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420 North Lake Street
Madison, Wisconsin
July 26, 1954

Señorita Gabriela Mistral
Chilean Consulate
Los Angeles, California

Dear Señorita Mistral:

A number of years ago as a student of Spanish, I became acquainted with your writings. In a seminar with Dr. Eduardo Neale-Silva of the University of Wisconsin, we made a study of your excellent poetry and wrote papers on various themes based on your writings. As a college teacher of Spanish I have been asked to give talks on various occasions. Twice I spoke on your writings and read translations of some of your poems since my audience did not understand Spanish.

I am a little envious of you because of your rich and useful life that has taken you to so many places and has won for you a place among the great writers of all ages.

Recently I have been especially interested in what you said about Eduardo Barrios in the prologue of his book, *Y la vida sigue*, since I am writing a doctoral thesis on Eduardo Barrios here at the University of Wisconsin. Judging from your criticism I feel that you, too, have a fondness for this writer. I should like to know whether you are personally acquainted with Barrios. With what period of his life are you best acquainted?

I have been able to find little biographical material on Barrios. I need some personal details and dates. I really wish to know what kind of a man Barrios is. Of course, as one grows older, one often changes in his habits, ideals, and personality. In order to understand the varied nature of Barrios' works, I need to understand him as a man during all the periods of his life. I must get this material from people who know him since I have not been able to find it in books.

Since I chose Barrios for my thesis topic, you can see that I have a high opinion of him as a writer. Still I realize that he, like all human beings, is not perfect. I should like to know his weaknesses as well as his strong points. Who and what influenced him most? What events in his life are of particular significance? What was his position among "Los Diez"? There are numerous other questions I could ask, but I shall say only that I hope you can take a little time from your busy life to tell me what you know of Barrios as a man and as a writer. Also I should like for you to give me the names and addresses of people personally acquainted with Barrios who would be willing to help me.

I shall be very grateful for any assistance you can give me. I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for a reply. I hope I can hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Ehrhardt
(Miss) Elaine Ehrhardt

[Carta] 1954 jul. 26, Madison, Wisconsin [a] Gabriela Mistral, Los Ángeles, California [manuscrito] Elaine Ehrhardt.

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