

August 3, 1965

Dr. Donald C. Davidson
Director, Library UCSB

Dear Dr. Davidson:

I received today a copy of the Memo, which Mr. Gardner sent you.

May I add a few comments on this Memo:

- 1) Mr. Gardner seems to call my work a mere inventory without realizing what he means by it and which I believe is not accurate.

The material on Gabriela Mistral, Chilean poet and Nobel Prize Winner in Literature in 1954, was discovered by me while I was visiting her home in Santa Barbara a month ago.

It was my own idea to classify this valuable material and to inform Chancellor Cheadle about my findings, after I spent many days assorting her personal files and reading the exhaustive correspondence of the poet in five languages. (Spanish, French, English, Italian and Portuguese).

Obviously without the scholarly background which I possess in the field of Spanish-American literature which is my speciality, and my close contact with the academic world for over twenty years not only in my home country, Chile, but abroad (the United States, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Costa-Rica, England, etc), my publications and research done on this field and the fact that I knew Gabriela Mistral in person, I feel that the classification of this material to determine the value of same could have never been done.

I hope to finish this week and I shall be happy to call you.

As a Professor of the University of Chile, at present on leave to teach at UCSB as a Visiting-Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese (1964-65 and 1965-66) I am happy to have done this work on exclusively voluntary terms and only guided by my intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm and interest for the enrichment of cultural bonds of both faculty and students here and in the Spanish-American continent.

Yours sincerely,

Magda Arce

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copy to Mrs. Joyce.

**Santa Barbara [a] Donald C. Davidson Director Library UCSB,
EE.UU [manuscrito] Magda Arce.**

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