

June 5, 1958

Dear Dr. Ferrater Mora,

As I have listened to your lectures in the many courses of yours which it has been my privilege to attend, I have often wondered how a man of your brilliance feels about speaking to an audience of silly girls, often knitting or giggling, at worst inattentive, at best docile note-takers. Being myself guilty of the faults of my age and sex, I have yet wanted take this opportunity to assure you that something does go on in the heads of at least some Bryn Mawr undergraduates that the subtle and eloquent magnificence of your teaching means a great deal to some of us.

To me, higher education will always mean the kind of thinking to which you introduced me – in Philosophy 101, German Idealism, Philosophy of History, Aristotle, and Honors works – each year I awoke to more and more of the complexities of philosophy. In the end, my awareness of these complexities and of the inadequacy of my kind of mind to cope with them has led me to decide upon another career – but I know that I shall always be a deeply interested amateur (I hope in the better sense of the word “amateur!”)

My apologies for the disorderly and immature enthusiasm with which you had to contend in my work – and my thanks for the patience and good humor with which you golded me out of my most dreadful flights of fancy!

I learned a great deal from the Honors work, although I am far from satisfied with the paper – here again, your tolerance and wisdom were more than I deserved.

I cannot ever hope to thank you enough for the wonderful experience of being your student. I hope that it is some small recompense for the tedious hours of teaching to know that at least for me, you have been the source of the most enduring of the gifts of education – sheer “intellectual love” of learning and thinking.

I hope that you and your lovely family have a wonderful summer – and I hope to see you next November when I visit Bryn Mawr.

Sincerely yours,

[Signatura]