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Box 296  
Winona Lake, Indiana  
January 18, 1950

Sra. Lucila Godoy Alcayaga  
C/o Chilean Consulate  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Madam:

Some months ago I read for the first time your very beautiful poem "The Joy of Serving." This made a tremendous impression on me, and because it held a much-needed message for the troubled women of today, I wished very much to use it as the conclusion of a booklet I was preparing. The theme of my booklet is a return to the earlier ways, using one's skills and intelligence to conserve money, instead of trying to buy everything from cake to happiness in a five-minute-six package.

For this reason I wrote many letters trying to locate your address, so that I might have your permission to reprint your poem. But though I persisted over a period of months, either my letters were completely ignored, or the persons addressed could not help me.

Finally the date approached when my book, which I am publishing myself for distribution through magazine advertisements, had to be printed to meet orders. And in despair of reaching you at all, I went ahead with it and used the poem. There was a substitute I might have used, but it was so inferior that I could not bring myself to print it.

Yesterday I finally received a reply from the National Library in Santiago, stating that I could write you in care of the Los Angeles consul. If I had only had that information earlier, what embarrassment it would have saved me!

Because I tried hard and persistently to reach you, I hope you will forgive my use of this poem, and grant me belatedly the necessary permission. My booklet is a very simple one, designed to reach women in modest walks of life, who are often mentally impoverished as well. I felt that your poem would give them the courage to face the pressing problems of their lives. I am sure that a woman with the perception to write this poem, must also be in sympathy with this need, so I ask you again to forgive my reprinting it, and allow me to continue to do so.

Sincerely yours,

*Margaret Gaddis*

Mrs. Margaret Gaddis

**[Carta] 1950 jan. 18, Winona Lake, Indiana, [Estados Unidos]  
[a] Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, Los Angeles, California, [Estados Unidos] [manuscrito] Margaret Gaddis.**

## **AUTORÍA**

Autor secundario:Mistral, Gabriela, 1889-1957

## **FORMATO**

Manuscrito

## **DATOS DE PUBLICACIÓN**

[Carta] 1950 jan. 18, Winona Lake, Indiana, [Estados Unidos] [a] Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, Los Angeles, California, [Estados Unidos] [manuscrito] Margaret Gaddis. 1 h. ; 28 cm.

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