

# UNIVERSITY OF LONDON KING'S COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH

Professor A. A. PARKER.

STRAND, W.C. 2.

TEMPLE BAR 5454.

3rd March 1959.

My dear Vicens,

I am very grateful to you for your letter of the 11th February concerning our project of founding an International Association of Hispanic Studies to qualify for membership of FILLM. Thank you very much indeed for all the enquiries you made in Madrid on my behalf, and I am very glad to have the names you have given me of the persons whom you have approached. I shall look forward to meeting Pérez Villanueva when he comes to London. Since talking with you about the matter I have had to give official notification of our plans to Salas as the Cultural Attaché at the Spanish Embassy. He is in contact with the Madrid authorities, but nothing seems yet to be settled.

We are of course aware of the existence of the Asociación Internacional de Hispanismo, but this has never functioned as a proper association with membership, subscriptions and regular meetings. For this reason it cannot qualify for membership of FILLM. But there is a much more important reason which debars it, namely that it is organized by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNESCO insists that all the member associations of FILLM must be absolutely free and independent from any kind of government control; so that even if this Asociación is revived by your Ministry it could not take the place of the body we are hoping to form. I enclose a copy of the Spanish version of the letter we have sent out to the non-English-speaking countries.

I can now tell you that the response we have received has been quite enthusiastic, and it seems quite clear that the need for an International Association of Hispanic Studies is widely felt. Judging by the promise of support that we have received we would be justified in going ahead with our plans even without the support of Spain, but this would of course be lamentable and undesirable, since this would tend to confirm the official Spanish view that a Hispanista can only be a non-Spaniard, which is a view that we should like to break down.

With best wishes and renewed thanks,

Enclosure

Yours very sincerely,

