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July 1, 1963

Dear Clayton:

I got your letter and hasten to reply in the service of that most important of all causes: poetry. In this particular case, Vallejo.

I quite agree with you that you have a personal right to go ahead with the translation and to publish it, since translating poetry is a creative act with which no one has any right to interfere. In this regard, as I have manifested to all those within hearing, I consider your translation of Pablo Neruda the best up to this day and I sincerely wish to congratulate you on that magnificent job. Had I not read your translations I would have never believed that Neruda could be translated at all.

I quite realize the difficulty you must be having with Vallejo. Even then, your success with Pablo makes me believe that you can accomplish even this more difficult task if it were possible. I am in fact bilingual if crawling through English can be considered in any way dignified. Anyway, it is one way of keeping on the move. I do my best to follow the poetry and literary movement in your country that has quite a lot going on so is enough to keep anyone busy. That besides my job which is to promote inter-American cultural relations. In this regard, I think you might be interested in sending some collaboration to the magazine Américas which I am hoping to transform (for the better, we presume).

All sorts of things seem to happen in this respect. A little magazine in Washington called Outcry has just devoted issue No. 3 to Argentine new poetry in rather good translations. I shall send you a number as soon as I get one myself. I shall also try to send you if I ever manage to lay hands on them, the latest that is being done in poetry in my country (Argentina) and other Latin American countries: I myself have undertaken at one time

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the translation of a few Blake poems: Tigre, Tigre, Ardiende al Rojo, for Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright. Not bad.

Well, I hope you send me the Vallejo translations. As you ask, I will only make suggestions where I think some dramatical meaning has been missed. I doubt there will be much for me to say after reading your Neruda translation.

Don't worry to send me the Poemas Humanos since I have them.

All the best.

Rafael Squirru  
Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs