

An Attempt at a Reasoned Exchange

David Curtis <davidamescurtis@hotmail.com>

Mon 3/14/2022 4:57 PM

To: legal@urtext.co.uk <legal@urtext.co.uk>

Bcc: Rico, Murphy, Diamond & Bean LLP <lbean@rmdbllp.com>;bill.notbored@gmail.com
<bill.notbored@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. "Legal":

Thank you for this e-missive. It raises many more issues than it settles. As it is so ill-formulated, I reply from my personal e-address, from which I've been sending information to my lawyer. He and I most recently spoke on Thursday.

I looked up "legal@urtext.co.uk" online (Google), which yielded: "no results found." Should I assume that this is a made-up e-address you've improvised to impress me that this communication is something more than an unserious tactic?

Please have the legal firm representing you contact me directly with a better-formulated version of your difficult to understand requests. Has your lawyer received a retainer? I want to have an idea how serious you are. I'm still waiting on a translator's contract for work, worth over US\$100,000.00, you've asked me to perform, including versions of texts in relation to which you've since requested that I falsify bibliographical information.

Your latest promise that a translator's contract was imminently forthcoming is from just last month. Eris Press Editor Angus Ledingham's March 11 e-mail to me, however, made the claim that there was an "impending publication" of these six volumes. This represents approximately three-quarters of a million words! Since we were still talking about a contract for work you requested that I go ahead with, one wonders whether this "impending publication" claim is true or whether you have been engaging in something else for some time. Just asking.

You make mention of a "section '1'" under the Cornelius Castoriadis/Agora International Website "News" page. This page has no sections. There is no mention of "Eris" in new "News" item #1. Perhaps you, Mr. "Legal," mean current "News" item #34, where, in conjunction with Eris, a pirate edition of *A Socialisme ou Barbare Anthology* was announced as being published by Eris in print and on its website, with Eris agreeing to allow the post-Situationist, anarchist website Not Bored! also to post this electro-Samizdat volume; see: <http://www.notbored.org/cornelius-castoriadis.html>. The French publisher was Acratie Press and the French Editors of this volume opposed its publication for murky personal reasons. Eris went ahead and published the volume, "Translated from the French and edited anonymously as a public service" (p. vi), to ensure that it would be made available to the public in spite of and to counter these illegitimate objections.

You, Mr. "Legal," make certain claims of ownership. In order to judge them, please send me a copy of the *full* contract (pieces thereof would obviously not suffice, since it would remain unclear what the noncommunicated parts you would be hiding might contain that could alter the understanding of those parts you might communicate). Also, you must offer proof that this is a lawful contact with a legitimate party. I've been trying for over two decades to see ANY paperwork that proves who really owns the originals of Castoriadis's work. All I've been informed is that Castoriadis's widow and Castoriadis's elder daughter hired two famous lawyers ("wolves" was the term used) to sue each other, since Castoriadis

didn't leave a will and asked, as his only request, to be buried in the Montparnasse Cemetery in Paris, opposite our apartment's windows.

An unspecified, unexplained demand for censorship of a scholarly website that has merely noted the reception of an announcement from a third party raises a host of questions, both legal and moral, as well as reputational (does Eris/Urtext really want to present itself in public in this way?). One must engage in reasoned discourse—all the more so when one invokes the law. You have demanded, without sufficient proof of standing, that an entire news item (again: which one?) be removed, rather than saying which parts can stay—which potentially exposes you to public ridicule as a publisher seeking censorship of information and opinions.

There is, you claim without supporting documentation, a "breach of confidentiality." Who has done so? What specific confidential information has been breached? Where is your confidentiality agreement with this unspecified person or persons, what is its extent, how is it enforced? Not having signed a contract or any other document with Eris/Urtext about this project, I can affirm that there is no written confidentiality agreement I in particular could have violated.

Eris Press Publisher Alex Stavrakas and I embarked on this project together. Any information (project proposals, revised project proposals, accepted project proposal, prepared bibliographical information, advice, insights, etc., not to mention six volumes of translations) remains, in the absence of a contract you might now like to propose, my intellectual property, as my lawyer reminded me Thursday. So, all this talk about "imminent publication" might expose you. Again, I'm just trying to figure out what you are claiming and wondering whether you might be involved in ongoing misrepresentation that this letter of yours might be attempting to cover up by ham-handed preemption.

I should also point out that your claim of exclusive ownership requires additional clarifications. You accepted US\$2,000.00 specifically to purchase volumes 4 and 5 of the Carrefours series, so it would appear that Eris/Urtext is not the sole owner of those two volumes, at the very least. My lawyer made a point of saying that there is no such thing as a "gift" to a corporation. Eris has so far provided no accounting of these funds: were they used for this express and agreed-upon purpose (in which case your claim bears, to say the least, further scrutiny) or diverted to another, unauthorized one, without explanation?

Rather than making vague and incoherent threats, how about Alex giving me a call at an agreed-upon time? I'm sure that we can reach a mutually satisfactory agreement and contract, based on the project proposal Eris accepted and respecting the considerable intellectual property whose rights I retain, if Eris is willing to engage in reasonable discussion informed by basic principles of the International Republic of Letters.

Sincerely,

David Ames Curtis

P.S.: If I am mistaken in any of my words, please provide a reasoned correction, subject of course to further examination.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Report of litigious content on your website

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2022 08:57:27 +0000

From: Urtext Ltd <editorial@urtext.co.uk>

To: contact@agorainternational.org, David Ames Curtis <curtis@msh-paris.fr>

CC: legal@urtext.co.uk

AGORA INTERNATIONAL
27 rue Froidevaux
75014 Paris, France

London 14 March 2022

Dear David Curtis,

RE: Report of litigious content on your website

It has come to our attention that the following document was recently posted on your website: <http://agorainternational.org/news.html>.

ERIS is one of the parties named therein, under section "1". The document not only contains a number of inaccurate and defamatory statements, but it also makes reference to confidential information regarding ERIS's relations and transactions with other parties.

Furthermore, the above referenced page includes a link to [another page](#) which contains material to which ERIS in fact has exclusive rights. We are hereby giving you formal notice that ERIS, a trading name of Urtext Ltd, owns the exclusive and worldwide rights to the six-volume work *Les carrefours du labyrinthe for the English language*. No English language translation of this work can appear online or in print or on any other medium without written authorisation from ERIS.

We take **breach of confidentiality, defamation, and copyright infringement** extremely seriously and we hereby formally request that this content be taken down from your website as soon as possible.

Be advised that we reserve our rights and that failure to comply with this request will result in our taking the matter further, up to and including the fullest extent of the law.

Yours sincerely,

Urtext Ltd
2 Dixon Butler Mews
London W9 2BU
legal@urtext.co.uk