

Box 4, Ansonia Station
New York 23, New York
April 8, 1953

Señorita Gabriela Mistral
Chilean Consulate
Santiago, Chile

Dear Señorita Mistral:

While a student at Columbia University in New York City I wrote a thesis entitled "The Prose of Gabriela Mistral". Your prose, unlike your poetry, has received little mention in the United States, and has never, to my knowledge, been the subject of any critical studies here. In fact, I was rather amazed at the number of articles, "recados", and essays which have appeared in the newspapers of Central and South America and in their magazines. Most of your prose work has been gathered by the Casa Hispanica of Columbia University under the directorship of don Federico de Onís.

I was fortunate, also, to have for instructors don Federico de Onís and Señor Andrés Buarque, your friends of long standing. Professor Buarque was especially helpful when I was preparing your biography. Anecdotes and stories about your stay in France when he was a young student-in-exile and part of your household were especially interesting.

Your numerous consular, cultural, and educational duties keep you very busy, I am sure, but I was wondering if you could possibly manage, among all your other activities, to read my thesis and write your comments along the margin. Your comments, especially on the biographical section and my critical estimate of your prose would be invaluable to me and to future students of your work. May I send the manuscript to you in Santiago?

If you desire, I shall be glad to send a duplicate of the manuscript for your use.

With sincere best wishes for your health and for a pleasant tour of duty as consul in Santiago.

Very cordially yours,

Fred E. Comas
Fred E. Comas

[Carta] 1953 abr. 8, New York [a] Gabriela Mistral, Santiago, Cuba [manuscrito] Fred E. Comas.

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