

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Professor Paul Edwards
The Encyclopaedia of Philosophy
59 Fourth Avenue
New York, 3, N.Y.

Dear Professor Edwards:

I have had the opportunity to leaf through THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY, recently published, and partially exhibited at the December 1966 meeting of the American Philosophical Association, in Philadelphia, and while I am greatly impressed by the scope of the work, and its possible usefulness for students and teachers in Colleges and Universities, I cannot help but express my disappointment at the way in which Spanish philosophy in general, and Contemporary Spanish philosophy in particular, has been treated in the ENCYCLOPAEDIA. It would seem that the editor in charge of this particular section has only a passing knowledge of Spanish philosophy.

Besides XAVIER ZUBIRI, the only contemporary Spanish philosopher to whom a special article has been devoted in the ENCYCLOPAEDIA is JULIAN MARIAS. Anyone in Spain or any Spanish-speaking country --for that matter, anyone who is at all knowledgeable-- if asked about the most important Spanish philosophers of the present time would mention JOSE GAOS, EDUARDO NICOL, J.D. GARCIA-BACCA, JOSE LUIS L. ARANGUREN, and, to be sure, JOSE FERRATER MORA, but certainly not JULIAN MARIAS. Your inclusion of his name is puzzling. No doubt he is a prolific journalist but hardly a philosopher who has made an original contribution to philosophic thought! Indeed, even his claim of being the closest follower of JOSE ORTEGA Y GASSET is disputed by other followers of ORTEGA, such as PAULINO GARAGORRI, A. RODRIGUEZ HUESCAR, and MANUEL GRANELL. I am afraid that your notion that JULIAN MARIAS is the most important contemporary Spanish philosopher will cause you to be the brunt of much laughter and derision among the vast majority of Spanish philosophers and young Philosophy students in Spain.

Your error of inclusion, however, is far less shocking than your error of exclusion! It is simply a disgrace that you mention Professor JOSE FERRATER MORA only in the article on DICTIONARIES OF PHILOSOPHY. He is the author of a DICTIONARY OF PHILOSOPHY --a unique reference work-- whose

fifth considerably enlarged edition, in 2 vols., was published in 1965. But that is the least of his philosophical production! Above all, he is very well known for his original thought, expressed in a number of books which have been translated into various languages and --what is perhaps of greatest interest in this connection-- also into English. These books include MAN AT THE CROSSROADS, PHILOSOPHY TODAY, UNAMUNO: A PHILOSOPHY OF TRAGEDY, ORTEGA Y GASSET: AN OUTLINE OF HIS PHILOSOPHY and certainly his most distinguished and original work, BEING AND DEATH: AN OUTLINE OF INTEGRATIONIST PHILOSOPHY --a book which presents with astonishing clarity the fascinating thought of an extremely able philosopher. Other titles could easily be mentioned which would attest to Mr. FERRATER MORA's significance in the field of contemporary Spanish philosophy, and of contemporary philosophy at large. You may be interested to learn that the whole Spanish-speaking world is eagerly awaiting publication of EL SER Y EL SENTIDO (BEING AND MEANING), in which the author has promised to develop more fully the ontology presented in BEING AND DEATH. The publisher (Revista de Occidente, Madrid) of this forthcoming book could testify not only to Mr. FERRATER MORA's vast number of readers, and their enthusiasm, but also --perhaps slightly ruefully-- to their great impatience to see the most recent publication of "their master."

I note in the bibliography of the article on ORTEGA Y GASSET that mention is made of no less than four works by Mr. Julian Marias, including some which are merely polemical, and three works by Santiago Ramirez, which are not even polemical. Mr. Ferrater Mora's book on Ortega y Gasset, written in English, and translated into Spanish and Portuguese, is not mentioned at all. The same is the case with works on the subject by Jose Gaos, A. Rodriguez Huescar, Paulino Garagorri, M. Granell, and others. It would seem that the author of the articles on both ORTEGA Y GASSET and JULIAN MARIAS is biased or misinformed, or both.

Very truly yours

(Mrs.) Priscilla Cohn