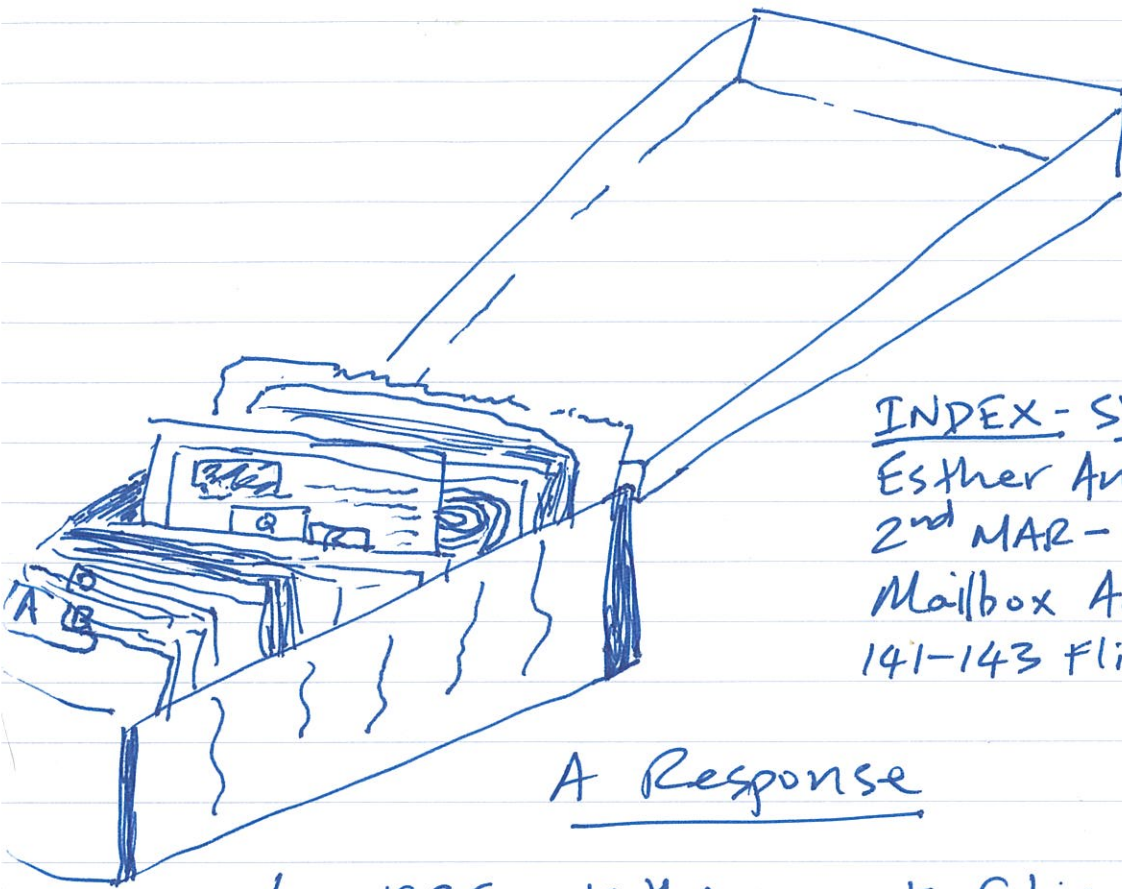




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Esther Anatolitis
2nd MAR - 2nd APR 2016
Mailbox Art Space
141-143 Flinders Lane

A Response

In 1935, at the request of his colleagues at the Inst. for Social Research, Walter Benjamin drew up an 'exposé', or documentary synopsis, of the main lines of the 'Arcades Project'. Another exposé was completed in 1939 in an attempt to interest an American sponsor. Aside from these, the entire Arcades Project - without definitive title, to be sure - remained in the form of several hundred notes and reflections of varying length, which Benjamin revised and grouped in sheaths, or 'konvoluts', according to a host of topics. As Howard Eiland and Kevin McLaughlin, the translators of Benjamin's Arcades Project, note, "the particular items of Benjamin's display together give rise to "a world of secret affinities" a "magic encyclopedia" of the epoch from which it derived."

As Benjamin himself writes in Konvolut N (N.1a8),
"Method of this project: literary montage. I needn't say anything. Merely show"
(Arcades Project N.1.a8)

- Ben Eltham, Feb 2016