

212 E. Harper St.
Stockton 4, Calif.
November 23, 1960

Professor José M.F. Mora
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Mora,

I have recently make application to do my graduate work in philosophy at Bryn Mawr College. I find that you are closely connected with the material I wish to use for my thesis. Therefore I am writing to you for suggestions, and to establish contact with the department.

I intend to receive a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of the Pacific in June 1962. The field of research I would like to go into is "existentialism", and in particular, Martin Heidegger. It is my belief that in Sein und Zeit Heidegger has raised problems which lie on the frontier of contemporary philosophy. I would like to do research in the metaphysics of Being as Heidegger defines the field, and if no such metaphysics may be written, as some philosophers contend, I would like to discover why. This area of research, I think, holds some to the greatest potential for significant development in contemporary philosophy. It also seems that Heidegger has been the first philosopher since Parmenides (excluding the pragmatists for various reasons) to bring philosophy into an integral relationship with everyday existence.

At present I speak no German, and since any significant research in Heidegger must ultimately be done in German, I intend to take an intensive summer course in German before 1963. In the meantime I intend to do masters research in Husserl's phenomenology and possibly those writings of Kierkegaard relative to Heidegger.

As an undergraduate I am doing independent research in a History of Philosophy and Heidegger's Introduction to Metaphysics. As a philosophy major I have completed 12 units of history of philosophy, 3 units of metaphysics, 3 units of aesthetics, and 3 units of logic. All undergraduate philosophy courses at the University of the Pacific, are seminar courses with a maximum of 20 students. Readings are from primary sources and a critical approach is encouraged. Emphasis is placed on a relatively large amount of written work, i.e. critical papers and the students own philosophizing related

to issues and problems generated in the course.

Any help you might give me in obtaining an assistantship or fellowship would also be appreciated.

Respectfully,

William F. Powell

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