

250 Douglass Street
San Francisco, California
February 12, 1966
Dear Mr. Ferrater Mora,

Another invitation to have letters sent for me. This comes from a small college for women in Ohio. I have never before heard of it, and it may not be any good; but at least it does have about three people teaching philosophy. And the original announcement from the Information Service Committee of the A. P. A. said that the college has high standards and that the emphasis of the Department of Philosophy there is upon the history of philosophy. Perhaps it is as about the quality that the coeducational Washington College in Maryland is (I have had no further response from that college, incidentally). In any event would you send a letter to (and also send a copy of Leblanc's letter to)

Vice President C. T. Ruddick

Lake Erie College
Painesville, Ohio

The Vice President named above is himself a Professor of Philosophy at the College; and he has his degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

I have as many students this term as I did last term--four large classes--but I believe that my teaching may turn out to be somewhat less burdensome. Some of my lectures from last term--not many, but some--I shall be repeating the substance of. And I found last week as I met my new classes that I felt much more self-confident, much more in control of things, than I had during the first week last fall. As I've told you, three out of my four classes went ^{generally} well during the fall; the fourth sometimes, but only sometimes, went well. I have this spring two sections of the one that did not go well in the fall. But I have revised my entire plan for the course, and I have reason to think that I can manage to make all four of my classes go well this time from the start. Of course, the most interesting one I'll have will be ^{the} Metaphysics. ^{oh} I am focussing it on the functions of the free will issue in the history of philosophy; the students in the course are mostly advanced students, they are reasonably sophisticated, and some already strike me as able. I have a fine, long list of readings for them; & I am even going to put a copy of my thesis on reserve for those who

Teaching under rather difficult circumstances here surely ought to prepare me for teaching under calmer circumstances somewhere else; but I wonder if I shall, somewhere else, find students as able and interesting as the ones I teach here now. Such a large proportion of these students are able and serious. I think I told you, did I not?, that I received about ten really fine papers from my Plato class alone. The intellectual gifts of these students distress me sometimes as I think of them, because I doubt that as many of them as ought to can be put to proper use. I have in mind, you see, that most of these students must hold jobs for 20, 30 and even 40 hours a week while they study. Consequently, students seldom

would like to read it.

graduate from San Francisco State College in four years; it takes them six or eight. And a great many of them have been in their early twenties or mid-twenties to start with. I am not sure that what I am writing about can make sense to you. Let me simply say that the College is huge (over 16,000 students); that practically no one in the College pays any particular attention to what happens to individual students; that there is no scholarship aid at the College for any of the students; and that it seems in consequence to me that many students of very great ability must study in a situation that does not give them the various kinds of encouragement they need. And yet they keep flocking to this College; every term sees more enrolled (and many, quite a good many, refused entrance).

I have been very much distressed having no offers for next year. But I am confident that even if the whole spring drags out with nothing coming, the May Midwestern meetings would turn up something. And perhaps something better than I could get now. I shall definitely plan to go to them if nothing has turned up. I am glad I went last year so that I know how fruitful attendance at them can be.

It is difficult, here, to imagine how much snow must be on the ground in Bryn Mawr. And how sharp the winds must be. Fall in California is dull and boring; but winter has something to be said for it.

Sincerely,

Julia —

15-II-66