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August 1, 1956

Dear Doris:

I wrote a note to gm this morning and intended to follow it up with a letter to you but in the meantime the Income Tax letter came that I had to answer immediately.

In an article I have been working on, which has to do with the corrections gm makes, I have been comparing different editions of her work. In order to do this I cut up two copies of each of her books (except TALA because the copy Feger sent me was damaged--am waiting for a good one) so that the comparisons can be made easier and so that I have space to note corrections. This is what is happening: the editions that are being published now of DESOLACION in Argentina and Chile are based on the old editions of these books and do not contain the corrections that gm made of many of these poems--one example, and there are many:

"Lluvia lenta" was published in the first edition of DESOLACION (1922). This poem was published again in TALA (few people realize that TALA and TERNURA, unlike LAGUNA, contain poems from DESOLACION as well as new poems). The version in TALA has a stanza removed, and it is a much better poem for it BUT in the recent editions of DESOLACION the old version remains. Of course, I have realized this for a long time but in my letter this morning I mentioned the fact to gm because I think I have a solution for it which would be to publish a collection entitled POESIAS COMPLETAS, vol. 1, in which the latest version of all the poems in DESOLACION, TERNURA, and TALA would appear. It wouldn't take too long for me to prepare this for publication since I have been compiling just such a collection for my own use. The manuscript which would go to the publisher would not be a typescript but a collection of the printed poems (in each case the final version is printed in one of gm's books) pasted on a sheet. This would avoid so many errors that appear in the best typescripts. What do you think about the whole idea? gm wouldn't have to bother at all; I would have to consult her if there were any doubt in my mind as to the final version but so far I have had no necessity to do that.

Now I don't know who you would want to publish it. You spoke to me about Columbia University that Maria de Unzueta suggested and I think that a splendid idea since the manuscript would go to Cuba or Mexico and wouldn't take years bouncing up and down on some ocean. I should like to have my name on it as the arranger, or editor, that is all. That would be helpful for my promotion.

Now I haven't mentioned to gm this editorship or arrangership at all since I haven't the slightest idea how the wind is blowing. I would like you, if you think the whole plan feasible, to suggest this to her, a suggestion that comes from you and see her reaction. As editor I would not touch one word of her poems, simply find the latest version.

I want to get this letter in this mail--since I would like it to arrive with the letter I sent to gm this morning. Will write more tomorrow if I find out that this letter is not clear.

Muchísimo love,
M.B.

[Carta] 1956 Aug. 1 [a] Dear Doris [Dana] [manuscrito]
[Margaret Bates].

AUTORÍA

Bates, Margaret Jane, 1918-

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