



W. G. Miller

In "Constatum" (Published by a group of professors who disagree with the last let explanation of the faculty) "Two Aspects of Words" Nov. 62.  
 In "Comentarios" (Published by the Instituto Brasileiro de Cultura e Dialectologia) "Waiting for Kake", to be published in Jan. 63.  
 The first results of these investigations will be published by Editora Helder under the title "Language and Reality" early next year. The manuscript has been read by the "official" Brazilian extensionalist philosopher, Prof. Alceu to Kozelski de Silva, and has been hailed as a "crucial event in Brazilian philo-  
 sophic letters". I say this to show that my wish to come to the States, at least for a few years, is not the result of personal frustration.  
 My frustration is a social one; I am unable to submit to the prevailing spirit at the State and the Pontifical faculties. I feel that my work would be both more fertile and more effective in the independent atmosphere of a University in the United States.  
 Mr. DeLuz tells me that your institutions are "extremely degree conscious". I hold no degree, having left my home, France, when it was occupied by the Nazis, at the age of twenty. My studies have, therefore, been private. Do you believe that there is a possibility of my working in one of your Universities in the sense outlined above, in spite of this? That I want to contact with your intellectuals, and the possibility to teach, write and publish. That I need a minimum to maintain a decent standard of living. If you think this reasonable, please write me and I shall be very grateful for any suggestion.  
 Mr. DeLuz suggested that I send you a translation of some of my publications. I shall gladly do so, if you wish. I think the titles will give you a general idea of the field of my work.  
 I should add that I speak several languages, (Portuguese, English, Czech, German, French etc.) but that my philosophical background is mostly German and English. The works that influenced me most are "Principles of Mathematics" by Godel, "Logico-Philosophicus" by Wittgenstein, "Sein und Zeit" and the "Metaphysics" of Heidegger. I tell you this, so that you may place me, within the frame of present thought.

Please excuse me for writing almost exclusively about myself. This cannot be helped in such a letter.  
 Looking forward with great interest to your reply, I am,  
 sincerely yours

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AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION SERVICE: VACANCIES AND AVAILABLE PERSONNEL

Whitaker T. Deinger  
San Jose State College

Lionel Ruby, Chairman  
Roosevelt University  
Chicago 5, Illinois

William H. Leue  
State University of New York  
College at Albany

Dec. 18, 1962

Mr. Villem Flusser:  
S. Paulo Brazil

Dear Mr. Flusser:

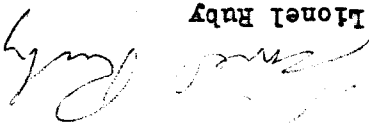
I am sorry that I have delayed answering your letter of November 2. I feel that you have something to contribute to the philosophical community and would like to help you in any way I can. But the difficulties are apparently very great, as I have discovered by making inquiries.

I can make the following suggestions: It would be desirable if you could establish some kind of connection with the University of San Paulo so that you could have some kind of academic status. You might write to the Departments of Philosophy of the larger American universities (the American consulate should have a list) asking them about the possibility of giving you a fellowship while pursuing graduate studies. Fellowships sometimes carry a stipend of \$2000. or more. You might also ask about the possibility of an Assistantship in a graduate school, involving some teaching. The American consulate might also help you get work with the U.S. Information Service.

The Committee on Information Service has the function of notifying candidates of positions for which they have the requisite qualifications. As you note in your letter American universities are highly "degree conscious", and it would be extremely difficult for you to get a teaching position without a degree. But your writings entitle you to special consideration. Why don't you prepare a dossier of your work and send this material to the leading Departments of Philosophy?

Please let me know what your plans are, and whether there is anything further that I can do for you.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Lionel Ruby

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VILÉM FLUSSER

Rua Salvador Mendonça 76,  
-São Paulo, Brazil.

January 14, 1963.

Mr. Lionel Ruby,  
American Philosophical Association,  
Roosevelt University,  
Chicago 5, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ruby,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of December 18 and I am very sorry to note that there is practically no possibility for me within the frame of US philosophical activities. I thank you for your suggestions and should say the following:

(1) University in São Paulo: I have been appointed

"effective fellow" of the Instituto Brasileiro de Filosofia on December 20, 1962, which, in this country, is the official academic institution for philosophical activities. The number of "effective fellows" is

very low. I cannot, however, hope for a "catedra" at the University,

since none is vacant or will be in the next future. On the other hand,

I cannot apply for a doctor's degree, because, according to Brazilian

laws, I would have to pass first through primary and secondary schools,

since my certificates of "maturity" and six semesters at the Prague Uni-

versity are not recognized. On the other hand, a doctor's degree is no

use here to me, since I am fairly well known through my publications and

have been offered/teaching appointments (something like your Assistant

Professorships) repeatedly. Would my membership at the "Instituto" be

considered "academic status" in your country?

(2) Fellowship with stipend: The amount you mention is,

I understand, far too low for the maintenance of a decent standard of

living for a family of four.

(3) USIS: I do not look for work, but for a chance to

participate in the American philosophical discussion.

(4) Dossier of my work: I shall try to translate some

of my papers and shall send them to you, if you think in worth while.

Thank you again for the interest you have taken and

for any further suggestions you might be good enough to transmit.

*Vilém Flusser*

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