EXPOSICIÓ EL MÓN I UN LLIBRE: DE L'ESCRIPTOR AL LECTOR
Palau Moja. Barcelona, 19/4 - 23/6/2007

ELS CAMINS DEL LECTOR
La traducció: traspassant fronteres

Correspondència de Gabriel Ferrater sobre la novel·la *A Moveable Feast* d'E. Hemingway.

Generalitat de Catalunya
Institució de les Lletres Catalanes

Quan traduïa la novel·la d'Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast* (*París era una festa*), Gabriel Ferrater trobà un fet que el va desconcertar: Hemingway descriu un viatge amb tren entre Madrid i la Provença francesa passant per Hendaia i Baiona, és a dir, seguint un camí llarg i complex. Potser es tractava d'un error dels editors? Una confusió entre Jean-les-Pins, prop de Marsella, i Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, als Pirineus? El traductor va escriure al representant de l'autor que li respongué de manera contundent: les coses van passar tal com estan descrites en el llibre. Insatisfet amb la resposta, Gabriel Ferrater va escriure al poeta Archibald MacLeish, que també va assistir a les vetllades estivals de 1925 descrites en el llibre. El lloc —diu el poeta americà— va ser Jean-les-Pins, a la vora d'Antíbol, sense cap dubte, la resta era pura invenció de Hemingway.

Dear Mr. MacLeish:

I am the Spanish translator of Ernest Hemingway's posthumous book, A Moveable Feast, & I beg leave to impinge a bit on your time & to ask from you the answer to a doubt in which I am left - on a very small point, to be sure, but worth clearing all the same.

In the book as it has been printed, Hemingway says that in the summer of (presumably) 1925 he went from Madrid to spend some weeks at the town where the Fitzgeralds were staying, & that the town was Juan-les-Pins. But he passed Hendaye & Bayonne in his journey, which would mean that he did choose the most unlikely & expensive way. I assumed that some editorial muddle is at play, & that the town must have been really Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, in the Basses-Pyrénées. I submitted my surmise to "Ernest Hemingway, Ltd.", & they maintain that the vacation was spent at Juan-les-Pins.

Well, I am able to believe that Hemingway muddled through the French & Spanish railway-timetables, but I am not prepared to believe that a person having a right command of English could conceivably describe Juan-les-Pins as "a watering place in the lower Pyrénées", & so I feel still unpensuaded. As apparently you were there, I would be extremely grateful for your answer to the question: where were you?

I hope you will not feel that this is too trivial a matter to merit consideration, & I express my deep appreciation of your kindness in collaborating to clear the point.

Yours respectfully,

Conway, Mass.

Mr. Archibald MacLeish
Mr. Man Ray (Paris)

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