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STATE OF ILLINOIS
 DWIGHT H. GREEN, GOVERNOR
 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
 CHESTER F. LAY, PRESIDENT
 CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS
 January 9, 1948

The Honorable Gabriela Mistral
 The Chilean Consulate
 Monrovia, California

My dear Senorita Mistral:

I am so deeply embarrassed that I hardly know how to undertake the matter at hand. About a year ago you received a letter from the publications committee at this university, informing you that you were to be honored by an issue of our magazine devoted to you. The committee had been authorized by the president of the university to proceed with the editorial work. We prepared three issues, one of them dedicated to you. The materials were waiting in his office for his signature, which would authorize the printing. When the president changed his mind about our having a magazine at all.

It is very hard to inform the many generous people who contributed material, especially Miss Turnbull who made for us a number of exquisite translations of your poems. It is even more difficult to inform a distinguished foreigner that we shall not fulfill our obligations to her.

Believe me, Senorita Mistral, I regret the unfortunate situation. I am deeply grateful for the contribution which you sent and am heartily ashamed that our university should so lack the most elementary good manners.

Sincerely,

Frances M. Barbour

Frances M. Barbour
 Member of the Publications Committee,
 Southern Illinois University

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