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Letter 1970, January 20, James Tate to Gene DeGruson

James Tate

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20 January 70
863 Mass. Ave
Cambridge

Dear Gene,

I hope the books arrived all right; they should have, registered and insured for four-hundred; and I hope they are up to your expectations. If not send them back or something. Those pound books are hard to come by, and collectors of Pound are notorious fanatics, so they could be sold without difficulty I'm sure.

Are you planning on doing a partial or complete bibliography along with the Amnesia People, I didn't understand that? If you are-- and I don't care one way or another--we had better get working on it. If you'll send me what you have, I'll supplement it. If I misunderstood you then that's fine; or maybe you just wanted it for your files and not for the book? Anyway, I'll be glad to help. Remember that little Pym-Randall publication, The Destination? He is doing another sometime soon, a prose poems of several pages, called Deaf Girl Playing. John Martin at Black Sparrow wants a manuscript next August, to be illustrated either by Bobby Creeley (Robert's wife) or Larry Rivers.

I got a lovely call from London two nights ago, from Xandra. I still don't know where that is going, I thought perhaps it was over in her mind, but evidently not. We talked for an hour but nothing definite was said, except that she missed me terribly and she wept for all that's happened. So, more of those prayers we were talking about.

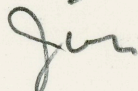
I still haven't heard from that Kansas circuit of highschoools you mentioned. I do hope they contact me. Nor have I received that bloody check from the National Literary Anthology dammit. According to Brilliant he has received his portion, and he assumed I had mine, i.e. he does not have it. I would prefer to believe him! He is now telling me that The Torch is going into a second printing; I certainly would like to put a halt to that, but I hate to ignite more confusion and ill-will and you can be sure he'd make it wherever possible.

I have been reading two terrible Black Sparrow books, which you should spare yourself the expense of buying: Charles Bukowski and Stephen ~~Stepanovich~~ Stepanchey. God, I can't understand what goes through a publisher's mind when ^{he} is accepting that kind of crap.

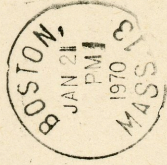
Well, it's cold as hell here, I have the seasonal flu, no mail for three days, have been reading novels like mad in hopes of populating an otherwise empty apartment, the soup is thin, start teaching in a couple of weeks, dreams of returning to London in June, hopes of getting to Kansas before then, poems. I'll enclose a light one, The Gap.

Hope you are well. Keep writing, to me and to yourself and to the outer darkness which we must barricade ourselves against. All best,

Yours,



James Tate
863 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass.



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VIA AIR MAIL