

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
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October 29, 1986

Professor Eladio Cortés
Chairman, Spanish Department
The State University of New Jersey. RUTGERS
Camden, N.J. 08102

Dear Professor Cortés:

I understand that Professor Manuel García-Barrio is being considered for tenure. In this respect I am pleased to send you the present letter of recommendation.

You know better than I what an extraordinary teacher Mr. García-Barrio is, so I will not dwell on this subject. I will confine myself to Mr. García-Barrio's abilities and achievements as a scholar on the basis of my knowledge of his career for at least fifteen years.

To begin with, his work, already completed, on Francisco Gutiérrez de los Ríos and his times is a pioneering study which casts new light on the Spanish Eighteenth Century Enlightenment period, as well as on the transition from the Seventeenth to the Eighteenth Centuries. It is a study which is of equal importance to the historian of ideas and to the historian and critic of literature.

I understand that the typescript of Professor García-Barrio's work is in the hands of an important Spanish publisher. I very much hope that it will eventually come out, but this may take time, because publishers, in Spain and elsewhere, are hard pressed to publish books offering financial compensation. Professor García-Barrio's book is strictly scholarly --a very high quality scholarship-- and hence publishers may think it twice before printing.

I should like to emphasize the scholarly importance of Professor García-Barrio's translations into English of Spanish theatre plays, in particular his truly remarkable version of Valle-Inclán's Luces de Bohemia. The difficulty of translating Valle-Inclán's enormously complex linguistic structure can be appreciated if one thinks of the comparable difficulty of translating, say, James Joyce's Ulysses. Professor García-Barrio's translation is accompanied by a most careful commentary --a fine piece of scholarly work.

Professor García-Barrio is engaged at present in a detailed research of Corpus Bargas' work, with particular attention to his extensive autobiography, covering the last decades of the Nineteenth Century and the first three decades of the Twentieth Century. Professor García-Barrio's research is breakthrough work, opening the way for a better understanding not only of

this remarkable writer but also of the complex relations among writers and literary works of his times.

I very much hope that Professor García-Barrio will be tenured and promoted so he may continue in your Department as one of its most valuable assets.

Best wishes,

Sincerely



José Ferrater Mora
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Fairbank Professor in the Humanities
Holder of the Juan Carlos I Chair in
Spanish Civilization at New York
University