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ABOUT THE COVER: Axel Scheffler, student of John Furnival at Bath College of Art in Corsham, England designed the cover as a class assignment. Several of the covers were sent to me by John Furnival as a gift, either in original form or in Xerox format. This one had such graphic possibility that here we have the November issue with an international cover. Hope you like it.

FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, I wish you all a very Happy New 1984, and I hope it will be a good year for the world, one full of peace and resolution of some very important problems, such as survival. Secondly, I must tell all the New York subscribers that there is nothing I can do for efficient delivery of this magazine to your door. Your Post Office is completely non-cooperative and holds back issues of **Umbrella** until everyone else in the country has received it. Alas, it takes over 3 weeks to arrive in New York City, whereas it takes only 6 days to arrive in Rhode Island. I cannot work any harder than I am now—all in vain when the Post Office does not cooperate. So—go bug your local post office, your postmaster, because I have even called Washington and have received no better results. If the kinks are out of your computer and optical scanner, then you're lucky. If not, no dated material seems to be honored by your New York City branches of the Post Office. Sorry, but I have tried.

Thirdly, I have been awarded a Fulbright grant to work on the papers of Len Lye, famed New Zealand kinetic sculptor and filmmaker (animation) who died in 1980, but left his papers in New Zealand. I will be away from 1 February through the spring. So **Umbrella** will be irregular in 1984, something that George Orwell would have appreciated. I will publish an issue in January—I had to cut this issue because it was just too big—and then not again until.....perhaps summer, perhaps September....or perhaps an issue from Australia, if that is possible. So, bear in mind, when you renew (and I hope you all will upon receipt of your renewal notice) you will respond with an understanding that **Umbrella** will not have a regular schedule.

For all the mail artists who need **Umbrella**, please send in your name and address with some money for postage (American please) and Lon Spiegelman and Bill Gaglione will try to send you notices during the period when I am gone. You see, **Umbrella** will be seven years old, and the seventh year is a sabbatical year. I really need one, and at this writing, there is so much news, so much to read, so much to report that I could use a respite to reassess and give new energy to this magazine. So, Happy New Year. Deadline for copy for January will be early, please, let's say 5 January. May it be a good year for us all!

—jah

