

2608 Woodstock Drive
Detroit 3, Michigan
May 24, 1963

Dear Dr. Mora

As a candidate for the master's degree in German at Wayne State University, I am presently engaged in a detailed study of Alfred Döblin's Berlin Alexanderplatz, as it relates to the theory of mass man so classically defined by Jose Ortega y Gasset in The Revolt of the Masses. The thesis is nearing completion but I continue to search for some evidence of a knowledge on Dr. Döblin's part regarding Ortega's mass man theory. The two men were contemporaries. Their physical and mental nearness indicates at least an awareness of each other. Dr. Ortega spent many years in Germany, and in your opinion, was most content within the Germanic framework. Both traveled extensively throughout Europe as highly-regarded members of the academic world. Dr. Döblin, after journeying to South America, became a convert to Catholicism and devoted much study to the Spanish character. Thus, I am convinced there exists an interest for each other's work, with some recorded proof, which unfortunately I cannot locate.

Since I am using Ortega's mass man definition as my foundation for studying the Döblin work, it would be significant if I can establish a direct relationship between the two men. As a recognized interpreter and biographer of Ortega, I am turning to you with the hope that you may be able to assist me in any manner possible. I have also written Dr. Döblin's widow in Germany, although it is not known whether or not she is still living, and if so, precisely where.

Your assistance will, of course, be greatly appreciated and I thank you for your effort.

Sincerely,

Jill Parker

9-VI-63.