

M. DAVID STEIN

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Dear Professor Ferrater Mora:

Would you be so kind as to tell me whether there are any graduate departments of philosophy in this country with one or more members who are well versed in the philosophy of Ortega y Gasset? Aside from yourself, I know of no professional philosopher in the United States who has given Ortega more than cursory study. Since he is the philosopher I have found myself most interested in in the last couple of years, you can imagine my situation. (I am certainly not going to learn anything of Ortega at Northwestern University, where I am currently a graduate student of philosophy. The only member of the faculty who has read anything beyond Revolt of the Masses is William Earle, but he is no more able to read Spanish than I am and his interest in Ortega is considerably less than mine, so it is doubtful that I could learn anything from him even were he willing to teach it--which he isn't.)

It is not that I find Ortega's writings notably obscure. Indeed, I think I know and understand about as much of his philosophy as is possible for one who doesn't read Spanish (particularly with the help of your admirable Outline and the translated writings of Julian Marias). But I am eager for contact with someone who will take Ortega seriously as a philosopher, and it would be so much the better if that person were able to read the untranslated works and therefore (as well, perhaps, as for other reasons) know more than I do. I certainly wouldn't want to write a doctoral dissertation dealing largely with Ortega (as now seems likely) under the direction of someone who will not even condescend to read his works.

I would be most appreciative if you would take the time to give me this information. If there is no one in a philosophy department that you can name, but there are Spanish professors who are expert in Ortega, please let me know their names. I don't know if it will be of any help, since I firmly intend to get my degree in philosophy and not in Spanish, but it would be good to know of such persons anyway. If, of course, you are now teaching at the graduate level at some University (and this letter is forwarded to you), that information alone would be of the greatest interest to me.

Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give me.

Sincerely yours,

M. David Stein

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