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Walter Palm  
Germany

DORIS DANA  
c/o Joan Daves  
15 East 68th Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

January 28, 1959

Re: Gabriela Mistral

Dear Professor Palm:

I am sorry indeed that your letter dated March 28th is being answered only now. I am travelling around a great deal and, of course, this is precisely the reason why I have turned over to Miss Daves the handling, on my behalf, of all matters pertaining to the publication rights to the work of Gabriela Mistral.

You will remember that Miss Daves questioned the publication by Piper Verlag of the collection of poems ROSE AUS ASCHE, and also that since the publication had taken place two years before, we refrained from doing anything further which might have caused embarrassment to you or the Piper Verlag. Now, that you raise the question of a new edition of ROSE AUS ASCHE, I believe that we must straighten out the basic question of control of rights to this property.

I am quite sure that when you discussed the matter of an anthology with Gabriela Mistral, she was pleased with the interest you showed in her work. However, as you know there was never a written agreement, and no contract was ever signed nor was ever any provision made for division of royalties.

For the past five years, there has been a growing interest in Gabriela Mistral's poetry throughout Europe. We received many requests from translators and publishers. In 1956, a publication contract was signed by Gabriela Mistral with the Luchterhand Verlag.

Luchterhand Verlag have meanwhile published a collection of Mistral poetry, and have plans for further volumes. Any publication of Mistral poetry which is not specifically authorized by contract, therefore, is bound to interfere with the carefully set up plans for continuing publication by Luchterhand Verlag.

I have gone into such detail because I want you to understand the situation as set up by Gabriela Mistral and carried on by me as her literary executrix. I do not want you to think that I am uncooperative, but the only way of controlling the literary property is to go quite clearly on record that only agreements signed by Gabriela Mistral or by me as her executrix are legal, and that other publications of any kind must be either discontinued or validated by written agreement with me.

As a first step in the matter at hand, I would suggest that the Piper Verlag give me, via Miss Daves, full information about the present situation of ROSE AUS ASCHE. We shall then see what can be done to coordinate the various interests and make increasingly available Gabriela Mistral's work to the German readers.

With all good wishes and my warm regards,

Doris Dana  
(DORIS DANA)

c/o Piper Verlag

[Carta] 1959 Jan. 28, New York, [Estados Unidos] [a] Walter Palm, Germany [manuscrito] Doris Dana.

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