

Manuel

Gutiérrez Nájera

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH
AND PORTUGUESE
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

15 de enero, 1954

Sr. Alfonso Reyes
av. Gen. Benjamín Hill, No 122
México 11, D.F.

Estimado maestro:

Le agradezco muchísimo su carta en la que se refiere a mi artículo "Some Aspects of Literary Style." Hace años que soy un gran admirador de usted y de sus obra, clásica, castiza, insuperable.

Tendría mucho gusto en ayudar a su Colegio de México a reunir la bibliografía de y sobre Gutiérrez Nájera, pero creo que la persona idónea para esto será el Prof. E. K. Mapes de la State University of Iowa. Su dirección es: 300 McLean St.; Iowa City, Iowa.

Mapes ha pasado años trabajando sobre Gutiérrez Nájera, y tiene la colección más completa de sus obras. Me ha escrito recientemente que tiene, en microfilm, casi todo lo que D. N. publicó ~~ha publicado~~. Mapes tiene más de 70 años de edad, y espera publicar parte de lo que

colección

~~Antes~~, antes de "poner el pie en el estribo." Si usted
puede publicar los cuentos completos de Gutierrez Nájera,
o las mejores crónicas, Mapes podrá hacer
parte de la labor editorial, y ~~así~~ ^{también} podría hacer la
selección sin tardanza.

Mapes dice que la colección de las
poesías de G.N. por Gonzalez Guerrero parece contener
casi toda la obra poética del autor, pero
afirma que no hay una colección ^{completa} de sus cuentos,
(ni de sus crónicas, desde luego). Según el cálculo
de Mapes, lo que ^{él} tiene en microfilm
haría unos 40 — 50 tomos, del tamaño
de la edición Mundo Latino de las obras de Ruben Risco.
Sería lástima no utilizar esta colección del
Prof Mapes mientras viva su colector, y tengo la
esperanza de que usted pueda valerle de ella de algún
modo.

Ya le puse unas líneas a Mapes diciéndole
que iba a escribirle a usted con estas sugerencias.

Suyo cordialmente,

John A. Crow

Mil gracias por su carta, distinguido maestro.

México, D. F., 19 de enero de 1956.

Prof. John A. Crow,
University of California,
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese,
Los Angeles 24, California,
U. S. A.

Mi muy estimado señor y amigo:

Mucho agradezco su gentilísima carta del 15 del actual y, aprovechando su preciosa sugerión, ya me pongo en contacto con el Prof. E. K. Mapes. Tengo la impresión de que Gutiérrez Nájera está un poco olvidado por la nueva crítica mexicana, y en cambio en los Estados Unidos se le concede todo el honor que merece.

Si alguna vez se le ofrece algo por México, nuestro Colegio es su casa y yo soy su cordial servidor y amigo


Alfonso Reyes.

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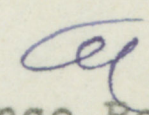
México, D. F., 19 de enero de 1956.

Prof. E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.
Iowa City, Iowa,
U. S. A.

Muy distinguido señor Profesor:

Tengo entendido que el Sr. Profesor John A. Crow, de Los Angeles, le ha anunciado a usted ya mi carta. En el Colegio de México, que tengo la honra de presidir y que no es una escuela sino un alto centro de investigadores, tenemos la impresión de que la nueva crítica mexicana ha olvidado un poco a nuestro gran Gutiérrez Nájera, excelente poeta, y prosista mejor que Rubén Darío. Usted, en cambio, nos ha puesto el ejemplo con sus asiduas y agudas investigaciones. Quisiera ofrecerle a usted la posibilidad de que nuestro Colegio publicara en un tomito especial una bibliografía hecha por usted de y sobre Gutiérrez Nájera, así como algunas otras páginas que usted considere oportunas para el caso, y que usted posee según entiendo en su admirable colección de obras no recogidas de nuestro poeta.

Dígame usted, en todo caso, lo que se le ocurra y más le agrade. Quedamos a sus apreciables órdenes. Cuente usted con la admiración y la amistad de su afmo. y atto. s. s.


Alfonso Reyes
Presidente

P.S.- Al firmar esta carta, se me ocurrió hablar con don Arnaldo Orfila Reynal, Director del Fondo de Cultura Económica, nuestra mejor editorial y acaso la mejor en Hispanoamérica, que, como probablemente usted lo sabe, publica una Biblioteca Hispanoamericana de carácter clásico o básico. Me dice el Sr. Orfila Reynal que le hable a usted también de la posibilidad de hacer, con prólogo de usted de unas 40 o 50 páginas a máquina, doble renglón, un tomo de verso y prosa a elección de usted, que podría llegar hasta las 600 o 700 páginas impresas, in-4º, como los volúmenes de Sor Juana Inés y otros que acaso usted conozca, pues, en efecto, en el plan original de esta Biblioteca, que fue establecida por nuestro llorado Pedro Henríquez Ureña, está previsto este volumen de Gutiérrez Nájera. Espero con vivo interés su respuesta.

AR/ja.



REVISTA HISPÁNICA MODERNA

CASA HISPÁNICA, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

435 WEST 117TH STREET, NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK

Director: ÁNGEL DEL RÍO

Subdirector: EUGENIO FLORIT

26 de enero de 1956

Sr. don Alfonso Reyes
Av. Gra. Benjamín Hill No. 122
México 11, D. F., México

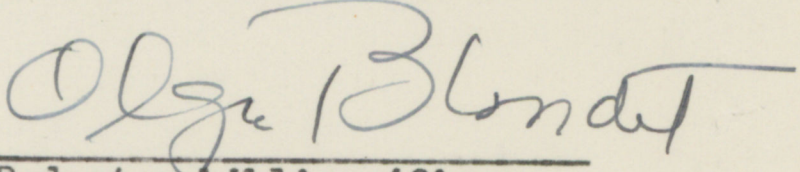
Muy distinguido señor:

Me han entregado su carta del 3 de enero, dirigida al Profesor Florit, para que yo me encargue de ese asunto.

Quisiera me contestara a lo siguiente: ¿Desea Ud. la bibliografía completa de Gutiérrez Nájera?

Siento no poder decirle de antemano cuánto costará el trabajo. Como Ud. sabe, este es trabajo de detalle y que lleva tiempo. Aquí pagamos \$1.00 la hora. Si Ud. está conforme con el precio empezaremos a preparar el trabajo y se le cobrará según las horas que se lleve.

En espera de sus noticias, le saluda atentamente,


Redactor bibliográfico

México, D. F., 31 de enero de 1956.

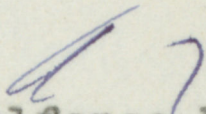
Srita. Olga Blondet,
Revista Hispánica Moderna,
Casa Hispánica, Columbia University,
435 West 117th Street,
New York 27, N. Y.
U. S. A.

Muy distinguida señorita:

Por especiales circunstancias, hemos aplazado el trabajo sobre la bibliografía de Gutiérrez Nájera. Mucho agradezco a usted los informes de su carta del 26 de enero, y los tendremos en cuenta si es que renovamos el proyecto.

La saluda muy atentamente

El Presidente del
Colegio de México


Alfonso Reyes

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

January 28, 1956

Dr. Alfonso Reyes,
El Colegio de México,
México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I acknowledge with pleasure your very kind letter of January 19, regarding the possibility of my contributing to the series of texts published by the Fondo de Cultura Económica two items: 1) a bibliography of Gutiérrez Nájera, including not only his own writings but critical material regarding him and 2) an extensive anthology of the works of Gutiérrez Nájera, of some 600 to 700 printed in-quarto pages, together with some 40 or 50 typed pages of introductory material.

I am very glad to accept the assignment, and shall do my best to do the work in a way which is acceptable to you and others on the staff of the Fondo de Cultura Económica. I have conferred with the university authorities here regarding typing and other expenses connected with the preparation of the manuscript, and am told that I will be given a grant sufficient to cover all such items.

In order that we may have as clear an understanding as possible regarding the two books to be prepared, I should like to ask for certain information.

Will you kindly send me a copy of the book on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, which you mention, which I may use more or less as a model for my own work? We do not have that particular book in our libraries here. It will also be a guide to me as regards the number of words to the page etc.

Do you wish the bibliography to include only printed books, that is, material already edited, or do you wish me to include ~~which~~ ^{material} exists at present only in the files of the periodicals in which it originally appeared? As you know, I contributed to the Revista Hispánica Moderna, of New York, in 1953, what I called a "Bibliografía Periodística de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera," which even in the very compact form in which it there appears, covers over forty large pages. If I add critical material on our poet which is similarly unedited such a bibliography will be considerably longer. If I do include such unedited material, would you wish me to give, as I do in the Revista Hispánica Moderna, the signature used, the name of the periodical and the date? In the bibliography to which I have just referred the material is arranged according to the periodical in which it appeared. Would it be desirable, in

the bibliography which you now wish me to prepare, to use a different arrangement, placing poetry, short stories, crónicas and so on under separate headings?

As regards the anthology, I understand you wish me to include what I regard as the author's best work, whether it has already appeared in book form or not. I further understand that this volume is intended for the general reading public, and not specifically for scholars. For that reason I should suppose you would not want critical studies by our author on literature, music, art etc. Critical studies on literature are very numerous in his work as it appeared in periodicals.

Will it be desirable to provide explanatory notes, to be placed at the end of the volume, covering such matters as when the item first appeared in a periodical, its subsequent appearances in periodicals or in book form, explanations of obscure references, etc.? I have already accumulated such data on the author's short stories, and find that in some cases a given story appeared as much as half a dozen times, in somewhat varying forms and under different pseudonyms, in periodicals, before it appeared at all in book form, and then was edited half a dozen times or so, sometimes with considerable changes in the text. I have the data, for that matter, for "critical" texts of much of the material, but as I have said, in a book for the general reader such minutiae would probably not be desirable. It goes without saying that notes, introductory material etc will be in Spanish, and I trust correct Spanish. As you perhaps know, I have a native Spanish son-in-law, Professor Juan López-Morillas of Brown University, and he will willingly check over my Spanish before it is typed.

I think of nothing more for the moment. I should say that my wife and I expect to leave Iowa City for Mesa, Arizona, for several weeks' vacation before I take up this and other work. My address beginning about February 9 will be General Delivery, Mesa, Arizona.

Thanking you for your thought of me in connection with these studies, I am,

Very cordially yours,

E. K. Mapes

E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.,
Iowa City, Iowa, U. S. A.

México, D. F., 31 de enero de 1956.

Sr. E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.
Iowa City, Iowa,
U. S. A.

Mi muy estimado señor Mapes:

Agradezco mucho su carta del 28 del actual, y ya ruego al Fondo de Cultura Económica que se comuniquen con usted directamente para la posible antología con prólogo de Gutiérrez Nájera, dándole todos los datos y enviándole libros publicados en la misma colección, como la Sor Juana, que puede servir de modelo. Este asunto en adelante lo tratarán ellos directamente con usted, pues escapa a mi jurisdicción.

En cuanto a la bibliografía de Gutiérrez Nájera para el Colegio, creo entender que usted está conforme en que sean dos partes, una relativa a escritos de Gutiérrez Nájera, y otra relativa a escritos acerca de Gutiérrez Nájera.

En la primera creemos que sí convendría incluir materiales que sólo se encuentran en revistas, además de los libros y publicaciones más formales, pues deseamos una bibliografía lo más completa posible. Como usted ha publicado ya su bibliografía periodística de Gutiérrez Nájera en la Revista Hispánica Moderna creemos que esto le será a usted relativamente fácil. Las fichas, desde luego, pueden ir en la misma forma que tienen en aquella revista: signatures, fecha, etc. Sólo hay que añadir lo relativo a publicaciones en forma no periodística (libros, etc.) para completar así la primera parte de la bibliografía.

Aunque esta primera parte podría presentarse con un simple procedimiento de despojar uno a uno los periódicos o revistas, consideramos preferible el orden cronológico o bien el orden de materias (poesías, crónicas, cuentos, etc.). Entre estos dos métodos es usted quien debe elegir el que le parezca el más adecuado. En todo caso, será necesario hacer, por ejemplo en el caso de los cuentos publicados en versiones sucesivas en distintos lugares, las referencias de un número a otro, hasta llegar quizá al libro en que tienen su versión definitiva. Pero en esto, como por lo demás en todo, nos sometemos al criterio de usted.

En cuanto a la segunda parte de la bibliografía (acerca de Gutiérrez Nájera) también puede usted elegir dos formas: ya el orden alfabético de nombres de críticos o ya el orden cronológico, a su mejor parecer, y creemos que esta segunda parte de la bibliografía se debe dejar para después de haber

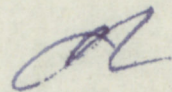
completado la primera.

Sería muy conveniente que usted se decidiera a incluir también, sea en prólogo, apéndice o como le parezca, su estudio sobre los distintos seudónimos de Gutiérrez Nájera.

Espero su opinión sobre todos estos extremos, y espero que el Fondo conteste a usted a la mayor brevedad sobre todos los demás puntos de su amable carta.

Entretanto, nos felicitamos mucho de la importantísima cooperación en perspectiva, y por mi parte le ruego me mande en lo que pueda servirle. Cordialmente suyo.

El Presidente del
Colegio de México



Alfonso Reyes

P.D.- Nos impresionó muy agradablemente que aquella Universidad le haya facilitado a usted los medios mecánicos para estos posibles trabajos.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Winter Garden Court,
Mesa, Arizona,
February 24, 1956

Dr. Alfonso Reyes, President,
El Colegio de México,
México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I have been delaying a reply to your kind letter of January 31, hoping from day to day to receive a letter from the Fondo de Cultura Económica with details regarding the proposed anthology of the works of Gutiérrez Nájera. It may be that my absence from Iowa City for the last several weeks, on vacation here in Arizona, has caused their letter to go astray, though I left careful forwarding orders at the post office in Iowa City. I expect to remain in Arizona, and presumably here at Winter Garden Court, until perhaps the middle of March, when I will return to Iowa City and at once begin work on the bibliography which you desire and the anthology for the Fondo de Cultura Económica. I had been working so long without a vacation that I was badly in need of a rest.

I am heartily in agreement with what you suggest with regard to the content and arrangement of the material of the bibliography. Like you, I think that the bibliography should by all means contain the periodical bibliography which I published in the Revista Hispánica Moderna, in addition to material in book form. In fact, since I will now be working over, more intensively, the microfilm material from which I secured the data for the Revista, I may be able to amplify it to some extent. As to arrangement, I agree with you that arrangement by classes of material (poetry, chronicles, short stories, and so on), is better than the arrangement by titles of periodicals which I used in the Revista. I also agree that it will be desirable to number the various entries, so that in the case of stories and chronicles which were published a number of times in periodicals and collections it will be possible to indicate the complete history of any given composition. I also think it desirable, as you indicate, to republish, along with the bibliography, the study on pseudonyms which also appeared in the Revista. In that case also, I may be able to make some additions and corrections as I work more intensively with the microfilms.

As you say, I think it will be desirable to complete the first part of the bibliography (on the writings of Gutiérrez Nájera) before taking up the second part (critical material regarding him). I am inclined to think that in this case the chronological arrangement will be preferable, for that would enable us to follow, step by step, the development of

Gutiérrez Nájera as a writer. However, this point will become clearer as the first part of the bibliography approaches completion. As I have said, there is a great deal of critical material on our author in the microfilm, running back to his very early writings.

Thanking you again for your very informative letter, and with most cordial personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

E. K. Mapes

E. K. Mapes,
Winter Garden Court,
Mesa, Arizona, U. S. A.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

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August 6, 1957

Dr. Alfonso Reyes, President,
El Colegio de México,
Durango, 93,
México 7, D. F.

Thank you very much for your cordial note of July 27, indicating that the situation with regard to the Nájera bibliography is satisfactory to you.

A new element with regard to the bibliography has appeared within the last several weeks. Mrs. Virginia Gómez de Baños, who you doubtless know, and whom I met in Mexico some years ago, recently wrote me to say that she has been working for some months on a bibliography of Nájera. She did not know at that time that I was preparing one, and wished suggestions from me with regard to periodicals which I do not mention in my bibliography in the Revista Hispánica Moderna. It seems to both of us that we might, with profit to the project, collaborate. Is it satisfactory to you for us to do so? Her outline, as she has given it to me, is quite similar to mine, but it is hardly possible that she has access to the periodical material I have on film, unless she looks it up in the files of the periodicals in the Hemeroteca. She says she expects to spend the month of August in Mexico City, and I think she would have time to check the lacunae in my published bibliography, to see if she can fill in gaps. Her help would also be valuable in finding books and articles on Nájera published in Mexico in recent years. I am thinking particularly of theses prepared recently in Mexico.

May I ask a particular favor? Since I am hoping to publish several volumes of unedited Nájera material, I am applying for a grant-in-aid from the American Council of Learned Societies, chiefly to defray the expenses of typing the material from the microfilm and retyping it after it has been edited. The rules governing the application require that I submit the names of four persons who know me and know the nature of the project. May I present your name? the rules also require that I send to each sponsor full information with regard to the project. To save time, I am enclosing a statement of that kind in the present letter. Please pardon me if it seems unnecessarily detailed--I have to obey the rules. If you are willing to act in that capacity, I will send you the blanks furnished me by the Council, and shall be most grateful.

My best wishes for a pleasant vacation in the country. Since I already had a vacation in the latter part of the winter, I expect to be in Iowa City the rest of the summer.

Very cordially yours,

E. K. Mapes

300 McLean St
Iowa City, Iowa
U. S. A.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

August 29, 1957

Dr. Alfonso Reyes, President,
El Colegio de México.
México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I find on consulting my letter of August 6, about the proposed grant-in-aid from the American Council of Learned Societies, that I failed to mention anything about a time limit. In order that it may be acted upon at the first meeting of the committee, in October of this year, all documents connected with my application must reach Washington not later than September 15. It is highly desirable to be considered at the first meeting of the committee, for in that way one has a better chance of success.

For the moment, all I need to know is whether or not you are willing to write a short letter to the committee endorsing my application. If you consent I will send you at once the formal blanks furnished by the Council, on which they wish recommendations to be written.

I shall be most grateful if you can find it possible to endorse my application, and if the necessary documents can reach Washington by September 15.

With cordial personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

E. K. Mapes

E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.,
Iowa City, Iowa, U. S. A.

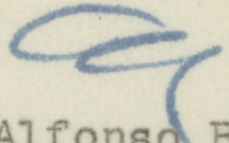
México, D. F., 31 de agosto de 1957.

Sr. Prof. E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.
Iowa City, Iowa,
U. S. A.

Mi muy estimado Profesor Mapes:

Estoy enteramente de acuerdo con su grata del 29 de agosto, de modo que puede usted mandarme las fórmulas para que apoye su solicitud ante el American Council of Learned Societies en los términos que usted me indica. Como es posible que tenga yo que alejarme un poco de mi trabajo por causa de salud durante unos días, ya doy todas las instrucciones del caso al Lic. Manuel Calvillo, a quien puede usted dirigirse al efecto.

Muy suyo y agradecido


Alfonso Reyes.
Presidente

AR/ja.

México, 31 de agosto de 1957.

Sr. D. Manuel Calvillo.

El Profesor Mapes de State University of Iowa, Iowa City, nos va a mandar una bibliografía cabal de Gutiérrez Nájera, sobre la cual ha trabajado durante muchos años. Es un profesor viejo y emérito. En la carta cuya respuesta le mostrará a usted Juan le digo que estamos de acuerdo en apoyar su solicitud para una ayuda a la American Council of Learned Societies, y que nos mande las fórmulas que hemos de llenar al efecto. Le ruego a usted que, a la vista de todos los antecedentes de este asunto, que tiene Juan en la secretaría del Colegio, consulte, llegado el caso, la redacción en inglés para el American Council con don Daniel Cosío Villegas, dándole las gracias de mi parte y explicándole de lo que se trata. Le doy esta molestia porque temo que por algún tiempo voy a alejarme del despacho. Gracias.

Alfonso Reyes.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

September 3, 1957

President Alfonso Reyes,
El Colegio de México,
México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

Thank you very much for your willingness to support my application for a grant-in-aid. Your endorsement will be of extreme value to the committee. As per your instructions, I am sending the blanks to Licenciado Manuel Calvillo, Secretary of the Colegio.

Very cordially yours,

E. K. Mapes
E. K. Mapes

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

September 3, 1957

Licenciado Manuel Calvillo, Secretary,
El Colegio de México, México, D. F.

Dear Lic. Calvillo:

ojo! I have just received from Dr. Alfonso Reyes the assurance that he will send a letter to the American Council of Learned Societies in support of my application to the Council for a grant-in-aid, in order to carry on my project of editing certain works of Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera. Since Dr. Reyes himself expects to be absent from the Colegio for some days, for health reasons, he instructs me to communicate directly with you regarding the matter. I am enclosing the blanks supplied by the Council, on which they wish the letter to be written. ~~XX~~ If you prefer to write it in Spanish I am sure it will be acceptable to the Council. ~~XX~~

I am most grateful to you and to Dr. Reyes for this very great favor.

Very cordially yours,

E. K. Mapes

E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean St.,
Iowa City, Iowa, U. S. A.

REGARDING THE PUBLICATION OF UNEDITED WORKS OF
MANUEL GUTIERREZ NAJERA

I am one of the earliest North American students of Modernism, my doctoral thesis at the University of Paris, l'Influence française dans l'oeuvre de Rubén Darío, having been published in 1925. Since that time I have published two books concerned with Darío: Escritos inéditos de Rubén Darío, New York, 1938, and Obras escogidas de Rubén Darío publicadas en Chile (with Julio Saavedra Molina), Santiago de Chile, 1939. During the 1930s and early 1940s I also published several articles on Darío, among them "Los primeros sonetos alejandrinos de Rubén Darío," in the Revista Hispánica Moderna, New York, July 1935 and "Innovación e influencia francesa en la métrica de Rubén Darío," in the same journal, January 1940.

In the 1930s I began serious study of Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, being convinced that not only the high quality of his work, but his priority in time, gave him a unique importance in the Modernist group. He was not only one of the earliest born of the precursors of Modernism, but began to write at a phenomenally early age. His first known piece of literary work, a critical article published over a pseudonym in 1875 at the age of 15, was so excellent that competent Mexican critics supposed it to be the work of some mature scholar. This publication, followed soon after by others of increasingly high quality, places his literary beginnings about ten years earlier than those of Darío, whose first significant publications date from

about 1885. Nájera's entire output, which included, among other literary types, poetry, the short story, literary criticism, the philosophical essay and costumbrista sketches, is incredibly large, considering his short life, and of singularly high quality.

Since he was a journalist throughout his life, and lived exclusively by his pen, practically all his writings were published in Mexican periodicals almost immediately after composition. In all, he contributed to approximately forty different periodicals, more or less complete files of which are preserved in the Hemeroteca and other libraries in Mexico City and elsewhere.

Nájera himself published, during his lifetime, only one small volume containing fifteen short stories: Cuentos frágiles, 1883. Shortly after his death appeared a volume of verse and two volumes of prose, collected by the editors from the files of periodicals. Since that time a number of collections of varying size have appeared, but to a large extent they consist of reprintings from the original editions. By far the major part of his work remains unedited.

In the summer of 1936 I went to Mexico City with an apparatus for microfilming printed material, my purpose being to collect all the writings of Nájera, together with all periodical material concerned with him and with the beginnings of Modernism in Mexico. Mechanically speaking, the project was entirely feasible, as the apparatus was easily capable of

microfilming 100 "frames" (each averaging much more than an ordinary printed page of material) per hour. During the summer I copied some 20,000 "frames" of material, perhaps half of it being writings of Nájera.

I discovered immediately one reason why so small a proportion of Nájera's writings had ever been edited. No one had ever studied seriously his very extensive and capricious use of pseudonyms, and hence potential editors were unable to identify much of his material. Whereas he was generally supposed to have used about half a dozen pseudonyms, I found in the periodical material I was examining references to many more: he actually used, as later study revealed, somewhat more than twenty.

Since time did not permit an adequate on-the-spot study of the pseudonyms, I filmed all material which might serve as evidence, together with all writings presumably Nájera's, and returned to Iowa. Two years later, after assistants had indexed the films and I had adequately studied the pseudonyms, I returned to Mexico and filmed the Nájera writings which I had not before been able to recognize. Because of this rechecking I believe I now have on film practically all of the author's works.

In addition to the study of the pseudonyms, first published in 1949, I have published since the 1930s, in the field of Nájera studies, an article identifying and dating his first published writings, a large volume of his unedited prose, which had previously appeared as a series of twelve articles in the

Revista Hispánica Moderna, a smaller volume of unedited verse, which had also already appeared in the Revista, and, in the same journal in 1953, a Spanish version of my study of the pseudonyms and a tentative bibliography of all the writings of Nájera which I had collected from Mexican periodicals.

I have recently completed the manuscript of a large volume of Nájera's prose fiction: Cuentos completos y otras narraciones de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, which is now in the hands of the publishers, the Fondo de Cultura Económica of Mexico City. I am told it will go to press late in the present year. I also have in preparation a smaller volume to be entitled: Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera: Seudónimos y bibliografía completa, which I hope to complete within the next several months.

I hope, and publishers in Mexico encourage me to believe, that the two volumes just mentioned are only the beginning of a considerably longer series. It seems to me particularly desirable to edit Nájera's very extensive critical writings, for I consider him, on the basis of the unedited material I have seen, to be a far more discriminating critic than Rubén Darío. Most of this material has already been typed from the microfilm, so that the amount can be estimated with some accuracy. It will fill at least one large volume, and it is more likely that two will be required. He also wrote much costumbrista material, on Mexican manners and customs, and this material alone will fill another good-sized volume. Still

further, he is particularly effective in two types of philosophical essay, one serious, the other humorous or whimsical, and each of these types is extensive enough to fill at least a volume.

All the material in the (presumably) five volumes I have just enumerated in addition to the two already completed or nearing completion, is of "permanent" value (not depending for its interest upon day-to-day happenings of the period), and practically none of it has ever before appeared in book form. It would seem to represent the minimum of material which should find a place in the series. The remaining writings, which are voluminous, are largely ephemeral in character, written in connection with the author's duties as a society and news reporter.

I am certainly the only living person who is acquainted with all the material involved, and who has it in easily accessible form. For this reason it would seem most desirable that I get as much as possible of it into book form while I am still able to work.

E. K. Mapes

have expediente :
MAPES, Erwin Kempton

Relacionado con la solicitud presentada al American Council of Learned Societies por el Dr. Erwin Kempton Mapes, para llevar a cabo el estudio de los escritos inéditos de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, a fin de que estos puedan ser publicados y conocidos, doy a esa institución mi opinión.

Conozco la obra del Dr. Erwin Kempton Mapes de años atrás. Su tesis doctoral en la Universidad de París, La influencia francesa en la obra de Rubén Darío, de 1925, es un estudio estimable en alto grado. Las diversas investigaciones del Dr. Mapes sobre el Modernismo iberoamericano son de siempre utilísima consulta.

Los numerosos estudios publicados por el Dr. Mapes en la Revista Hispánica Moderna sobre los Cuentos completos y otras narraciones de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, son de un particular y singular interés, ya que Gutiérrez Nájera siempre ha sido considerado como uno de los nombres ilustres en el nacimiento del

Modernismo iberoamericano, y los estudios e investigaciones del Dr. Mapes lo sitúan más exactamente como uno de los más importantes fundadores del movimiento modernista. La singular importancia de las investigaciones del Dr. Mapes radica en el hecho de que una gran parte de la obra de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera es desconocida, por conservarse tan sólo en los periódicos y revistas en que se publicó originalmente. Esta obra desconocida en casi la totalidad de las veces la firmaba el autor con seudónimos diversos. El Dr. Mapes ha investigado acuciosa y eruditamente los seudónimos de Gutiérrez Nájera, previa identificación y análisis de sus escritos. Parte de esta investigación fue dada a conocer por el autor en 1949. Una casa editorial mexicana tiene en su poder para publicar un volumen preparado por el Dr. Mapes titulado Cuentos completos y otras narraciones de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera.

De tiempo atrás, por las relaciones literarias mantenidas con el Dr. Mapes, sé que se ocupa en la investigación completa sobre los seudónimos y la bibliografía de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera. El resultado de tan interesante estudio, que cubre mucho material inédito, podría dar varios volúmenes de Gutiérrez Nájera.

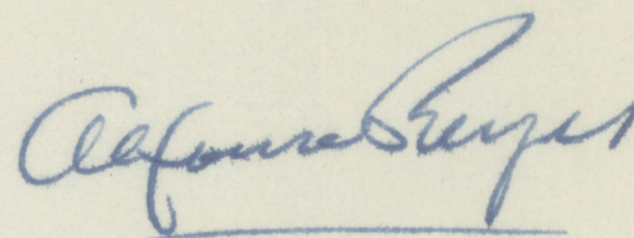
El estudio y la investigación de la obra de Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, sólo parcialmente conocida hasta la fecha, servirá para apreciar no sólo la importancia de uno de los más representativos autores en el Modernismo iberoamericano, sino los caracteres de este movimiento en el que tan relevante papel tuvo Gutiérrez Nájera.

Mi opinión sobre el programa de investigación y estudio, ya realizado en gran parte, por el Dr. Mapes, no puede ser más favorable, considerando que el Dr. Mapes es una de las personas

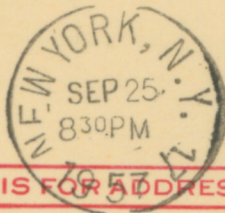
más calificadas para llevarlo a cabo, y, desde luego, quizá la única persona que dispone del material ya clasificado para hacer posible la realización del proyecto.

Mis relaciones con el Dr. Mapes, de quien tengo la mejor opinión como investigador y hombre estudioso, han sido en lo personal esporádicas, por vivir en países diferentes, pero en lo literario mi atención a sus investigaciones ha sido constante y provechosa.

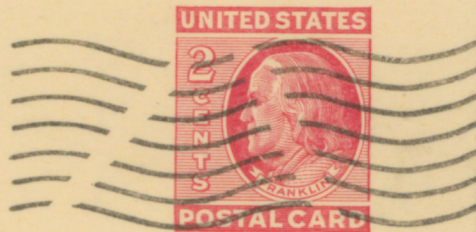
México, D. F., 10 de septiembre de 1957.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Alfonso Reyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

M



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Dr. Alfonso Reyes
President, Colegio de México
Durango, 93
México, D. F.
México

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

345 EAST 46TH STREET

NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

The Committee on Research Fellowships and Grants wishes to thank
you for your assistance in connection with the application of

ERWIN KEMPTON MAPES ✓

Your letter of evaluation will be of great help to the Committee in
reaching its decision.

Mapes

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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

January 17, 1958

Dr. Alfonso Reyes, President,
El Colegio de México,
Durango, 93, México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I am glad to report that at long last the manuscript of "Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera: Seudónimos y bibliografía" is completed: the typist is just finishing the last pages. I am tempted to send it on at once for your inspection, but with your permission I will hold it for a short time longer for a reason I am about to explain.

My microfilm materials were collected in Mexico a number of years ago, and at that time the files of several periodicals which are important in the career of Gutiérrez Nájera, among others El Siglo Diecinueve, El Cronista de México and El Republicano, were not available in complete form in the Hemeroteca. Friends who have worked in the Hemeroteca more recently than I tell me that the files are now much more complete and better catalogued. My good friend Carrasco Puente showed me, when I was working in the Hemeroteca in the 1930s, whole rooms full of unbound files of periodicals, just bound up in bundles, no doubt for lack of library personnel to bind and catalogue them. I judge, as I say from reports of friends, that much of this material has now been made available for research. I know from these reports that a considerable amount of Nájera material exists in these "new" files: perhaps 100 to 200 items, and I should like, if possible, to add it to the manuscript of the "Seudónimos y bibliografía" before it is finally sent to you.

As you know, I am retired, but according to the custom of this university I do some teaching the first semester of each year. My duties end early in February, and my wife and I have formed the habit of taking a winter vacation, in the southern part of the U. S., in February and March. Two years ago we were in Arizona, and last year in Texas, Florida etc. We have concluded that this year we might well vacation in Mexico, and at the same time collect the additional Nájera material which has become available. With this in mind, we expect to fly to Mexico City some time in February, and spend several weeks, or whatever time is necessary, in the Hemeroteca. As I have said, the new items on Nájera will not be so very numerous, and can be typed into the present manuscript, for the most part, without the necessity of retyping very many pages. This being the case, I should think it wise to incur a further delay of a few weeks, in order that the bibliography may be more complete. With your permission, then, I will hold the

(over)

manuscript until I can add the new items, and meanwhile can enjoy the superb climate of Mexico City and the excellent society of my many Mexican friends. I understand that the city has grown enormously since I was there, and that there are now many "skyscrapers," in the North American sense, which they used to tell us could not be built because of the absence of "bed rock." The engineering problems involved in the building of such a structure, under the local conditions, must have been stupendous.

With highest personal regards, I am,

Very cordially yours,

E. K. Mapes

E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean Street,
Iowa City, Iowa

As you know, I am retired, but according to the custom of this university I do some teaching the first semester of each year. My duties end early in February, and my wife and I have formed the habit of taking a winter vacation, in the southern part of the U. S., in February and March. Two years ago we were in Arizona, and last year in Texas, Florida etc. We have concluded that this year we might well vacation in Mexico, and at the same time collect the additional letters material which has become available. With this in mind, we expect to fly to Mexico City some time in February, and spend several weeks, or whatever time is necessary, in the Hemetotepec. As I have said, the new items on letters will not be so very numerous, and can be typed into the present manuscript for the most part, without the necessity of retyping very many pages. This being the case, I should think it wise to incur a further delay of a few weeks, in order that the bibliography may be more complete. With your permission, then, I will hold the

México, D. F., 22 de enero de 1958.

Prof. E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean Street,
Iowa City, Iowa,
U. S. A.

Mi querido amigo:

Con sumo contento recibo y leo su carta del 17 del actual, y me preparo a tener el gusto de saludar a su señora y a usted hacia el próximo febrero. No cuente mucho con el buen clima de México, que se ha descompuesto bastante y nos ha dado una sorpresa por el frío extremo. Febrero y marzo son además meses incómodos por los vientos y polvaredas.

Encantado de saber que está usted dando ya la última mano a su trabajo sobre Gutiérrez Nájera y que lo completará durante su permanencia en México con los periódicos de nuestra Hemeroteca Nacional.

Entretanto, reciba usted el más afectuoso saludo de su admirador y amigo

Alfonso Reyes.

El Presidente

Marzo 8 de 1958.

Mi querido Antonio:

Lo que quiero es saber si en la bibliografía de Mapes constan ya los artículos que le mandé a usted a última hora y que le vuelvo a enviar, por si tiene usted que escribirle a este señor. En todo caso, le ruego que me los devuelva. Gracias.

Alfonso Reyes.

A Mejía, que habló con Mapes, le consta perfectamente que estos artículos aparecen en su Bibliografía.

Alatorre

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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Dear Dr. Reyes.

I am very sorry not to have seen you before returning to the U. S. Because there remains considerable work to be done on the two books pending publication in Mexico, I feel I must return as soon as possible to my office where I have the rest of my data.

As you suggested I visited the office of the Colegio and showed the manuscript to the secretary. Since I wish to make certain changes before I consider it in final form. I did not leave it with him.

My wife and I greatly appreciate your cordial
greetings and deeply regret not meeting you
and your wife personally.

Very sincerely yours,
E. K. Naples.

March the fifth.
Mexico. D. F.

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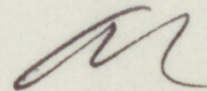
México, D. F., 24 de marzo de 1958.

Prof. E. K. Mapes,
The State University of Iowa,
Iowa City,
U. S. A.

Muy fino señor y amigo:

Siento que mi salud me haya impedido trasladarme a México durante el paso de usted y Mrs. Mapes por esta ciudad. Siempre quedo a sus órdenes, siempre puede usted disponer de sus amigos del Colegio de México y siempre será bien venido el texto de su trabajo, cuando usted lo juzgue oportuno.

Muy cordialmente suyo.



Alfonso Reyes.

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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

April 12, 1958

Dr. Alfonso Reyes, President,
El Colegio de México,
México, D. F.

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I am sending you today by registered mail, in two packages, the completed manuscript of Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera: Seudónimos y bibliografía, which I hope will reach you promptly and in good condition. If it does not, please notify me.

It is of course inevitable, in a piece of work involving thousands of items, that there should be errors and omissions. I shall be most grateful if you, or the staff at the Colegio, will make any additions or corrections which may seem to you necessary, for I am anxious to have the work as complete and correct as possible. In this connection, since I do not write Spanish as a native, please observe and correct any errors in the form of titles, dates, explanations etc.

I was extremely sorry to miss seeing you before we left Mexico, but since our flight back to Chicago was already arranged for we had to leave at the day set. It is quite probable, however, that I will be in Mexico again in the fairly near future. As you presumably know, the bureau of publications and the literature department of the University have asked me to collaborate in getting out a centennial edition of the works of Gutiérrez Nájera, and it is quite possible that I shall need to return to Mexico in connection with that work. I am looking forward to the work with a great deal of pleasure, as I consider Nájera one of the greatest of Spanish American writers, in addition to the position he occupies as one of the principal precursors of the Modernist movement.

With cordial personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

E. K. Mapes
E. K. Mapes,
300 McLean Street,
Iowa City, Iowa

P. S. Please pardon the appearance of some of the pages of the manuscript, due to my having inserted material secured during my recent visit to Mexico. I believe all the material is clear and legible.

E. K. M.

México, D. F., 21 de abril de 1958.

Prof. E. K. Mapes, ✓
300 McLean Street,
Iowa City, Iowa,
U. S. A.

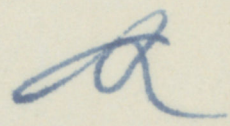
Querido y fino amigo:

Como lo anuncia su grata carta del 12 de abril, acaba de llegarme, sin novedad y en dos paquetes, su manuscrito Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera: Seudónimos y bibliografía. Ya lo he puesto en manos del Director de nuestra sección filológica, don Antonio Alatorre, quien en su oportunidad se comunicará con usted para cuanto se ofrezca. Ya le hago notar las palabras de la grata carta de usted: "In this connection, since I do not write Spanish as a native, please observe and correct any errors in the form of titles, dates, explanations etc."

Espero el placer de verlo alguna vez en México, ya que en la ocasión anterior no pudo ser.

Me complace mucho saber que está usted en tratos con la Universidad, según me lo ha confirmado don Henrique González Casanova, para una edición de las obras de Gutiérrez Nájera, que tanto estudio y amor merece por parte nuestra.

Queda siempre a sus órdenes su agradecido amigo y atto.
s. s.


Alfonso Reyes
Presidente

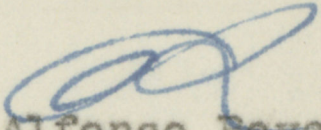
México, D. F., 21 de abril de 1958.

Sr. D. Antonio Alatorre,
P r e s e n t e .

Querido Antonio:

Aquí tiene usted en dos paquetes la monografía de E. K. Mapes (300 McLean Street, Iowa City, Iowa, U. S. A.), Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera: Seudónimos y bibliografía. Excuso decirle a usted que considero de urgencia esta publicación, tanto más cuanto que Mapes está en tratos con la Universidad a la que piensa enviar gran parte de las obras mismas de Gutiérrez Nájera por él preparadas.

Cualquier cosa que se le ofrezca al respecto, favor de decírmela. Saludos.


Alfonso Reyes.

AR/ja.

Dear Doctor Reyes:

I have had so much difficulty reaching you by telephone that I am writing you this note. I am residing at the Guardiola Hotel, Madero 5 and will be at that address until the late evening of the 5th of March. I have no fixed schedule and am therefore at your disposal at any time. Will you please drop me a note indicating the time and place where I may meet you? I have with me the manuscript of the bibliography.

With warm personal greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours.

E. H. Maples.

February, the twenty-sixth.

Hotel Guardiola

D. Antonio Alatorre: le puego
telefonar (near?) a este señor y re-
cibirlo examinar con él el docu-
mento. Me están operando la boca.
No puedo aún volver. Gracias
Alfonso Reyes