

In Memoriam

José María Ferrater-Mora (1912–1991)

Professor José María Ferrater-Mora, a member of the *Man and World* editorial board, died of a heart attack during a visit to Barcelona on 30 January 1991.

José María Ferrater-Mora was born in Barcelona on 30 October 1912. During the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) he served in the Intelligence Section of the Loyalist Army. After Franco's victory he went into exile, first briefly in Paris, then in Havana (1939–1941), and finally in Santiago, Chile (1941–1947). He came to the United States as a Guggenheim Fellow (1947–1949), living in New York, Princeton, and Baltimore. He was appointed Lecturer in Philosophy and Spanish at Bryn Mawr College in 1949, Professor of Philosophy in 1955, and the first Fairbank Professor in the Humanities in 1974. He was director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at Bryn Mawr in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania and the American Philosophical Society (1969–1974). He directed a number of strong doctoral dissertations, chaired the Department of Philosophy from 1972 to 1976, and retired from teaching in 1981.

Ferrater-Mora was a prolific author, whose works – written in Catalan, Spanish, and English – were widely translated. Of his books published in English the most important are probably *Man at the Crossroads* (1957), *Philosophy Today* (1960), and *Being and Death: An Outline of Integrationist Philosophy* (1965). Works important for their formulation of his philosophical position that are *not* available in English include *El Ser y el sentido* (Being and Meaning) (1967), *Cambio de marcha en filosofía* (Shifting Gears in Philosophy) (1974), *De la materia a la razón* (From Matter to Reason) (1979), and *Ética aplicada* (Applied Ethics), with his wife Priscilla Cohn (1981). A two-volume edition of his *Obras selectas* was published in Madrid in 1967.

The work for which Ferrater-Mora is most widely known is his *Diccionario de filosofía*, which began as a single modest volume in 1941 and grew into a monumental four-volume work of 3,300 double-column

pages in its final (sixth) edition of 1979. The *Diccionario* is a standard reference work throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Ferrater-Mora has also written exemplary studies of the thought of Miguel de Unamuno and José Ortega y Gasset and a book about his films, *Cine sin filosofías* (Films without Philosophies) (1974). He collaborated with Hugues Leblanc, then of Bryn Mawr, on *Lógica matemática* (1955, 2nd revised ed. 1962). After his retirement Ferrater-Mora turned to fiction, publishing two volumes of short stories and five novels – the first, *Claudia, mi Claudia*, in 1982 and the last, *La Señorita Goldie*, in 1991. In the 1940s he had published a number of translations into Spanish, including several from the French of Guizot, Lalande, and Renouvier; from the German of Fülöp-Miller and Max Weber; and from the English of George Santayana (*Three Philosophical Poets*).

He was honored with a *Festschrift* entitled *Transparencies* in 1981. He received the prestigious Spanish Prize named for the Prince of Asturias in 1985 and the first of several honorary degrees from Spanish and Latin American universities in 1979. The Ferrater-Mora Chair in Contemporary Thought was established in his honor at the University of Barcelona in 1989.

Ferrater-Mora was a true Renaissance man: a historian of philosophy, a systematic thinker, a film-maker, and a writer of fiction. He was both polymath and polyglot. At the World Congress of Philosophy in Mexico City in 1963 he impressively introduced a cluster of philosophers – French, German, Italian, and English – with an elegant paragraph in *each* of the philosophers' native tongues. Two distinguished Spanish academics, literary critic Juan Marechal (then of Harvard) and Mario Bunge (of McGill), took part in a Bryn Mawr symposium honoring Ferrater-Mora on the occasion of his retirement in 1981. Ferrater-Mora observed that it was difficult to carry on a discussion with both of his friends together, since "Marechal wanted to talk only about *Spain*, while Bunge wanted to talk only about *science*." Ferrater-Mora himself was the rare Spanish-American intellectual who could speak with equal authority about both Spain and science! In Spain and Latin America he was universally recognized as the most important philosopher of his generation, and as the most important Catalan philosopher since Ramón Lull in the fourteenth century.

José Ferrater-Mora was marked by prodigious learning, which he wore lightly, by a spirit of gentle irony, and an exquisite sense of humor. He will be sorely missed by his many friends, colleagues, and former students.

George L. Kline
Bryn Mawr College

This tribute to Professor José Ferrater-Mora, written by Professor Kline at our behest, reflects our estimation of him as a *Man and World* editorial board member and colleague. We may be counted among those who will miss him.

The Editors