

Paris, 30 December, 1931.

Mr. Angel Flores

Sir,

I have just seen in New York Herald Tribune Books of November 29 your article about my book CAGLIOSTRO, translated into English by Mr. Warre B. Wells, under the title MIRROR OF A MAGE. I very much appreciate the warm praise you are good enough to accord my work. At the same time, I feel bound to correct two passages where you are in error in referring to an alleged change of date in one of my books and to the origin of "Creationism". I can only assume that these references are based upon misleading or interested sources of information which have lead you astray, and I must appeal to your sense of chivalry and honesty as a writer to publish my rectifications.

1. It is absolutely false that I ever antedated a plaguette of poems. I suppose you refer to EL ESPEJO DE AGUA, which is the only plaguette of the sort published by me and which contains, not six poems, as you say, but ten, proving you have never read it.

This plaguette was printed at the date which it bears, 1916, and formed the first or the second volume in the collection ORION. The first three poems included, ARTE POETICA, EL HOMBRE TRISTE and EL HOMBRE ALEGRE were read by me, with a fragment of my poem ADAM, at the conclusion of my lecture on "The New Poetry", June, 1916, at the Ateneo Hispano-Americano, of Buenos Ayres. And these poems were heard by more than 200 persons, among whom I recall the Argentine writer Carlos Muzio Saens Pena, editor of the journal EL MUNDO, of

Buenos Ayres, and the poet Felix de Amado. Both of these you may call on for confirmation. Also I can give you the names of two Chilean writers who were familiar with the poems contained in EL ESPEJO DE AGUA, well in advance of the lecture. They are Tomas Chazal and Roberto Suarez, today Chilean Consul at Milan.

I repeat that the above plaquette was published at the date which it bears and, since you affirm the contrary, I have the right to ask you to furnish your proofs or to indicate the source of the information which permits you to bring against me what I consider so grave a charge. You will appreciate that it is not possible to make such an accusation without being in a position to substantiate it.

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I am not above a practical joke now and then, in matters of ~~no~~ importance, but never when it comes to the basic affairs of my life. I do not believe that the Dadaist or journalistic pleasantries of our early youth give any one the right to presume us capable of more serious mystifications.

2. The term "Creationism" was applied to my poetry well in advance of my coming to France, whereas, neither before nor after, has it ever been applied by any French critic to Mr. Reverdy. I challenge any one to show me a single article by a French or German writer (who alone have taken the new poetry seriously), in which is applied to that poet the designation "Creationist", ^{reserved} ~~applied~~ by them ~~for me~~. This designation was given to Mr. Reverdy, for the first time, in 1918 and uniquely by two minor Spanish writers, my enemies, who sought, in every way, to create a confusion. They would have given their lives to prove that "Creationism" had issued from the

head of a Chinaman, or of a Turk, rather than from mine

It is curious to observe that, several months later, these two gentlemen revealed their hand. One of them in Spain, the other in South America, launched their own little "school", which was merely a clumsy plagiarism of "Creationism". They desired, at any price, to be leaders of a "school", something which has never interested me in the slightest. It is not my fault if they failed and no one ever took them seriously.

Pray do not attempt to find in what I have said the least vanity. In the course of my life, I have sufficiently meditated on human littleness not to fall into such a vice. I have never believed that the earth's axis passed through my own breast.

I am, Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

Nicolas Huidobro