



Copy to Joan Daves and Doris Dana

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May 17, 1964

Editorial Aguilar
Juan Bravo 38
Madrid

Dear sir:

In your letter of April 14, 1964 you ask me to clarify some confusion that has arisen regarding prefaces to the Poesías completas de Gabriela Mistral. It is my belief that Miss Dana intends to eliminate both the prefaces of the 1962 edition and substitute one preface by Ester de Cáceres. In my letter I was not referring to prefaces but to notes on variant readings of the poetry of Gabriela. Perhaps if I explain to you my part in this edition it will clarify the confusion. In 1941 I began gathering together all the books of poetry that had been published by Gabriela in order to determine the changes she had made in her poems as she republished them. I thought it would be easy to decide on the definitive text of each poem simply by referring to the date of publication of the book. But this was no guide at all. Unfortunately publishing houses had been very careless. Let me give you one example of many: In 1954 the Editorial del Pacífico published Desolación with the three prefaces that were written for the first, second and third edition of Desolación. The preface of the third edition reads: "Ahora la Casa Editorial Nascimento ha reproducido Desolación en una ... edición esmeradamente corregida y aumentada con veintitantas composiciones nuevas, algunas inéditas." But instead of using the texts of the third edition in which all these corrections and additions were to be found, the uncorrected texts of the second edition appear! When I called Gabriela's attention to this chaos she cooperated wholeheartedly with me in my attempt to determine which text of each poem she considered the definitive text of the poem. Without the cooperation of Gabriela this determination would have been impossible. Gabriela was also quite upset when I showed her the index I had made of all her poems; it

**[Carta] 1964 May 17, Washington D. C., Estados Unidos [a]
Joan Daves and Doris Dana [manuscrito] Margaret Bates.**

Libros y documentos

AUTORÍA

Autor secundario:Mistral, Gabriela, 1889-1957Autor secundario:Daves, JoanAutor secundario:Dana, Doris, 1920-2006

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