

7/22/60

Dear Mr. Ferrater,

Knowing no particular address at which to reach you, I shall just write off into space, and write PLEASE FORWARD conspicuously on the envelope. I read in the newspaper, though, that the conference in Berlin is at an end, and so I am sure that Berlin is one place where you are not.

I have just finished attending the weddings (four successive) of my friends, and am rather at a loss what to do for the rest of the summer. I spoke with the head of the Harvard Comparative Literature department, and he said I might transfer with almost no loss of credit. The important thing in Comp. Lit. seems to be, not the period of actual residence at Harvard (a minimum of two years, of which I have already completed one) but passing the Ph.D. exams, which I may take one year after my return from France. I hope I shall do better than I did this year.

Encouraged by that first interview, I went to see the linguist Roman Jakobson, who gave me the names of several theoreticians of language with whom I might study in France. He mentioned a linguist, Bienyeniste; a myth scholar, Levi-Strauss; and a psychoanalyst with a theoretical bent, Lacan. None of these names were familiar to me; I am, in fact, not a bit sure that I understood them correctly. Do they, or any phonetic approximation of them, sound familiar or possible to you? At the end of August there will be in Warsaw a conference entitled Poetics and Linguistics, to which I may go since I shall have to be in France in early September anyway. Half the papers, though, will be in Russian, and even if their titles sound interesting, I shall not understand a word of them. Nonetheless, I think I ought to do something constructive this summer, since I much enjoy doing nothing useful whatever, and might become too accustomed to sunny idleness.

Cynthia Lovelace will not come to Paris next year. She will stay in New York in order to start an eight year program of study for a Ph.D. in Psychology. Eight years seems to me very long, and a year in Paris would, after all, make it nine, which is altogether too long. It does seem as though Psychology needs some good students, and perhaps Cynthia will do something important.

I hope that you are well. You were really very kind to take such good care of me when I came to Bryn Mawr, and I was just delighted to see you. Your book seems to me won-

