



FARRAR, STRAUS AND COMPANY, INC.
530 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

May 15, 1946

Miss Gabriella Mistral
Hotel St. Moritz
50 Central Park South
New York, New York

My dear Miss Mistral:

I should like to recapitulate our discussion of yesterday in regard to the translation and publication of your selected poetic works into English.

1. It is our understanding that the full editorial responsibility will be delegated by you and by Farrar, Straus & Company, to Mrs. Francis Biddle of Washington, D. C.

2. It is our understanding that you and Mrs. Biddle jointly will decide which of your poems are to be translated and who is to translate them respectively.

3. It is our understanding that in the event that you and/or Mrs. Biddle are dissatisfied with a given translation or translator, that translator or translation will be withdrawn and a new one substituted.

4. It is our understanding that all financial and technical negotiations in regard to a contract will be made through an accredited literary agent or representative, selected by you. In this manner you will be assured of the fairest and most advantageous contract.

You must realize that it is impossible for us to draw up an exact contract until Mrs. Biddle returns and an estimate can be made of how many poems are to be included and what and how many translators are to be used. The American public, we are sure, is eager to have the best translation of your poems and I believe that the plan I have outlined, whereby you have the benefit of the advice and guidance of your friends and well-wishers, insures an outstanding book representing you at your best.

If you decide to publish the aforementioned book with us, we would write a fair and normal contract in which you, as the author, would receive an advance against the royalties and would also receive a sliding scale of royalty payments, based on the number of copies sold rather than any kind of flat rate.

I am convinced that the best interest of both parties will be served if your book is able to be definitely scheduled for publication at the earliest possible date. In consequence, I am hopeful of an answer in the very near future for there is much work to be done. With printing and paper conditions what they are today in the United States, it takes between four and five months to produce a book after it has been contracted for and translated.

[Carta] 1946 May 15, New York, [EE.UU.] [a] Gabriella [i.e. Gabriela] Mistral, New York, [EE.UU.] [manuscrito] James H. Van Alen.

AUTORÍA

Van Alen, James H.

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