

57 PRINCETON AVENUE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
TELEPHONE 1656

March 28, 1949.

Dr. José Ferrater Mora
315 West Madison Street
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Dr. Mora,

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 7.

Both Dr. Hempel and myself, we very much appreciate your honoring intention to quote our paper in the third edition of your Dictionary of Philosophy. Though none of us knows Spanish, we understand the general idea of the part of the article concerned with our paper and are fully confident that it correctly reproduces our thoughts..


As to the end of the first paragraph of your letter, we would say that the sentence quoted by you is of universal form in the sense we had in mind. But on the other hand it is, in a certain sense, not universal in intention, referring, as it does, only to the finite class of apples in the basket. Our requirement that all predicates occurring in the formulation of a law must be qualitative rules out sentences of the type in question, we think. The problem under discussion is more involved and too complicated as to discuss it in a letter. Anyhow, I hope, these few remarks show, what we mean.

I am also very grateful to you that you want to mention the paper on Gestalt in your Dictionary, as well as the book on the concept of type.

I think logical positivism will be acceptable for many more people if one modestly restricts it to a proposal how to define Science in a practical and fruitful way. It may be that it is just in this direction that you see its merits.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely


Paul Oppenheim.