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December 20, 1960

Dear Anne,

In accordance with our telephone conversation I am sending you herewith five translations of Gabriela Mistral poems, together with the originals.

Four of these translations were done by Doris Dana who, as you know, is the literary executrix of the estate of Gabriela Mistral. The idea is that Doris will edit a collection of Mistral poems for publication in the English language. Most of these will be translated by Doris but whenever there are available good translations by someone else, they will be included. For example she feels that the translations done by Frances Mousseau are very good ones and has added one of them to the sample material sent herewith.

Doris thought of a selection of approximately fifty poems, to be printed in the original Spanish as well as in the English translation. The only volume of Mistral poetry published in English translation is the one done by The University of Indiana Press. I told you that Doris feels very strongly that the translation by Langston Hughes was not at all successful; most reviewers seem to agree with this opinion. Some poems have been published in anthologies (THE WORLD'S BEST, edited by Whit Burnett, Dial Press) but the bulk of the poems selected will either be altogether unpublished or will have appeared only in Spanish-language editions.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Daves - ED

Mrs. Anne Freedgood
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encl.

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