

250 Douglass Street
San Francisco, California
May 14, 1966

Dear Mr. Ferrater Mora,

No, it wasn't the University of Wisconsin that sent me another offer; it was one of the Wisconsin State Universities. But I wouldn't have wanted to go to the former, either. I'd want to think long and hard before accepting an offer ~~to~~ any state university again. And this despite the fact that very many of my students continue to delight me with their beautiful work here at San Francisco State College. I don't see how they keep themselves from being discouraged by ^{rather} ugly intellectual atmosphere (it is specifically very anti-intellectual while advertising itself as the opposite) of the College. But they do. And they keep themselves courteous and restrained and responsible in their personal lives. Some days I feel quick sick at the thought of leaving such students. In particular, I do, you see, because I cannot help feeling myself obliged to do what I can towards helping them to keep their minds alive.

One reason that I am writing to you today is ^{that} one of the finest of all my students is planning a trip East right after the term ends, and I should like him to have an opportunity to talk with you in Bryn Mawr if that would be at all possible. He could come to Bryn Mawr around the 10th of the 12th or 13th of June. Will you be there yet? I do hope so. He would like to meet you and to talk with you about the possibility of his entering Bryn Mawr to begin work for his Ph. D. fall after this next. He doesn't have his heart set on Bryn Mawr, but he is considerably ~~much~~ interested in the College. And you can believe me when I say that the College would be lucky to get him.

The young man's name is Wilbur Troutman, and he is about twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age. He took his degree (A. B.) here last spring, and he has been this year working towards an M. A. in the Humanities Department. Partly because I have had ~~some~~ influence on him (he has studied with me all year long, in the Plato course last fall and now in my Metaphysics course) but mostly because he has an imaginative and responsible mind and is bound in consequence to make good judgments, he has decided that he should not be working within the Humanities Department. It is a Department that seems to offer students much scope, you see; but in fact it binds them to a great deal of nonsense. In particular, they are expected to care, as do their instructors, about questions of "methodology" in teaching that you, Mr. Ferrater Mora, couldn't even imagine. You've never been exposed to such nonsense. But it's abroad in the world, and of course it is all over San Francisco State College. What Mr. Troutman plans to do next year is to attend the College, but paying no more attention to the Humanities program. He is going to begin both Latin and Greek and to try to find ~~some~~ other course ~~on two~~ in Philosophy that might serve his purposes. He has a very sophisticated mind. He read his first Plato with me last fall, but his manner of thinking ^{about}

about
Plato
now,
such a short
time later,

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would surprise you I think. It has surprised me, certainly (he talks with me frequently outside class and, besides, my Metaphysics course requires five papers of each student in it, and consequently I've had a good opportunity to see what he does with his mind). He has begun to spend some time on Kant. Actually, his interests are very wide-ranging, and he goes straight to the core of the philosophers whom he reads. You can understand why it seems to me that Bryn Mawr's graduate school is one he should at least apply to.

Could you write to me telling me when you do leave Bryn Mawr (by the way, please give me your summer address, too)? I should extremely like Mr. Troutman to have an opportunity to meet you. He has, incidentally, read my copy of your Yale paper, and he likes it; he has in fact, he mentioned the other day, passed it on to one of his bright friends to read, too. And that friend--another victim of the Humanities Department, but a victim who intends to escape to the Phil. Department at the U. of California at Santa Cruz next fall--is most pleased with it, too. Of course you are attacking shallowness in your paper; and both these young men are very responsive to such an attack because they have almost drowned in shallowness.

I'll be in Bryn Mawr myself this summer, incidentally, but long after you've left. I'm coming around the 10th of July. I must buy a second-hand car and learn to drive it there! And I must learn--start to learn--Greek. Have I told you--No, I don't believe I have--that in the second semester at Fairfield I'll have introductory sections plus Plato. In the fall I'm to have had introductory sections plus the History of Ancient Philosophy. And, in any event, my introductory course is going to be altogether on Plato, too! Sometimes I feel that Plato is coming out of my ears; but Greek isn't, and I've got to do something about that. I wish that I had studied it at Bryn Mawr.

Do send me a quick letter soon if you can; Mr. Troutman plans to leave here about the first of June.

Sincerely,

J.M. -

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