

# **THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Volume 3 | 1994

## **True Anecdote** Max Jacob

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

*The Prose Poem: An International Journal* is produced by  
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)  
for the Providence College Digital Commons.  
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

## **Max Jacob**

From *Le cornet à dés*

### TRUE ANECDOTE

The success of Miss Ratkine in the Franklin Theater of Saint-Petersburg was interrupted by screams; the unfortunate vocalist had fallen into the orchestra pit and had broken her arm. As a doctor, I had the fainting beauty transported out of there to her dressing-room. The director loved her, I noticed it: he kept hanging around her dressing room not daring to knock or come in. At last he knocked! no answer. "Her little French lover is surely near her," he told me. Lover indeed! The patient was in the grasp of the old stage manager who now managed to frantically kiss Miss Ratkine's free hand without risking to be slapped.

Translated from the French by **James Vladimir Gill**