



# STRANGE VICTORIES



**GROVE PRESS**  
**1951–1985**  
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# STRANGE VICTORIES

## GROVE PRESS 1951–1985

Grove Press began as a small independent publisher on Grove Street in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1949. Under the direction of Barney Rosset, it grew into a multimillion-dollar company and one of the great publishing houses of the twentieth century, and, yet, it often struggled to survive.

From its role in the national censorship trials over the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* through its dissemination of politically engaged works such as *The Wretched of the Earth* to its avant-garde and sometimes scandalous Film Division, Grove altered the American literary and film landscape. At the same time, the press aggressively deployed savvy marketing strategies seemingly at odds with its counterculture ethos, became embroiled in union battles and internal conflicts, and floundered despite its successes. *Strange Victories* offers a glimpse into the complex story of Grove's many literary and political achievements, which continue to exert a profound influence on American culture today.

The materials on view in this exhibition all come from the Grove Press Records held at the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University Libraries. In 1969, Barney Rosset donated the Grove Press Records to Syracuse University. Since then, other Grove employees have donated additional materials to this important collection, which consists of over five hundred linear feet of original manuscripts, letters, photographs, and other archival materials. The collection has been made publicly available for research through the Syracuse University Libraries with the support of a Hidden Collections Grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

LUCY MULRONEY

Curator of Special Collections

### OPENING RECEPTION

November 19, 6:00 – 8:00pm

### PERSONALITIES IN POSTWAR PUBLISHING:

ROGER STRAUS, BARNEY ROSSET, AND SAMUEL ROTH

December 11, 6:00pm

Panel Discussion sponsored by the Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Location: Butler Library, Room 523. Columbia University Morningside Campus. 535 West 114th Street.

### REMEMBERING GROVE: A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH FORMER GROVE PRESS EMPLOYEES

December 12, 6:00 pm – 8:30pm

Reception 6:00 – 7:00pm , Panel 7:00 – 8:30pm

Loren Glass, author of *Counter-Culture Colophon: Grove Press, the Evergreen Review and the Incorporation of the Avant-Garde*, will moderate a panel discussion with former employees of Grove Press, including, Judith Schmidt Douw, Fred Jordan, Claudia Menza, Kent Carroll, and Herman Graf.

Panel Discussion sponsored by the Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries.  
Location: Syracuse University Lubin House. 11 East 61st Street (between Madison and Fifth Avenues).

# EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Two photographs of the newly renovated Grove Press offices at 214 Mercer Street, c1969.

Photograph of Evergreen Bleecker Street Cinema marquee with handwritten notations, January 1970.

Stock certificate for shares of common stock of Grove Press, Inc., owned by Barney Rosset, January 3, 1972.

Flyer announcing the sale or net lease of the Grove Press office building, c1969.

Mimeograph copy of typed memorandum, "Women Have Seized the Executive Offices of Grove Press Because.," April 13, 1970, unsigned.

Typed letter from Judith Schmidt to Mary G. regarding accounting difficulties due to the IBM computer, undated.

Mimeograph copy of memorandum from the Committee for the Survival of Grove Press, undated, unsigned.

Page proof of "Charleston, South Carolina" in Robert Frank's *The Americans*. New York: Grove Press, 1959, with handwritten notations.

Page proof of "Ranch market—Hollywood" in *The Americans*, with handwritten notations.

Thermographic copy of the first page of Jack Kerouac's introduction to *The Americans*, c1959.

Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 1963. First Grove Press edition, first printing. Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre. Translated from the French by Constance Farrington. Cover design by Roy Kuhlman.

Handwritten memorandum by Constance Farrington, the English translator of *The Wretched of the Earth*, regarding the book's title, c1963.

Draper, Hal. *Berkeley: The New Student Revolt*. New York: Grove Press, 1965. First Evergreen Black Cat edition, first printing. Introduction by Mario Savio.

Newspaper clipping of "The Battle of Chicago: From the Yippies' Side" by Tom Buckley, published in the *New York Times Magazine*, September 15, 1968 (pp. 28, 130).

Rosset, Barney, ed. *Evergreen Review*. Vol. 12. No. 51. New York: Grove Press, February 1968. Cover illustration by Paul Davis.

Poster advertising "The Spirit of Che" special issue of *Evergreen Review* with cover illustration by Paul Davis, 1968.

Paz, Octavio. *The Other Mexico: Critique of the Pyramid*. New York: Grove Press, 1972. First Evergreen Black Cat edition, first printing. Translated by Lysander Kemp.

Typed letter signed by Octavio Paz to Barney Rosset, January 9, 1961.

X, Malcolm. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Grove Press, 1965. First Grove Press edition, first printing. With the assistance of Alex Haley. Introduction by M. S. Handler. Epilogue by Alex Haley.

Reproduction of autograph letter signed by Malcolm X to Alex Haley, dated Friday, 9:00 a.m., April 25, 1964.

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*. New York: Grove Press, 1954. First Grove Press edition, first printing. Translated from the French by the author.

Photograph of Barney Rosset and Samuel Beckett in Paris, c1953.

Typed letter signed by Samuel Beckett to Barney Rosset, July 18, 1953.

Mimeograph copy of typed letter signed by Richard Seaver to Samuel Beckett, March 5, 1968.

Newspaper clipping of an advertisement for the American premier of Jean Genet's *The Blacks* at St. Mark's Playhouse, unknown publication, c1961.

Production mechanicals of the front matter for the second printing of Bernard Frechtman's translation of Jean Genet's *The Blacks* for Grove Press, c1960.

Photograph of Ethel Ayler creating the role of Augusta Snow, taken by Martha Swope during the first American performance of *The Blacks* on May 4, 1961.

Typed letter signed by Bernard Frechtman to Barney Rosset, with Rosset's handwritten response, December 9, 1957.

Proof of book cover design for *Theater of the Absurd: An Anthology* edited by John Lahr with selections by Samuel Beckett, Alfred Jarry, Harold Pinter, Boris Vian, Eugène Ionesco, and Jean Genet, c1974.

Mimeograph copy of typed letter signed by Harold Pinter to John Lahr sent to Barney Rosset, February 19, 1974.

Lawrence, D. H. *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. New York: Grove Press, 1959.

Miller, Henry. *Tropic of Cancer*. New York: Grove Press, 1961.

Burroughs, William. *Naked Lunch*. New York: Grove Press, 1962.

Selby, Jr., Hubert. *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. New York: Grove Press, 1964.

Note from an anonymous reader to Grove Press typed on the back of a Grove Press book order form, August 10, 1959.

Autograph letter signed by Nevada H. Greenwald to Grove Press, September 29, 1959.

Handwritten memorandum by Barney Rosset to Judith Schmidt, c1959, unsigned.

Typed memorandum with handwritten notations listing signees of the "Statement in Support of the Freedom to Read," March 23, 1962.

Typed letter signed with additional handwritten notations by Henry Miller to Maurice Girodias, December 8, 1960.

Autograph postcard signed by Lawrence Ferlinghetti to Richard Seaver, February 24, 1961.

Typed letter signed by Barney Rosset to Maurice Girodias, February 7, 1963.

Typed letter signed by Russell Halliday to Richard Seaver, October 11, 1962.

Typed letter signed by William Burroughs to Richard Seaver, March 10, 1964.

Typed letter by Barney Rosset to Charles Scribner Jr., February 15, 1965.

# STRANGE VICTORIES: GROVE PRESS 1951–1985

## EXHIBITION CHECKLIST CONT.

Typed letter signed by Charles Scribner Jr. to Barney Rosset, February 16, 1965.

Beauvoir, Simone de. "*The Marquis de Sade*": *An Essay*. New York: Grove Press, 1953. First Grove Press edition, first printing. With selections from de Sade's writings chosen by Paul Dinnage. Cover design by Roy Kuhlman.

Unattributed portrait of Simone de Beauvoir, c1940.

Newspaper clipping of advertisement for *Games People Play* by Eric Berne inserted in the *New York Times Book Review*, April 16, 1967 (p.23).

Réage, Pauline [pseudonym for Anne Desclos]. *Story of O*. New York: Grove Press, 1966. First Grove Press edition, third printing. Translated from the French by Sabine d'Estrée [pseudonym for Richard Seaver].

Typed letter signed by Susan Sontag to Richard Seaver, March 18, 1965.

Poster advertising the film *I Am Curious (Yellow)* directed by Vilgot Sjöman and distributed in the United States by Grove Press Films, c1969.

Danish publicity booklet for the film *Uden en trævl* (1968), directed by Annelise Meineche. Typed letter by Arnold Leo to Jens Bjerneboe, December 16, 1969.

Royaltone color photograph of Viva (Susan Hoffman) and Louis Waldon, possibly taken by Andy Warhol, during the filming of *Blue Movie* (1968), undated.

Transcript of Trial Proceedings, Vol. 1, A Motion Picture Entitled "I Am Curious-Yellow," Grove Press, Inc., Appellant vs. United States of America, Appellee.

Alain Robbe-Grillet, photographed by Jerry Bauer, undated.

Tibor Déry, photographed by Lütfi Özkök, 1963.

Samuel Beckett and Barney Rosset, unknown photographer, undated.

Günter Grass, photographed by Lütfi Özkök, 1961.

Kenzaburō Ōe, photographed by Barney Rosset, undated.

Malcolm X, unknown photographer, undated.

Jean Genet, photographed by Jerry Bauer, undated.

Allen Ginsberg, unknown photographer, undated.

James Haskins, unknown photographer, undated.

Hubert Selby Jr., unknown photographer, undated.

Yukio Mishima, photographed by Tamotsu Yato, undated.

Jens Bjerneboe, unknown photographer, undated.

Eugène Ionesco, photographed by Sean Kernan, undated.

William Burroughs, photographed by Brion Gysin, August 1965.

John Rechy, unknown photographer, undated.

John Arden, photographed by Roger Mayne, undated.

Fernando Arrabel, photographed by Jerry Bauer, undated.

Ivo Andrić, photographed by Lütfi Özkök, 1961.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries, would like to thank the Council on Library and Information Resources for supporting the processing and cataloging of the Grove Press Records, and the Ray Smith Symposium, an initiative of Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences, for sponsoring this exhibition and related programming during the 2012-13 academic year. Co-sponsors included the Syracuse University Humanities Center, School of Architecture, LGBT Studies, and the departments of English, History, African American Studies, and Art, Design and Transmedia.

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