Querido Gregory...

The Gregory Rabassa Archive of Literary Correspondence

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Funke Literary

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Award-winning translator and literary scholar Gregory Rabassa (1922–2016) garnered praise for bringing some of the most important literature of the 20th century from Spanish and Portuguese into English with deftness and craft.

The present archive of correspondences documents Rabassa’s collaboration with three giants of the age: Julio Cortázar, Mario Vargas Llosa and Gabriel García Márquez.

Comprising a variety of autograph and typed letters and notes from Cortázar, Llosa and Marquez, as well as some carbon copies of Rabassa’s own letters sent, Querido Gregory: The Gregory Rabassa Archive of Literary Correspondence charts the development of a number of Rabassa’s most fruitful projects and presents unique insights into the life of one of the most celebrated literary translators of the past century.
In 1966, Rabassa shared the first National Book Award in Translation with Julio Cortázar, for their work on Cortázar’s novel *Hopscotch*. Rabassa went on to translate the balance of work Cortázar published in his lifetime, including the novels *62: A Model Kit* in 1968 and *A Manual for Manuel* in 1973. Rabassa had a “close and productive working relation with Cortázar, with whom he shared lifelong passions for jazz and wordplay” (Rabassa had been a cryptographer with the OSS during World War II).

The development of their relationship is seen throughout nearly five dozen typed and autograph letters in this collection by Cortázar, composed between 1964 and 1982, regarding *Hopscotch, Paradiso, 62: A Model Kit, A Manual for Manuel, A Change of Light and Other Stories*, and *A Certain Lucas*.
For Mario Vargas Llosa, who received the Nobel Prize in 2010, Rabassa translated *La casa verde* (The Green House, 1968), and *Conversacion en la catedral* (Conversation in the Cathedral, 1975).

*Present in the archive are 25 TLS and ALS from 1967–1974 largely regarding The Green House and Conversation in the Cathedral; with 22 carbon copies of Rabassa’s letters.*
Gabriel García Márquez reportedly waited three years for Rabassa to have time to translate Cien años de soledad, but his patience paid off; when One Hundred Years of Solitude appeared in 1970, Marquez declared it better than the original. Rabassa would translate Marquez’s next and final two novels. For The Autumn of the Patriarch in 1976 Rabassa received the Pen Translation Prize.

*Present here from Marquez are 14 TLS and 1 ALS from 1969-1982, regarding One Hundred Years of Solitude (9), Leaf Storm (5), and various (1); with 30 carbons of Rabassa’s letters.

Marquez’s 1982 Nobel Prize is due in no small part to the attention Rabassa’s work brought to Marquez through his English translation of the master’s works. That same year, Rabassa received the PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation.

Typed letter signed from Gabriel Garcia Marquez to Rabassa dated April 25 [1969], concerning “CIENT AÑOS”, i.e. Cien años de soledad which Rabassa would translate as One Hundred Years of Solitude
In 2001 Gregory Rabassa received the Gregory Kolovakos Award from the PEN American Center for the expansion of Hispanic Literature to an English-language audience. He received the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for the Art of the Memoir in 2006 for If This Be Treason: Translations and Its Dyscontents, a Los Angeles Times “Favorite Book of the Year” for 2005, and the National Medal of Arts in 2006.

If you are interested in learning more about Querido Gregory: The Gregory Rabassa Archive of Literary Correspondence, please contact us for more information including images of all of the items contained the collection.

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