

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of
MATHEMATICS

November 9, 1953

Address reply to
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BOX 708
PRINCETON, N.J.

Professor José Ferrater Mora
Department of Philosophy
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Ferrater:

I am much interested to hear of the forthcoming text-book of symbolic logic in Spanish by Professor Leblanc and yourself. There is of course a great need for such a book, as I believe that nothing of the sort exists at all. (The Spanish translation of Tarski's book is addressed primarily to mathematicians, and moreover has some rather troublesome errors which are the fault of the translators. Zubieta's thesis is not intended as a text-book, and moreover seems to be not available commercially.)

Mathematical and other symbolic material is usually printed by monotype rather than by linotype. This has the advantage of making it easier to make insertions by hand in the middle of a line in cases in which material cannot be set by machine. And more important, it facilitates the process of corrections of typographical errors. When material is set by linotype, it is necessary in case of a typographical error to reset an entire line in order to correct the error; it may happen in the course of resetting the line that another error is made at some other point in the line, and sometimes this process may have to be repeated several times over before a correct line is obtained. It is not impossible to set symbolic ^{material} logic by linotype, and I believe that the American Journal of Mathematics in particular uses linotype — but as far as I know this is the only mathematical journal in the United States to do so.

The Journal of Symbolic Logic has always been printed by monotype, and characters for the Journal have been obtained from the Lanston Monotype Co. in Philadelphia (or, since the transfer of the printing of the Journal to Holland, from the Branch of the Lanston Monotype Company in England). Because of the expense, the Journal has never acquired a complete set of matching logical characters. However, I have seen the catalog of special characters put out by the Lanston Monotype Company, and I know that they have everything that you might require for a text-book in symbolic logic — in particular, they have the characters which were used in printing Lewis and Langford's Symbolic Logic, and since these form a matching set of very good appearance, I am inclined to recommend that you use these for your book, if you find it possible to have it printed by monotype.

If your book absolutely must be printed by linotype, then as far as I know it will be necessary to make use of makeshift characters, or else to

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have characters made ~~made~~ specially to order at considerable delay and expense. However, you may be able to form some judgment of what is possible by looking at papers on mathematical logic which have been published in recent volumes of the American Journal of Mathematics; or it is possible that you might be able to obtain some information by writing to the Editors of the American Journal.

Thank you for the reprints of your two articles, and also for the information about the Polish translation of "Dos obras...". I will try to locate the latter, as evidently both the Spanish and the Polish translation ought to be listed by title in the Journal of Symbolic Logic (not reviewed, as I believe that the article has to be classified itself as a review, although this is perhaps not ~~clear~~ ^{completely} clear).

Very sincerely yours,

Alonzo Church

Alonzo Church

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P. S. If you can arrange to have your book printed by monotype, it may be that the most efficient way to find the characters you want will be to make a trip to Philadelphia and inspect the catalogs of the Lanston Monotype Company on the premises. Apparently they do not print catalogs for general distribution (the one I saw was sent to me by our printer with the request to return it after examination). Moreover, their system of keeping track of special characters is very bad, and attempts to locate characters by correspondence often result in their replying that they do not have a character when the fact is that they do have it. When your book appears, I solicit a copy for review in the Journal of Symbolic Logic. A.C.