

17 Marian Avenue
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

July 14, 1957

Dear Professor Ferrater Mora:

I hope you are enjoying a pleasant and profitable stay in Paris.

Have you heard yet from Partisan Review in regard to your "The Intellectual"?
We are pending July and August in a house (address above) which has a proper
kitchen and more room and above all a garden to keep cool in.

I have just finished reading the proofs of my translation of the Ortega book.
There are two short passages that have me baffled. I don't think I discussed them
with you, as I seem to remember that I thought I had them solved at that time.
But the finality of type has frightened me out of my confidence. I enclose them on
a separate sheet. Would you mind looking at them for me and telling me if I have
got the meaning or, if not, what the meaning is?

Today happens to be le quatorze Juillet. I wonder if they still celebrate it in
Paris in the charming way in which they did in my day - with dancing at street-corners
and magnificent fireworks from the bridges at night?

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
Willard R. Trask
Willard R. Trask

24-VI-57.
12-IX-57

Galley 89 (p. 274)

Text: Ver en la formidable realidad que es el uso un simple precipitado de la frecuencia, es indigno de una mente analítica. No confundamos las cosas: no confundamos el que muchos usos - pero no todos, ni much menos - para llegar a constituirse como tales usos, presupongan que muchos individuos hagan muchas veces una misma cosa y, por tanto, esta cosa se manifieste frecuentemente, con que el uso mismo, un vez que está constituido y sea ya, en efecto, uso, actúe por su frecuencia. No vaya a resultar a la postre lo inverso: que algo no es uso porque es frecuente sino más bien lo hacemos con frecuencia porque es uso.

Translation: To see in the formidable reality of usage a simple precipitate of frequency is unworthy of an analytical mind. Let us not confuse things. That many, but by no means all usages can become established as such only on condition that many individuals do the same thing many times, and hence this thing frequently appears, is one fact. We must not confuse it with the other fact that a usage, once it is established and is really usage, itself exerts an action through its frequency. Otherwise we might wind up with the opposite proposition, that something is not usage because it is frequent; whereas in fact we do it frequently because it is usage.

(It is the last sentence that worries me.)

Galley 29 (p. 174)

Text: La verdad es que los hombres sólo coincidimos en la visión de ciertos gruesos y toscos componentes del mundo o, para enunciar más ajustadamente mi pensamiento, que la lista de coincidencias sobre las cosas entre los hombres, y la lista de sus discrepancias allí se irán, compensándose la una con la otra.

Translation: The truth is that we men are at one only in our vision of certain gross and coarse components of the world, or, to express my thought more exactly accurately, the list of men's agreements about things and the list of their disagreements will come to the same and offset each other.