

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE  
BRYN MAWR, PA. 19010

August 19, 1985

Professor Eladio Cortés  
Chairman, Spanish Department  
The State University of New Jersey-RUTGERS  
Camden College of Arts and Sciences  
Camden, N.J. 08102

Dear Professor Cortés:

I am pleased to answer your letter of August 8th, 1985 concerning the recommendation of Assistant Professor Luis García-Barrio for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, with tenure.

I am certainly in favor of strongly recommending Professor García-Barrio for both promotion and tenure. I have known Professor García-Barrio for about fifteen years, and have closely followed his academic and scholarly career.

Professor García-Barrio's scholarly output is of very high quality. To begin with, his research 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 Century. It is a study which is of equal importance to the historian of ideas and to the historian and critic of literature.

I should also like to emphasize the scholarly importance of Professor García-Barrio's translations of theatre plays, in particular his truly remarkable version into English of Valle-Inclán's Luces de Bohemia. The difficulty of translating Valle-Inclán's enormously complex linguistic structure into a non Spanish idiom can be appreciated if one thinks of the comparable difficulty of translating, say, James Joyce's Ulysses into a non English idiom. It demands not only linguistic ability, but also a considerable amount of literary and historical knowledge. In point of fact, Professor García-Barrio's translation, accompanied, as it is, by careful commentary stands out as a very fine piece of scholarly achievement.

Professor García-Barrio is engaged at present in a detailed research of Corpus Barga's work, with

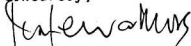
particular attention to his extensive autobiography, covering the last decade of the Nineteenth Century and the first three decades of the Twentieth Century. This is, in my opinion, one of the most distinguished literary achievements of contemporary Spanish literature which, most unfortunately, has not yet received the attention that it deserves. Professor García-Barrio's research in this respect is breakground work, opening the way for a better understanding not only of Corpus Barga, but also of the complex relations among writers and literary works of his times.

At a time when electronic aids in the humanities are becoming more and more important, and probably a portend of things to come, it should be pointed out that Professor García-Barrio, without losing his firm ground in the classical tradition of literary criticism, is, a littler sense, a true "master" of computer science, and has developed a most interesting and effective program for the teaching of the Spanish language.

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

Best wishes,

Sincerely,



José Ferrater Mora  
 Emeritus Professor of Philosophy  
 Former Fairbank Professor in the Humanities  
 Member of the Royal Spanish Academy  
 Ph.D. (hon) Universities of Barcelona  
 (Spain), Tucumán (Argentina),  
 Montevideo (Uruguay), Bogotá (Colombia).  
 Holder of the Great Cross of Alphonse X,  
 the Wise and the Isabella Cross.  
 Prince of Asturias Prize in the Humanities,  
 1985.