

THE VASULKAS

To: D O G A N A d i S O M M A L O M B A R D O

From: Woody Vasulka
RT6, Box 100
Santa Fe, N.M.

pg 1

Subject: A package via FedEx Air Waybill# 400 16354096

Gentlemen,

This letter will try to put forward several reasons why you should consider our request for a substantively lowering of the tariffs leveled on our shipment of photographs to your country.

We, The Vasulkas, Woody and Steina, are a couple of artists involved in the practice of electronic arts. It is mainly the Art of video we are associated with and we are of the pioneering generation which has established this art form. Last year we were approached by Marco Maria Gazzano, a noted scholar of film and contemporary media to mount a show in Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome. This Exposition was to take place in May of this year, but it is experiencing severe financial difficulties and was postponed till the Fall of this year.

A part of the exhibit involves the production of a catalog by Mr. Gazzano calling for photos depicting the Vasulka's family and artistic life and some documentation of their work, past and present. We have assembled close to three hundred photos from our personal archive and sent them to Rome via Federal Express.

There are at least two points we would like to make:

- 1) The photos were sent out with the agreement that they will be returned shortly after the work on the catalog is completed (in fact only a few would be selected)
- 2) In the dramatic moment of our departure with the pictures, some irreplaceable, we confused their actual value for purely sentimental value. We soon realized our error when no one in Italy was about to pay for them.

We would like to ask if you could accept our suggestion of ^{pg 2} lowering the value of the shipment from \$3,000 to \$300, which will enable us to deliver the material to Mr. Gazzano. On the second look these pictures will almost certainly not provide any commercial return to us or to Mr. Gazzano, we can only hope that they could provide a positive cultural contribution to the media arts in your country.

There is one more point that needs an explanation. The package is addressed to a rather prestigious add agency in Rome by the name Newman. It is not, as we are explaining now, the actual recipient of the photos. The agency is acting as a rather voluntary resource in the administrative and fund-raising capacity. But the financial burden lays on Mr. Gazzano, working through Kinema, a voluntary association sponsored by the city of Rome.

We are hopeful you will be willing to reconsider the present status of our shipment and thus help us to proceed in our work toward the success of the exposition.

Sincerely,

Steina and Woody Vasulka

In Santa Fe, April 6, 1995

FAX**THE VASULKAS****FAX**

397-3347 EXT

STEFFINA

TO: COLETTISFROM: STEINA

DATE: _____

PAGES To: Federal Express
Duties and Taxes
2930 Airways
Memphis, TN 38116

March 16, 1995

From: The Vasulkas, Inc
Customer # 1098-1657-4

Re: Package to Italy # 400-16354096

Dear FEDEX,

I am a video artist (see my vita) who was invited to an arts exhibition in Rome. For the catalog, the agency (the addressee on the package) handling the show requested photographs for possible inclusion. I arrived with the package late on a saturday afternoon and was the last customer. The door had already been locked and I was feeling harrassed and out of time. Filling out the papers I was just thinking what kind of grief it would cost me if FEDEX lost these photos with the negatives scattered through Czech Republic, Iceland, New York, etc. So I estimated \$ 10.00 a print (for 250 photos) and \$ 500.00 for the effort, which came to \$ 3000.00 total. What I did not realize in that moment was that the package was going abroad and I was declaring a importation value into Italy. The customs form should have read: "the contents of this package are of personal and no commercial value, and will after viewing be returned to USA." Predictably, the Italian addressee had no interest in paying over 700.00 dollars for viewing my photos, so now having cleared customs they apparently linger somewhere in no-mans-land, waiting for me to pick up the tab. I believe if the Italian custom officers could be talked into opening and inspecting the package, they would agree with me that the contents are indeed personal and of no commercial value.

The photos are however of great value to me, and I as a loyal customer am of great value to you, and so I hope we can solve this dilemma gracefully.

Sincerely,

Steina Vasulka

ROUTE 6 BOX 100 SANTA FE NEW MEXICO 87501 PHONE 505-471-7181 FAX 505-473-0614

THE VASULKAS INC.
 471-7181 FAX: 473-0614
 ROUTE 6 BOX 100
 SANTA FE NM 87501

COMPANY NAME

COMPANY ADDRESS

COMMERCIAL INVOICE

INTERNATIONAL AIR WAYBILL NO.

400-16354096

(NOTE: All shipments must be accompanied by a Federal Express International Air Waybill)

DATE OF EXPORTATION

4-7-95

EXPORT REFERENCES (i.e., order no., invoice no., etc.)

SHIPPER/EXPORTER (complete name and address)

THE VASULKAS, INC.
 RT6, Box 100
 SANTA FE, N.M. 87501

CONSIGNEE (complete name and address)

NEWMAN S.I.I.
 00153 ROMA
 VIALE DI TRASTEVERE, 26

COUNTRY OF EXPORT

ITALY

IMPORTER — IF OTHER THAN CONSIGNEE (complete name and address)

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

U.S.A.

COUNTRY OF ULTIMATE DESTINATION

ITALY

MARKS/NOS.	NO. OF PKGS	TYPE OF PACKAGING	FULL DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	QTY	UNIT OF MEASURE	WEIGHT	UNIT VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
	1		PHOTOS	266	8x11			\$ 300
	TOTAL NO. OF PKGS					TOTAL WEIGHT		TOTAL INVOICE VALUE
								\$ 300


SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR HELP WITH THE ABOVE SECTION

Check one
 F.O.B.
 C & F
 C.I.F.

THESE COMMODITIES ARE LICENSED FOR THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION SHOWN. DIVERSION CONTRARY TO UNITED STATES LAW IS PROHIBITED

I DECLARE ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS INVOICE TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER/EXPORTER (Type name and title and sign)

 WOODY VASULKA

DATE

4-7-95

Air Waybill #

400-16354096 Date 3-17-95

FAX #

505-473-0614 # of pages 1

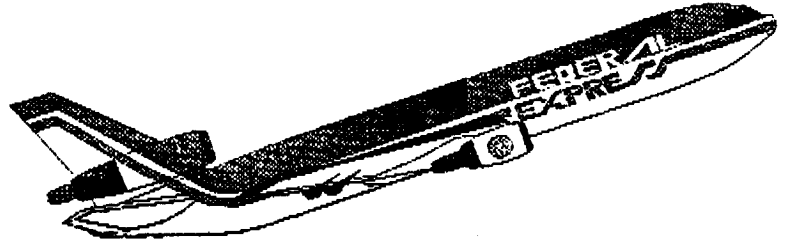
To: Ms. Steina Vasulka

From: COLETTE ENGLISH

Tel 800-247-4747

Ext. 397-3594

FAX 901-397-3349



Send Letter to dispute Duty/TAX to

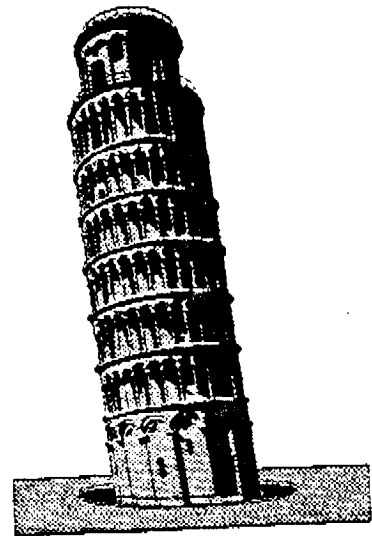
Federal Express

Duty/TAX Disputes

2930 Airways, 1st FLR

Memphis, TN 38116

FAX # 901-922-3820



3885 AIRWAYS BLVD
MOD J - 3rd FLOOR
MEMPHIS, TN 38194-3932

Colette English

To: Federal Express
Duties and Taxes
2930 Airways
Memphis, TN 38116

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Steina Vasulka

901 397 3349
collette

FAX

THE VASULKAS

FAX

TO: GAZZANO
FROM: WOODY
DATE: MAR - 21
PAGES: + 1

SEE LETTER TO FED-EX

VERY IMPORTANT!

DEAR MARCO / ADRIANA,

THE PHOTOS ARE STUCK
SOMEWHERE IN MILANO.

THERE IS SOME SOLUTION
HOWEVER. PLEASE, CONTACT
IMMEDIATELY FEDERAL EXPRESS
AGENT IN ITALY:

REGINA STONE

TEL: 02 4020362
FAX: 02 40099274

LOVE
UTS.