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Brooklyn College

Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

January 30, 1961

Dr. Arturo Morales Carrión
Department of State
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
San Juan
Puerto Rico

Dear Sir:

Miss Muna Lee of the Department of State has suggested that I write to you about a project which may be of interest to you. We are establishing a new magazine, ODYSSEY, which will make available in English the best of modern Latin American and European criticism, poetry, drama, and fiction. The raison d' être of the magazine is best expressed in the statement of aims , a copy of which I am enclosing.

The Magazine will be a quarterly of about 200 pages, and each issue, divided into two sections, will introduce the work of four countries, two Latin American and two European. The first issue will be devoted to Argentina, Brazil, France, and Sweden, with fifty pages allotted to each country. For the purposes of the magazine, Puerto Rico will be treated as a Latin American country. It will appear in the third issue along with Peru, and thereafter about once a year.

We believe that such a magazine as ODYSSEY has long been needed in the English-speaking world, and our case has been put for us in a recent editorial in The New York Times. There has never been a time in our history, the editorial began, when the United States was so preoccupied, so worried, even so alarmed about Latin America. Such being the case, the editorial went on to say, it is strange that our earnest endeavors should be concentrated almost wholly on economics, politics and military security. This is strange because in Latin America culture plays a role as least as great as other factors. The governing classes have a high proportion of intellectuals among them. The philosophy of life is strongly humanistic.



The editorial concluded by pointing out the immense intellectual and cultural gap between the people of the United States and the people of Latin America. Secretary of State Dean Rusk took a similar position in his recent speech to Congress. It is the aim of ODYSSEY to partially fill this gap.

To start, the magazine will be distributed in the United States, the British Commonwealth, and Europe. Although the magazine will be in English, I have included Europe because many people there, especially those in the Scandinavian countries, The Netherlands, and Germany, want very much to know about modern Latin American literature. Furthermore, we have been assured press reviews Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Holland, Sweden, and Germany, and we are negotiating for press coverage in the other participating countries. Free copies will be distributed to our Department of State, USIA, and our leading industries who have important holdings in Latin America and Europe, with the hope that this will eventually lead to a substantial number of subscriptions. The magazine will also be sent to major public and university libraries and to important publishers, both in Latin America and Europe.

We should like to use your name in presenting the project to various foundations and individuals for financial support. We believe that your endorsement would underline our belief that ODYSSEY can be a unique venture in international cultural and intellectual understanding, and that it will create a medium demanded by America's increasing awareness of its need to understand its neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Saul Galin

Saul Galin
Editor-in-Chief

STATEMENT OF AIMS

The aim of ODYSSEY is to make available in English the best of modern Latin American and European criticism, poetry, drama, and fiction. Each issue, divided into two sections, will introduce the work of four countries, two Latin American and two European. The pages of ODYSSEY will be open to authors of diverse interests and points of view.

Many major works of established modern writers, especially those of Latin America, are unknown to the majority of educated Americans, and today many countries are in the forefront of new and important literary trends which deserve as wide an audience as possible. ODYSSEY will make these authors and these trends known to the English-speaking world.

The following men of letters have expressed their belief in the need for such a magazine as ODYSSEY for the English - speaking world, and have given me permission in writing to present their names as sponsors of the magazine.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

SIR C.P. SNOW

ROBERT GRAVES

STEPHEN SPENDER

CLEANTH BROOKS

PETER QUENNELL

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