

February 6

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Distinguido amigo y profesor:

I made a wrong guess. Since you dedicated your Cambio de Marcha to Priscilla, I assumed you had in fact remarried, since one of your former students told me ^{you} were separated, and you had introduced me to Priscilla at an A.P.A. meeting 2 or 3 years ago; or is my memory failing?

In any case thanks for the remarks you spelled out in response to my hearsay report about your book. I can now read your book with a sense of direction and no skepticism, and I agree that the strategy you have followed is a good one. [When publishers were begging professors, in the good old days, to write books for them to sell, I once outlined an anthology on "conceptions of philosophy" in which you were to write an essay on the difference between philosophical movements and philosophical fashions: whether and how they differed and their relation to intellectual history. So, anyway, I expect to be greatly helped by your book in coping with Analytic philosophy both in relation to the students and to history. At the moment, and before having read you I rather find Analysis to be a narrowly intellectualistic reaction to some of the over-intellectualism in the Western tradition. One puzzle: how could a good historian like Isaiah Berlin have been such a friend to skeptical, and missionary positivists as A.J. Ayer? W'dn't his intellectual histories have been better if he c'd have gotten some better philosophy at Oxford than the tired idealism of pre-war days or the crude new positivism of Ayer and Austin?]

I can answer your question about "exactly what happened at Stony Brook" when we invited you. Our first mistake was to ask you to read a paper; we later discovered that, for people of your established distinction, it was actually not entirely courteous to have done so; and worse, it exposed you to the pettifoggery of any antipathetic young instructor who wanted to hinder your appointment. "We" here means Sydney Gelber, Pat Hill, and myself: we had persuaded our two senior professors whom we inherited from the Teachers College that Stony Brook had once been, that you would be a good man to be our distinguished professor. But they were torn by the advice of the Analysts in the department who wanted only another Analyst. I had, however, convinced them nonetheless; but then this regressive Carnapian named Spector who is still here read your book and deliberately took some passages about the history of physics in it as if they were straight physics, and made a great fuss and to-do about it. This convinced our feeble-minded senior (Sternfeld) that perhaps he sh'dn't ask the Dean to make the big offer to you. The Dean (Gelber) nonetheless himself almost persuaded him he should but, then, another Analyst named Zemach came in to block the offer. From then on we went into a three-year intradepartmental war in which, at great cost to Hill and myself and Don Ihde who joined us, we won and went on to get our graduate dept. approved and hire J. Buchler and some other good people.

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As you perhaps now know, our department is distinguished by being "pluralistic" and "diversified," and this is why the students like us and why we are getting such good ones. But we still have not gotten the whole-hearted cooperation of the Analysts in our project, and move towards diversity and the restoration of the history of philosophy as a worthwhile study. Part of the problem with giving both integrity and historicity to the history of philosophy here is that too many philosophers think that you are doing history of philosophy as long as you are reading any past philosopher and not doing anything about it except read his text. We have three Chicago people who think that way and they are, in their own way, just as negative about history as the Analysts.

Your complaint about the Chairmanship does, however, console me in a small way since I've paid my price to avoid being Chairman. What I admire, though, is your ability to have been Chairman and such a good director of studies, and also write so many good books.

Did I tell you I'm into my second volume on Plato? And half-way through two short studies in the philosophy of history. I'll send you a reprint when I can so you can know what I'm doing about Plato. Have you not been invited by Popper or C. Walton to join the new society for the History of Philosophy? Would you perhaps have something you're working on in the methodology of the history of philosophy that we would enjoy hearing? I'm not offering papers to other societies any more because there is no travel money from the University for such purposes. On the other hand I'm still looking for likely publishers for the work I can't read at meetings except at my own expense. Que ironia!

Warm wishes & best regards,

Victoria
Tejera