

Nov. 24

Dear José Ferrater Mora:

Thank you for your letter. I would indeed like to have some of your books, but then I probably ought to buy them. That would be more useful, and would be doing something to promote the sale of books of philosophy. However, if you insist, I would love to have a copy of Investigaciones sobre el lenguaje and Las palabras y los hombres. I plan to try once or twice more in English with a somewhat improved version of my book on Ortega. I will probably try Macmillan and then a university press. Ciriaco Morón Arroyo gave me several (many) suggestions and I have incorporated most of them.

While I don't want to publish a use-less book, I still feel that there are several things in my Ortega that have not been said before, and I want to publish it.

Here I am gracelessly fishing for some comment from you about the book, while all the time you have probably already given it (i.e.: "but then these may be reasonable doubts about their quality")

My book was written for Hispanists as an effort to contextualize Ortega's coming-to-be as a philosopher. It ought to be useful to Hispanists, as I was, about Ortega's possible influence on his non-philosopher contemporaries. It was this especially that got me "hooked" on this project. I am now working on a study of Salinas, Guillén, et al. with Ortega as a ground. I will be offering a new view of the so-called Generation of 1927, one which I think Juan Marichal now shares, although I imagine I have somewhat more interest in the matter as literary critics than he has.

Because I am interested in Ortega as a ground for this new work (Los amigos de mirar), I wanted to show how Ortega's maturity ideas could have arrived by 1911-1914, and have been available, in Madrid at least, when Salinas, say, began writing poetry. In spite of Marías encyclopedic Ortega: Circunstancia y vocación, I, I did not think another, less Ortegean book on the same period would be beside this point. Hence my Necessary Fictions.

If you would be writing to offer some suggestions to improve my MS. with these purposes + goals in mind, I'd certainly drop down to Phila. to discuss it with you. Or any thing else for that matter.

A question of some importance. Have you read Félix Martínez Bonati's La estructura de la obra literaria, and how good do you think it is? The way critics + theory are "selling" these days, I thought I might make it my next long term translation project, unless, of course, you have any better suggestions.

Best wishes,  
[signatura]