

STEPHEN MARC SLEPIN
1480 SOUTH WEST 82 AVENUE
WEST MIAMI 44, FLORIDA

Friday 4/21/61

Dear Dr. Mora:

I am now completing my Master's thesis in philosophy at the University of Miami. My thesis deals with the concept of Society, i.e. its emergence and nature, in the Philosophy of George Herbert Mead. Perhaps you have already guessed that my choice of subject-matter was prompted by my reading of Ortega; notably, Man & People.

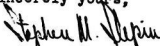
Frankly, my concern is to determine the reason(s) for the striking similarities between the philosophical anthropologies of these two ocean-separated thinkers. It is likely that both were keenly aware of Wundt and his work; Mead is explicit in this matter. However, I can't conceive of this one common referent as being responsible for the marked likeness of Man & People and, for example, Mead's Mind, Self & Society. Did, to the best of your knowledge, one of these gentlemen know of the other or of his work? It is often remarked that John Dewey, Mead's close associate -- professionally and intellectually -- was unknown or rejected outside the U. S. Did Ortega know of Dewey, or of his Experience And Nature?

I don't mean to imply that Mead and Ortega think exactly alike in the matter of the emergence of mind, self and society. Clearly there are significant differences. I am, however, attracted by the areas of identity or near-identity.

Also, is there in print -- in English -- any work in ethics or value-theory by Ortega?

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



STEPHEN M. SLEPIN

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25-V-61