

Box 1562, University
Río Piedras, P. R.
January 14, 1959

Dr. Henry P. Van Deusen, President
Union Theological Seminary
Broadway at 120th Street
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Van Deusen:

I have not answered your letter of December 8 as I have been studying it carefully in order to have a clearer understanding of its contents and to be able to answer it with fair judgment. Your letter deals with two points which although they are related to each other, I would like to take up separately.

The first one concerns my work on Miguel de Unamuno, as partial fulfilment for a Th. D. Since I am working for the Government of Puerto Rico and I expect to dedicate the rest of my life to educational work in the Department of Education, you are right as far as the small academic value of another doctor's degree. But it seems to me that this work has two more values. First, the work, I think, is valuable in itself since it is the first time that a work of this scope and importance concerning Unamuno has appeared in the English language. Second, I have been working in this research since 1952, by official recommendation of Professor David Roberts, who was appointed as my advisor by your Committee on Graduate Studies. After working all these years with thoroughness and earnestness on this book, I do not need to tell you what it means to me personally.

However, if you are ill-disposed toward me it is obvious that my work will not meet with the approval of

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your Committee and that it will be a waste of time to insist on it. There are no doubt other institutions of learning that will be interested in this work and I could use my time to a better advantage if I offer it to them.

But the second point of your letter is more serious. Nobody ever brought this matter to my attention before. I have been quite shocked by your letter since the "Sister Institution" that is, the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, never mentioned this matter to me before. As a matter of fact, they never gave me reasons for the dismissal of myself and Professor Sáez except that a reorganization was badly needed.

Since you are assuming personal responsibility for bringing this matter up, and since I consider this a legal problem, I am referring it to my lawyer from whom you will hear shortly.

If it appears to you that this is not the proper way to deal with your letter, will you please advise me and my lawyer at your earliest convenience.

Truly yours,

Angel M. Mergal