

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



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Còpia al Dr. Rubió

Department of Spanish & Portuguese • Direct phone 322-6930

December 4, 1988

Mr. X.L. Pellicer
101 Oglethorpe Blvd.
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Dear X,

It was very nice to speak with you the other day by telephone and to learn that you were recovering well from your recent illness. Our friend Fernando Rubió had called to tell me of the heart attack that you had suffered shortly before he left St. Augustine at the end of November. I have just written a letter to him in which I mentioned that you are doing much better now, and I am sure that he will be very glad to know of this.

On Friday of this past week I spoke with Mrs. Sallie Gillespie and Mr. Larry Sweett of New Smyrna Beach. They are extremely interested in and enthusiastic about publishing my book on the Minorcans of Florida under the auspices of the Volusia County Historical Society. Tomorrow I plan to send them a copy of the book manuscript which is 508 pages in length. Although they would like to proceed immediately with publication arrangements, they as well as I are concerned about the financial aspects of this project, as I mentioned to you the other day.

As you know, Fernando requested that I translate the original Catalan-language version of the book which won several prestigious awards this year in Spain. At that time he assured me that you and he would underwrite the basic costs of publication, which initially was to be done under the auspices of the St. Augustine Historical Society. However, when this association chose to breach to terms of the agreements made previously with me as author and with you and Fernando as sponsors, Fernando subsequently spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie as well as with Mr. Sweett concerning possible publication arrangements under the auspices of the Volusia County Historical Society. Fernando called me just before he returned to Europe and he assured me that the publication of the book would be handled with the assistance of the Gillespies and of Mr. Sweett. He also told me to contact them immediately in New Smyrna Beach so that initial preparations for the publication could be made.

When Fernando called me from St. Augustine, it was my understanding that he wished for the money granted by you and him as sponsors to continue to be applied to the project and to be transferred to the newly-chosen site (New Smyrna Beach). This also has been the understanding of William and Sallie Gillespie as well as of Larry Sweett. They as well as I were very surprised to learn that you had understood Fernando to say just the opposite, that is, that the financial commitment to the

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project would be withdrawn entirely, rather than just that made previously to the St. Augustine Historical Society. If this were to be the case, it would be very difficult, and perhaps even impossible at this point, for the book to be published. It appears, then, that there may have been some confusion or misunderstanding which I hope can be cleared up soon.

I recently sent a telegram to Fernando asking that he telephone you about his intentions regarding the financial arrangements for the book's publication. I have also written him a follow-up letter on this matter. I am sure that you and he will be able to straighten out any possible confusion that may have occurred following the actions of the St. Augustine Historical Society which obliged me to withdraw the manuscript from the Society. I know that Fernando was absolutely outraged by their actions, as were I and others. Many, many months of work have gone into the book, and I am sure that with Fernando's and your continued generous support it will be able to be published soon in Florida through the kind assistance of the Gillespies, Larry Sweett, and the Volusia County Historical Society.

With best wishes for your continued and speedy recovery,

Your friend,

Philip Rasico

cc: Dr. Fernando A. Rubió
Mr. William and Mrs. Sallie Gillespie
Mr. Lawrence Sweett



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