

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

ERNEST R. MAY, *Chairman*
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17 SUMNER ROAD
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASS.

February 8, 1965

Dr. Cosío Villegas
El Collegio de Mexico
Guanajuato 125
Mexico 7 D.F., Mexico

Dear Dr. Cosío Villegas:

I am writing to inquire whether you could possibly be tempted to come to Harvard for a term or a year in 1965-1966 or 1966-1967 as a visiting professor of history.

Our academic year is divided into a fall term and spring term. The fall term runs from mid-September to mid-January, the spring term from early February to early June. The fall term in 1965-1966 begins on September 27, the spring term on February 7; the year ends on June 16, 1966. In 1966-1967 the fall term begins on September 26, the spring term on February 6, and the year ends on June 15, 1967. Because we have a reading period and examination period at the end of each term, a visiting professor would have to be in residence only from late September through December in the fall term or February through early May in the spring term.

24
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If you could come, we would hope that you might offer either a course of lectures open to all students or a seminar or discussion course open only to a select group of specialists. A lecture course normally involves two or three one-hour lectures a week for twelve weeks. You could lecture in English or Spanish as you preferred. A seminar or discussion course normally meets for two hours once a week. We would not expect you to offer more than one lecture course or seminar or discussion course during any one term, but you could offer both if you wished.

In either a lecture course or a seminar or discussion course, the subject could be as broad or as narrow as you desired. A course might deal with all of Mexican history, some topic running through all of Mexican history, as, for example, the history of Mexican foreign relations. It could deal with a short period of time or a subject such as the Mexican Revolution. In short, you would be free to lecture, lead discussion, or direct research on whatever topics happen to be of most interest to you at the moment. We would have to have a course title to print in our catalogue, but, if you wanted to make up your mind later, the printed title could be something like "Aspects of Modern Mexican History."

We could offer you \$10,000 for a term or \$20,000 for a year. Some of this could be treated as an allowance for travel or living expenses, on whatever basis would be most advantageous in terms of taxes.

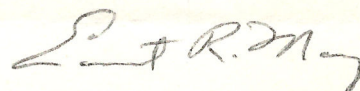
Dr. Cosío Villegas

page 2

February 8, 1965

Both the Committee on Latin American Studies and the Department of History hope very much that you may find it possible to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. R. May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ernest R. May
Professor of History

Mexico, D.F., February 17, 1965.

Prof. Ernest R. May
17 Summer Road
Cambridge 38, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Professor May:

May I acknowledge your kind letter of February 8th, received yesterday. As I am leaving Mexico City for Austin, Texas, in a week or so, I rather answer it now, although under other circumstances I certainly would have preferred to give more time to your flattering invitation.

You may be sure that the idea of lecturing at your University attracts me very much, among other reasons, because I consider Harvard as my second Alma Mater. (I was there as a student many years ago.) Then, I studied at Harvard at a moment in which I really needed inspiration and guidance to embark myself in what was at the time a new career. Finally, although I have traveled in the States, especially in the East, at least one hundred times, I have been at Cambridge only once since I left the University.

I am afraid, however, that I shall have a most complicated schedule during the next three years. In spite of this uncertainty, I would like to make some progress commenting on certain points of your letter.

In the first place, I could not even consider going to Harvard before the fall term of 1966-67, under the understanding that I would be at Cambridge from, let us say, September 20th until the beginning of the Christmas vacation. Then, I would not dare to offer 24 or 36 lectures in English. As to the nature of the course, perhaps you may consider an intermediate solution. A course primarily for graduate students willing to do extensive readings and, let us say, one research paper. Such a Seminar, however, could be preceded by some ten lectures open to other students than the members of the seminar. Finally I would like to have your reaction not only on the title of the course but on its substance: "Mexico in the Twentieth Century".

Now, we come to the delicate matter of finances. I certainly would like to have as precise a figure as possible after taxes, because the other one is purely theoretical, as I discovered since the

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first time I lectured at an American University. Then I would appreciate if you could give me an idea of the cost of living at Cambridge nowadays. The University, for instance, has apartments for visiting professors or perhaps for married graduate students? Otherwise, what could be the rent in a residencial hotel, if any, or an apartment for Mrs. Cosío and myself?

I shall be at Texas University all next March. If you care, you may write to:

Texas University
Institute of Latin American Studies
Austin 12, Tex.

Thanking you again,

Yours sincerely

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-