETUSA is still there with magnificent PAPYRUS TREES (very vibrating dark green→) In Sicily it was spring: flowers all over, and orange-, mandarine-, lemon trees charged with fruit... here it's all under snow. I keep practicing on my recorder.

Love

It's everything arranged for Japan?

Franco



Dear Phil,

*Saturday night at 10 o'clock  
(8:11:69), Zürich*

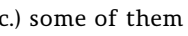
I got the 3 books you sent: "In ~~w~~melon Sugar" I read without being able to stop - it's beautiful. Nobody else has written things like that before, I think. Idea's a good place, but Imboil wasn't all wrong, after all. It's a book I'm happy somebody has written so that I can have it around.

We got the money, too. Thank you Phil, It's going to be very useful right now.

Today was (is) like spring. Blue sky and the air is warm and at Christophe's gate (with an automatic cigarette machine at the right and an automatic bus ticket machine at the left where always Andalou (the dog) piss) some pale blue flowers just came out (I'll have to enquire their name and magic properties if any).

Because of the spring day I went to the other side of town to visit my young Italian Marxist friend (Mario) who since weeks is sick and supposed to stay in bed and drink tea and not hang around downtown as he keeps doing/anyway/he is living in a sort of ghetto, wooden shacks, with a thousand or more Spanish and Italian workers (mostly carpenters and construction w.), 4 each room (100\$ a room!!). At his wall he keeps Hotcha's Jim K's picture (because he likes his face he said) and a drawing by Giona.

4 guys were playing some strange card game from Puglie. We had very good red wine, from Puglie too. And we all talked of prickly pears, figs, oranges, almonds and other frutto delle Puglie. Bakunin was mentioned too: un brau'uomo, un dútto, a cool guy.

Judy went for a long walk with Giona long the lake. And then later when we all were back (and Judy was baking a banana bread - very successfully) and Mario came too and others and I built towers with Giona (with wooden  etc.) some of them real tall and persian looking. "Le torri", Giona says. Then we played with my pocket lamp, projecting hands and people and little trucks and things on the white walls, in darkness. Giona was very pleased - and went to sleep. And then we all eat. (But right now a guy called Marino came over and is telling me to go out with some people for a while so I'll go on with this tomorrow. Ciao).

10:11:69

The flowers are "crocus" and are getting colour lilac, very delicate and precious. Judy and I are having sort of pow wow's to decide what to do etc. etc.

There is a huge exhibition of TIBETAN ART in town and we shall go there this afternoon. When are you leaving?

Love to Gary/Masa and Jim/Cass and every friend.

Lots of love for you \_\_\_\_\_ *Franco*

Dear Franco,

To  
*Beltrametti, Franco & Judy  
Via Santa Dorotea 22/111  
00153 Roma, Italia  
29.VII.69 postmark*

From  
*Philip Whalen  
c/o Education Dept./ Kyoto YMCA  
Sanjo=Yanaginobamba/Nakagyo=ku  
Kyoto JAPAN*

All my ink is drying up, it is so hot. Why do you think I am wise? I think it's because you haven't seen me for a while - I am really still a fat dumb old man who doesn't learn Japanese & can't quit buying expensive books & rides in air=conditioned taxi cabs. I still pretend that I shall be able to go hide in the mountains in Oregon in a few years. Don't worry about being crazy. Everybody who has any sense or any feeling is bound to be a little mad in this day & age. The important thing is to do the work which you feel must be done. I seriously doubt that we need ANOTHER magazine. That is something for rich people to do. Nanda Pivano says maybe she will reproduce some of my drawings in PIANETA FRESCO but that they haven't started the magazine yet. And she doesn't want to pay me, unless I feel very strongly about it. I wrote & told her that I have no other means of getting money, except from publishers & magazines. I also said that the pictures now belong to F. Beltrametti & should be credited as coming from IL COLLEZIONE DEI BELTRAMETTI {some grammar!} Nanda says that she & Ettore plan to be in Tokyo in September & hopes to phone me for the pleasure of hearing my voice. Give my love to Judy & Giona, & to Kim, when you see him. Try not to worry quite so much. Love. *Phil*

Blithering dead leaves along the ground  
 Crooked sunlight falling smoke black wind  
 Electric power failure woke me up, I broke  
 The kitchen clock. Franco & Judy hungry in Zurich.

30:XII:68 — Bolinas — 11:XI:69 — Kyoto

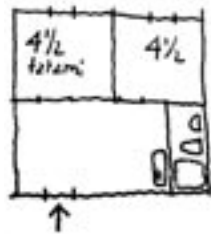
From "Life at Bolinas,  
 The Last of California"  
 in Severance Pay,  
 Philip Whalen, 1974.

Meanwhile Feltrinelli is considering my "Nadamas"  
 novel. Let me please have the pocket edition of ON  
 BEAR'S HEAD when out, I need it. I'm reading: *La vie  
 de Milarepa* (Jacques Bacot's translation)+ Levi-Strauss.  
 Writing some new stuff too. Of my work here, later. Ciao.

Love, Franco

Dear Phil,

Partanna  
 5:X:69



Since 3 days we're in Western Sicily. One of the very first things we met was yr letter. We live in a barrack whose original conception must be Japanese, but instead of tatami we got a bare concrete floor (I'll work out something). The plan of the barrack

lavabo } but no water (one hour each 2/3 days - they say)  
 toilet }  
 shower }

(Kim is still in Saanen, Swiss mountains, and way up, near the elegant GSTAAD, at some Khrisnamurti friend mountain house) the view: on other barracks. They are all the same. "Baraccopoli" (called San Marlino / one of the 3 bidonvilles out of Partanna half destroyed by the '68 earthquake) is in the plain amongst orchards.

We see:

prickly pear (red/violet fruits, yellow flowers RIGHT NOW) (lots) almond trees (lots) vineyards (lots) olive trees (lots of) figs, biwa (a few) cypresses (a few), carrubs (many) kaki (many) oranges and lemon trees (a few) and lots of pomegranates (just ripe now)+ lots of wild flowers. Lots of donkeys and horses. Wild rabbits. The sea must be at 5/6 miles distance. We see it beyond a hill beyond another hill beyond etc. Blue air. Today I'll go to the Selinunte Greek temples out along the beach.


Just before leaving Roma I met Adriano Spatola, a young Italian poet and publisher (GEIGER books) who looks like Pantagrue or Gargantua. He is going to do a small book out of my short poems. In December or January. Title: Uno di quella gente condor ("one of those condor people).

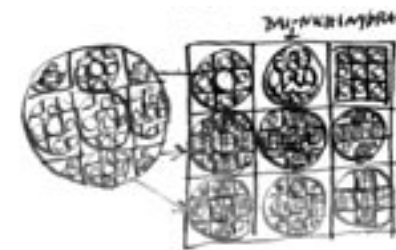
Dear Franco & Judy & Giona,

To RAIN {also dim & chillness} I was just getting ready to

Franco Beltrametti  
 c/o Centro Studi e Iniziative Valle  
 Belice 91028 Partanna  
 (Trapani) Sicilia, Italia  
 20:1V:70 postmark

From  
 Philip Whalen  
 Fukuoji-cho 82, Utamo,  
 Ukyo-ku, Kyoto 616, Japan

answer your letter when the mail man arrived with UNO DI QUELLA/GENTE CONDOR, which looks very beautiful—you should be very happy. I hope lots of people read it. Thanks for my poem on p.27; now I must make a new one for you. The cherry blossoms are gorgeous this year, so I've been going all over to look at them—Daikakuji, Daigoji Heian Jingu, Maruyama Park, Arashigyama & Ninnaji—& the hillside between here and Ninnaji—also has plum trees & wild azaleas in bloom. The white magnolias—the Chinese call them YU=LAN—were also very good this year, & of course the camellias were great. The Toji mandalas were very large—nearly 5 metres by 8 metres—& contain hundreds of figures & symbols. There are the 2 usual kinds—the MAHAKARUNAGARBHA=MANDALA, with this basic plan with 8-petal lotus with buddhas surrounding DAI=NICHI=NYORAI. In rectangular areas are rows of bodhisattvas. All this is done in beautiful bright colors & gold, so both mandalas look like "oriental" rugs, in a way. The other big one is the VAJRADHATU=MANDALA which has a general plan of 9 squares  with circular mandalas in each of the squares. This general design will contain 74 figures &/or symbols. One "map" stands for the contemplative & one for the active wisdom side. Other, smaller & simpler mandalas show FUDO, surrounded by the other 4 great kings or the 12 great guardian generals in 2 rows of six each. The drawing is better in the older ones, of course. I am sending you a book which explains it better than I can do - it's in French. Love to you all.



Phil

Dear Franco & Judy & Giona,

Sorry to hear about all the bother & fuss. It's very hard to get along with people & impossible to get along without them — an insoluble problem. My solution is to spend quite a lot of time in solitude — but that isn't very satisfactory for any length of time. I am sitting more than I used to — I get up early — 5:30 — & do zazen ½ an hour, walk around 10 minutes & then do another ½ hour of zazen. It doesn't seem to do any good but it doesn't do any harm, either. I just have to do it; I've done everything else; now I am old & have accomplished nothing. I keep fussing around about what to write next — I see it must be something different — then I write it down & it all comes out being more of the same old stuff. BLECH! I saw Gaudenz the other day. He said that he had worked himself almost sick, but that he had realized it in time to take a month's vacation — visiting Japan Sea & lots of country places — so now he is in good shape. Cid & Shizume are tremendously busy getting ready for their American journey. I went to Kyoto City Museum, Sunday, & looked at big show of Spanish paintings — Goya & Greco & Velasquez & lots of lesser sillier painters & sculptors. There were some very interesting Gothic & Roman remains, & a lovely prehistoric treasure of big golden bowls & vases & bracelets & jewelry — very interesting to see. I liked a little of the painting — all of it strong when it wasn't very interesting. Try to be as busy as possible with your own work — that's the only

hope, anyway — invention & art will win, like Blake said.

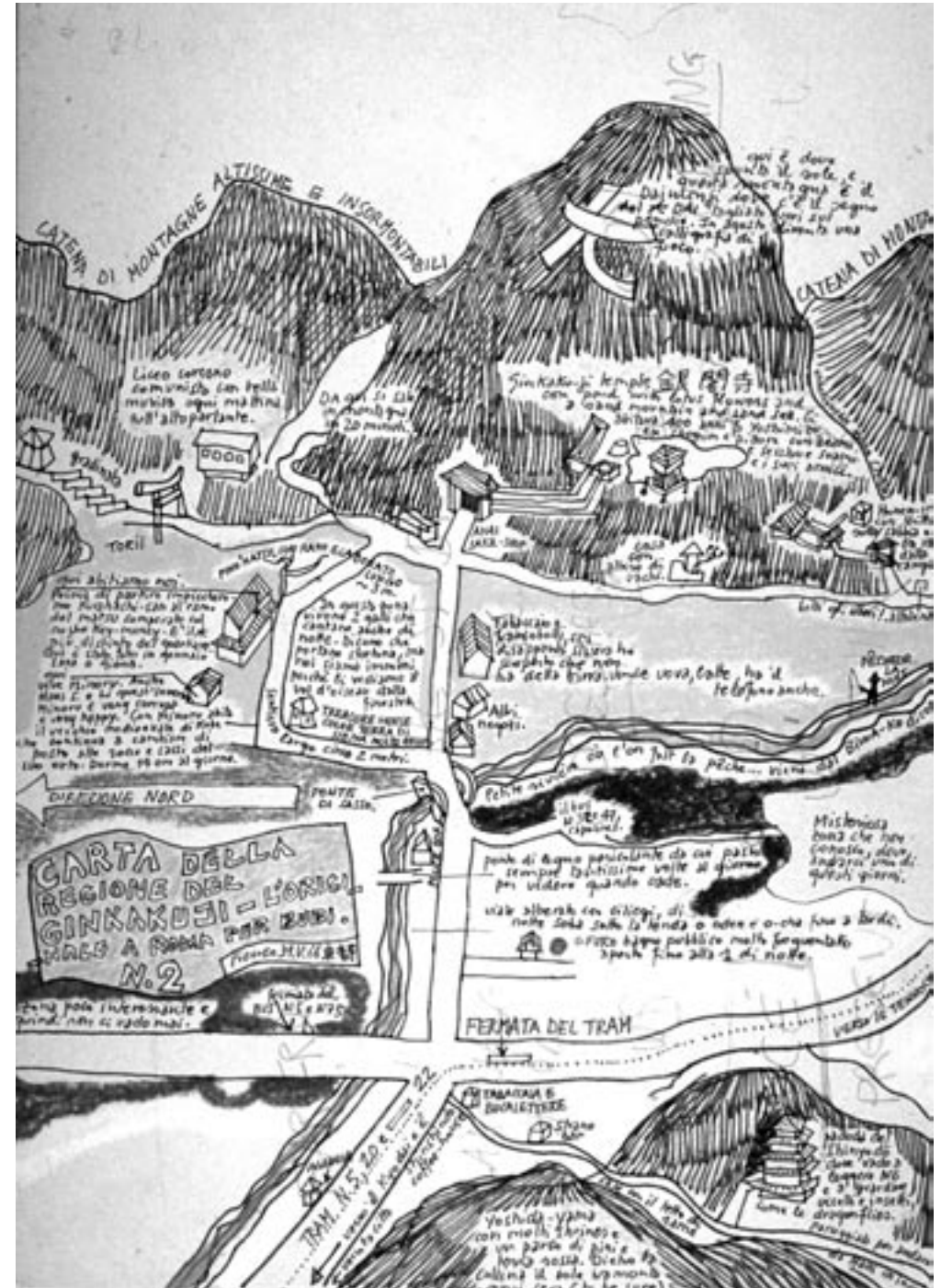
Love Phil

P.S. Wonderful to hear about your new book! Will look forward & P.

To  
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Carta della Regione del Ginkakuji  
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