

425 E. Roosevelt St.
Appleton, Wisconsin

December 11, 1957

Dear José Ferrater Mora,

Thank you for your pleasant letter.

I must warn you that I am an insatiably curious person when I read a book written by a person who really thinks.

However I understand very well if a question I ask is omitted by the writer of a letter to me and will not repeat that question.

May I ask three questions?

1. Do you agree with Spinoza that man "cannot accept death"?
2. Do you think the fact that good book can be purchased for the price of a package of cigarettes in paperback form in U.S. a hopeful sign?
3. Are you concerned over the apparent "fact" that -as far as we know at least- Russians, French and English read many more books than the average American?

I do not intend to quote you. I would like to know what a fine mind like yours thinks.

Perhaps you may have written other books or magazine articles I could pursue? If so, what are they? Perhaps I could find the answers to my above 3 queries there.

I realize you may be very busy or there may be other reasons why you cannot answer my questions. OK, but as to your books and magazine articles – I will appreciate deeply any help you choose to give me.

And now to completing "The Three Lives of Albert Schweitzer" which is exciting to me. My bedside shelf at present has Alistair Cooke's "Christmas Eve"; Thomas Costain's "Below the Salt"; "Promises" by Robert Penn Warren; Munson's "An Ample Field", Ben *[illegible]* "Charlie" and others so I can promise you your ideas will be in good company. And Thomas Sugrue's "Stranger in this Earth"! Excellent to me.

May the richness of the best of this season be yours!

Most sincerely,

[signatura]