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January 7, 1950

Whit Burnett  
The Story Press  
Setauket, Long Island  
New York

Dear Mr. Burnett:

I am very sorry about the delay in sending you the five poems by Gabriela Mistral. After our last talk by telephone, I received word from her to hold the poems until she had forwarded me some further corrections. I am sending you with this letter the final versions, as corrected by Miss Mistral.

I appreciate your suggestions concerning Dudley Pitts and Angel Flores. However, since Miss Mistral has expressed the wish that Mrs. Frances Mousseau (formerly Frances Pleak) of Phoenix, Arizona, translate the poetry, I feel that this wish must be given first consideration. As I explained to you by telephone, Frances Mousseau did a most notable job with the translation of Jorge Guillen's poetry. Americo Castro, an outstanding critic of contemporary Spanish poetry, and who holds a Spanish chair at Princeton University, wrote the preface to her book, and praised her highly both for the accuracy and excellence of the translation, as well as for her ability to capture the intrinsic poetic quality of the poems translated.

As you undoubtedly know, Mistral has previously been translated, but unfortunately ample justice has never yet been done to the quality of her work. She requires a translator who not only is capable as such, but is, at the same time, a poet, in order to capture the nuances and delicate lyricism of her poetry. There are many who might do a competent job, but Mrs. Mousseau, I am sure, is capable not simply of doing a meticulous translation, but of turning the work into poetry of great fineness and beauty.

As you will remember, in our last telephone conversation you expressed to me your wish of making the financial arrangements, regarding the translation work, between Mrs. Mousseau and yourself directly. Her address is as follows: Mrs. Frances Mousseau, 6702 North 23rd Drive, Phoenix, Arizona.

I would appreciate your notifying me as soon as you know which of the poems you are most interested in publishing.

Sincerely yours,

Doris Dana

DD/lb

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