

May 27, 1950

Mr. Stephen Spender
London, England

Dear Mr. Spender:

I knew of your trip to the United States as reported in the California papers, and I was very sorry not to have seen you. I was at that time in a most critical state of illness.

I have never forgotten the kindness and "finesse" with which you treated me while I was in London. I hope that one day you will come to visit our South American countries where we miss so much the dissemination of the new English poetry.

In Chile there has remained a great deal of English blood, and above all a strong and deeply-rooted esteem and love for your people. I hope that by the time you should care to come to our Antarctic country, you will not find our poets persecuted as they are now; and that you will be able to converse with our Pablo Neruda and others, with your eyes turned toward our Cordillera. (They are magnificent and beautiful mountains, Mr. Spender.)

I send you these lines for remembrance sake, and also to introduce to you my friend, Miss Doris Dana, who is now on her way to England -- for which I envy her. Miss Dana is an author and a friend of mine whom I both admire and love very much. She has accompanied me in the United States and in Mexico for more than a year and a half. She is a person of great sensibility and talent, and of fine intellectual and spiritual qualities. I wish her to have the same pleasure that I had in knowing you personally. I feel sure that you will forgive this imposition on your kindness and courtesy, since Miss Dana is a person who has made herself loved and esteemed wherever she goes.

I know through long experience that only those who are well guided on their way can hope to really become acquainted with foreign lands and with their spiritual substratum. For this reason I would like to ask you to help Miss Dana, and I choose you as the best possible companion a poet could hope to have. She is a very timid person, and, I do not need to add, would never be one to abuse your kindness. I hope, also, that you will be able to introduce her to other English authors whom she admires.

I know that she will give me news of you, and I will look forward to the time of her return when her impressions of your country and of your poets may be published not only in the English language, but in Spanish.

[Carta] 1950 May 27, Jalapa, Veracruz, México [a] Stephen Spender, Londres, Inglaterra [manuscrito] Gabriela Mistral.

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