

219 West 16th Street  
New York 11, New York  
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Professor José Ferrater Mora  
Department of Philosophy  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Professor Ferrater Mora,

I was very happy to receive your letter, and I appreciate very much your speaking to Professor Nahm on my behalf. It is encouraging to know that you will keep my name in mind should an opening occur in your Department. I am also very grateful to you for your letter of recommendation to Professor Anderson at Pennsylvania State University. This is a great help to me.

In my letter to you I had intended to tell you something of what has transpired with the thesis on Unamuno which you read. The other items in the letter took precedence over this at the time, but I do feel that I owe you a brief account of what I have been working on in respect of Unamuno.

On the whole, I still am in agreement with the manner in which I explicated Unamuno's philosophy, but his importance for me in terms of philosophical problems has changed somewhat in the process of attempting to continue philosophizing within the structure of his philosophy. After I received my degree, I wrote a book on Unamuno in which I followed the main outline of the thesis, but this time emphasizing more Unamuno's concept of transcendence. This concept seemed at the time to be very similar to Heidegger's concept of transcendence in his later writings. I later withdrew the book from the press because my approach seemed wrong and I felt that I was doing violence to Unamuno's thinking in respect to this problem.

In the meantime I had begun to work intensively on Husserl, both in terms of a general theory of intentionality and in terms of the phenomenological constitution of space. In reading Husserl, I came across some of his brief but pregnant statements about so-called non-doxic intentionality; I was struck by the similarity of this

to Unamuno's insights into the structure of sentimientos. I now believe that Unamuno's analyses are (in a broad sense) intentional analyses, rather than speculative ones (as would be the case with Heidegger). It is not that I have ever wanted to make Unamuno philosophize like either Husserl or Heidegger, but reading Husserl has helped me to better understand how to further develop some of his problems. I have since been working on Unamuno's concept of sentimiento as a kind of non-doxic intentionality, which puts his concept of transcendence in a very different light. I have also found these studies very fruitful for a general theory of intentionality. Once I finish finding my way through the maze of a phenomenology of space, I intend to return to Unamuno and develop some aspects of his philosophy along more successful lines-- at least that is my hope at the present time.

I wish to thank you again for all you have done for me, and I hope that you will forgive my delay in answering your letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Fred Kersten*

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