

WILLIAMS COLLEGE
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

November 17, 1964

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Professor José Ferrater Mora
The Journal of Philosophy
720, Philosophy Hall
Columbia University
New York, N.Y., 10027

Please forward.

Dear Professor Mora:

During a recent conference in New Haven on phenomenology and existentialism, Paul Weiss, George Kline and I became engaged in a series of conversations concerning philosophical conferences, phenomenology and Hegel. It was quickly agreed that professional meetings of philosophers fulfill a wide variety of functions and are attended for perhaps even a larger variety of reasons. We also concurred that whereas the 'phenomenological movement' had become an important element on the North American philosophical scene, the same could not be said for Hegel's Phenomenology. Dropping as irrelevant the question whether Hegel ought to be included in the 'movement', we observed that occasions for professional level discussions of Hegel's PhG were very rare. Since each of us considered himself, in some sense, a 'friend of Hegel's PhG', we tried to put together a list of other 'friends' who might add an opportunity to discuss the PhG to their reasons for attending this year's meeting of the A.P.A.

Together with your name and ours, the list includes: George Schrader, Herbert Marcuse, Laszlo Versenyi, Richard Hocking, Victor Gurewtich, Henry S. Harris and Quentin Lauer.

The list is in no way scientifically conceived and there is no intention of forming any organization, society or club. In keeping with the anti-bureaucratic and perhaps utopian tone of the originating conversation, nobody will present any paper or thesis. Anarchy will be avoided (if possible or desirable) by having a relatively common point of focus in Hegel's PhG. Do you agree that "Das geistige Tierreich" might serve us well in this connection? Would Monday, December 28, 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. be a satisfactory time for you to join in such a dialogue?

If the proposal interests you, I would be most delighted to hear from you. I would also appreciate any suggestions you might have on the project in general. More specific details will follow as soon as possible after I hear from you.

I hope you will be able to join in this venture.

Sincerely yours,

Kenley R. Dove

Kenley Royce Dove

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