



Gabriela Mistral
FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007

THE PLEASURE OF SERVING

All of nature is anxious to serve. Clouds serve. The wind serves. The groove serves.

Where there is a tree that needs to be planted, be the one to do it. Be the one who will move the stone on the road between hate in the hearts and the difficulty of the problems. There is happiness in being good and just. But above all, there is the beautiful, the immense happiness of serving.

How sad would the world be if everything was done, if there was not a rose bush to be planted, a new enterprise to start! Don't be only tempted by the easy tasks. It is so wonderful to do the tasks that others avoid! But don't make the mistake of thinking that the merit is obtained by only doing great tasks. There are small tasks that are good tasks: arranging a table, organizing a home, combing a child's hair.

Let the others be the ones to criticize. The one that destroys. You be the one that serves. Serving is not a task done only by inferiors. God, who gives the fruit and light, serves. We could say: He who serves, and who has his eyes fixed on our hands and asks us each day: --Will you serve today? To whom: a tree, your friend, your mother?



Gabriela Mistral

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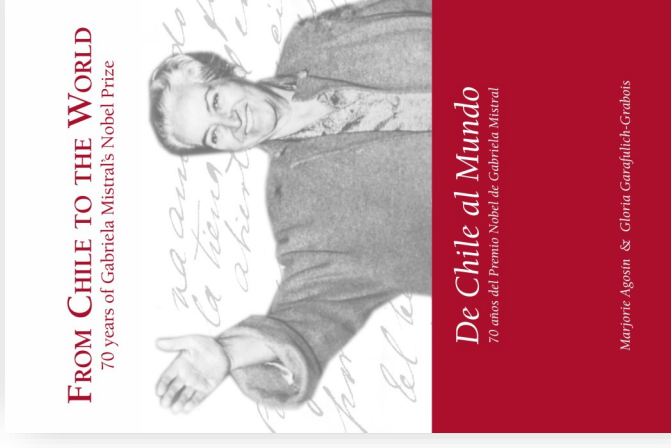
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**"my victory is not mine,
It belongs to America"**

About Gabriela Mistral

Gabriela Mistral was born on April 7, 1889 in the northern Chilean city of Vicuña as Lucila de Maria del Perpetuo Socorro Godoy Alcayaga. She was a Chilean educator, poet, diplomat, feminist and was the First Latin American to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945. Gabriela was born and raised in a poor area of northern Chile where from an early age, she was in close contact with the those in need. Gabriela started helping her family by working as a Teacher's Aide in the public school system, and later pursued a career as a Teacher while writing the poetry that would later make her internationally famous. She taught at schools throughout the country and developed a deep love and commitment to the poor—especially towards the children of her beloved Chile. Her literary successes gave her international recognition. In 1922, she accepted an invitation from the Government of Mexico to work on the educational reform and public libraries systems. Later, she toured and lectured extensively in Europe and in the United States. As many other intellectuals of her time, she was also appointed Consul in many different cities including Madrid, Lisbon, Nice, Petrópolis, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Veracruz, Naples and New York where she taught at Barnard College, Columbia University, Vassar College and others. She resided in New York where she died on January 10, 1957.

Welcome to the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.

Our Mission

The Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. carries on the legacy of Gabriela Mistral, particularly her love and care for the children and seniors of her native country, Chile. For this purpose, the Foundation promotes and celebrates the life and work of the poet's literary and humanitarian achievements by holding programs and events and by providing support to organizations that make an impact in the quality of life and opportunities of those in need.

How do we do it?

The **Gabriela Mistral Foundation** strives to fulfill Gabriela's commitment by delivering programs and projects that have an important impact on the quality of life and education. Special emphasis is directed towards programs that directly provide help and assistance to children and seniors in different areas such as language development, the arts, cultural and environmental appreciation and protection as well as other areas that provide the poor with better opportunities to succeed in a modern, competitive world.

Our Legal Status

The **Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.** is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization incorporated in the State of New York.

How can you help?

1. By sending a donation by check payable to the **Gabriela Mistral Foundation**: 100 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, New York 10017
 2. By making a donation online at www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org
 3. By obtaining a copy of the book "From Chile to the World"—a bilingual side-by-side publication of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. with generous support from the Elqui Valley Foundation. All proceeds from the book will benefit the programmes of the Foundation.
1. **YOU CAN ORDER THE BOOK** Online with a credit card at: www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org
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FROM CHILE TO THE WORLD

70 years of Gabriela Mistral's Nobel Prize



De Chile al Mundo

70 años del Premio Nobel de Gabriela Mistral

Marjorie Agosín & Gloria Garafulich-Grabois

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Supervisor de Contenido | *Content Supervisor*

Pedro Pablo Zegers Blachet

Traducciones | *Translations*

Doris Dana, Gloria Garafulich-Grabois

Asistente editorial | *Editorial Assistant*

Alexander P. Grabois

Diseño Gráfico | *Graphic Design*

Elena Manríquez Dagnino

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DEDICACIÓN

A nuestra amiga Doris Atkinson
—por su generosidad y por hacer posible el regreso de Gabriela a Chile

DEDICATION

*To our friend Doris Atkinson
—for her generosity and for making Gabriela's return to Chile possible*

To Mr. Luis Álvarez, my elementary school teacher who read to me the poems of Gabriela Mistral, and to my parents who also read them to me at home. They have transformed my life and inspired in me a deep love of Gabriela's poetry.

—Marjorie Agosin

I dedicate this book to a group of women—teachers, artists, humanitarians—who embody the values of Mistral's life: my mother Estela Figueroa; my aunt Lily Garafulic and my friends Nury Sáez-Díaz, Selma Kahn and María Grasso. Their lives and values, as well as those of Gabriela have marked and inspired my life. I also dedicate it to my son Alexander; the nobility of his spirit inspires me each day.

—Gloria Garafulich-Grabois

A mi profesor de preparatorias, Sr. Luis Álvarez quien me leyó los poemas de Gabriela Mistral y también a mis padres que me leyeron estos poemas en casa. Ellos han transformado mi vida y me inspiraron con un gran amor por la poesía de Gabriela.

—Marjorie Agosín

Dedico este libro a un grupo de mujeres—maestras, artistas, humanistas. Ellas representan lo mejor de los valores de Gabriela

Mistral: mi madre Estela Figueroa; mi tía Lily Garafulic y mis amigas Nury Sáez-Díaz, Selma Kahn y María Grasso. Sus vidas y valores al igual que Gabriela han marcado e inspirado mi vida. Lo dedico también a mi hijo Alexander, su nobleza de espíritu me inspira cada día.

—Gloria Garafulich-Grabois

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15 de noviembre, 1945
Petrópolis, Brasil

“Estaba sola en Petrópolis, en mi cuarto, escuchando en la radio las noticias de Palestina. Después de una breve pausa en la emisora se hizo el anuncio que me aturdió y que no esperaba. Caí de rodillas frente al crucifijo que siempre me acompaña y bañada en lágrimas oré: ¡Jesucristo, haz merecedora de tan alto lauro a ésta tu humilde hija!...Matilde—Gabriela se refiere a Matilde Ladrón de Guevara*—si no fuera por la traducción maestra que hizo de mi obra el escritor sueco, puliendo mi técnica, y con ello, mejorando mis poemas, tal vez jamás me habrían favorecido con el gran premio. Créalo, hermana”.

November 15th, 1945
Petropolis, Brazil

“I was alone in my room in Petropolis, listening to the news of Palestine on the radio. After a brief pause the station made the announcement that stunned me and that I did not expect. I fell on my knees in front of the crucifix that was always with me, and in a sea of tears I prayed: Jesus Christ, make this, your humble daughter worthy of such high honor!...Matilde—referring to Matilde Ladrón de Guevara—if it wasn't for the master translation of my work done by the Swedish editor, in which he polished my technique improving my poems, perhaps they would have never awarded this great prize to me. Believe me, sister.”*

*Gabriela Mistral, rebelde magnífica ***

* Matilde Ladrón de Guevara—1910-2009

Poetisa, feminista y escritora chilena | *Chilean poet, feminist and writer.*

** (Editorial Losada: Buenos Aires, 1962)

10 de diciembre, 1945
Estocolmo, Suecia

“Por su poesía lírica la cuál, inspirada por grandes emociones, ha hecho de su nombre un símbolo de las aspiraciones idealistas en todo el pueblo Latino Americano”.



*December 10th, 1945
Stockholm, Sweden*

“For her lyric poetry which, inspired by powerful emotions, has made her name a symbol of the idealistic aspirations of the entire Latin American world.”

I

INTRODUCCIÓN
CRONOLOGÍA
UNA CONVERSACIÓN CON GABRIELA



*Introduction
Chronology
A Conversation with Gabriela*

MARJORIE AGOSÍN
GLORIA GARAFULICH-GRABOIS

Introduction

The impact and importance that Gabriela Mistral continues to have in all corners of the world—for both, her literary and humanitarian work—as well as Gabriela Mistral Foundation’s mission to promote her work and thought, and to continue her legacy of helping those in need, is what prompted the desire to publish this book as part of the commemorative celebrations of the 70th anniversary of her receiving Nobel Prize in Literature.

The book—a side-by-side bilingual edition—is published under the auspices of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., and highlights the importance of Gabriela Mistral’s Nobel Prize for Chile, for Latin America and for women writers. It allows the readers of the Spanish and English languages to meet or to rediscover Gabriela Mistral.

The book includes the following sections: Introduction; Poetry; Prose; a collection of Essays by important contributors; Afterword; References and Photographs. The selection of poetry and prose is representative of the work of Gabriela that had been published up until the

MARJORIE AGOSÍN
GLORIA GARAFULICH-GRABOIS

Introducción

El constante impacto e importancia que Gabriela Mistral continúa teniendo en todos los rincones del mundo—tanto en el ámbito literario como humanitario—y la misión de Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. de promover su obra, pensamiento y su legado de ayudar a los más necesitados, fueron los factores que impulsaron la publicación de este libro en el marco de la celebración del 70^{avo} aniversario del Premio Nobel de Literatura otorgado a Gabriela Mistral en 1945.

El libro, una edición bilingüe—frente-a-frente—es una publicación bajo el auspicio de Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., con el propósito de resaltar la importancia de su Premio Nobel para Chile, Latino América, mujeres escritoras y permitir que lectores de las lenguas española e inglesa puedan conocer y reencontrar a Gabriela Mistral.

El libro incluye las siguientes secciones: Introducción; Poesía; Prosa; colección de Ensayos de importantes contribuidores; Epílogo; Referencias y Fotografías. La selección de poemas y prosa es representativa de la obra

time of this award. We honor Doris Dana by including some of her translations of poetry and prose. Other translations have been done especially for this book.

The poems we have selected from Desolation are a moving example of the themes of “death and sorrow” that are so present in this collection. The selection from Tenderness show her great love and dedication to children and to the preservation of their innocence. We can feel the tenderness of Lucila herself. The selection from Felling is representative of her preoccupation with the world, with women and with the nostalgia she felt for her homeland.

The selection of prose reveals us her essence, from her worry about the education of women written as a seventeen year old, to her moving prayers and reflections about the death of her beloved Yin Yin.

The Afterword invites the reader to continue to know Gabriela, the post-Nobel, especially her great humanitarian work and her constant gratitude for life.

This project was born out of our love and admiration for Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, known as Gabriela Mistral. All proceeds will benefit the programs and projects of the Foundation.

We are grateful to the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., for having accepted our proposal to publish this book and to all who have participated and supported this initiative. Our deepest gratitude is to the Elqui Valley Foundation for its generous support for the publication of this book; our contributors: Doris Atkinson, Pedro Pablo Zegers,

de Mistral que había sido publicada a la fecha del Nobel. Como una manera de honrarla, hemos incluido algunas traducciones de poesía y prosa de Doris Dana. Las otras traducciones han sido hechas especialmente para este libro.

Los poemas que hemos elegido de *Desolación* son muestra latente del “dolor y muerte”, que fueron un foco de esta colección. La selección de *Ternura* demuestra su gran amor y dedicación a los niños, la preservación de su inocencia y nos hacen sentir la ternura innata de la propia Lucila. La selección de *Tala* es representativa de su preocupación por el mundo, por la mujer y la nostalgia por su tierra.

La selección de prosa nos habla de su esencia, su preocupación por la educación de la mujer—un ensayo escrito cuando tenía solo diecisiete años—y nos emociona con sus profundas oraciones y reflexiones sobre la muerte de su amado Yin Yin.

El Epílogo invita al lector a seguir conociendo a Gabriela post-Nobel, en forma especial su gran labor humanitaria y constante agradecimiento a la vida.

Este proyecto nació de nuestro amor y admiración por Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, conocida como Gabriela Mistral. El libro es a beneficio de los programas y proyectos de la Fundación.

Nuestro agradecimiento a Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., por haber aceptado nuestra propuesta para publicar este libro y a todos quienes participaron y han apoyado esta iniciativa. Nuestro profundo agradecimiento

*Cecilia Morel Montes, Brother Jaime Campos of the Franciscan Order of Chile, Eva Zetterberg, Berita Sjöberg, David Unger, Jonathan Cohen and Theodoro Elssaca—and to our sponsors and collaborators. We thank Pedro Pablo Zegers for his continued and invaluable support; Susan Smith for her important role in bringing the *Mistral Legado* to Chile; Fernanda Meza for her unfailing support of this project; to Elena Manríquez, for her friendship and work in the graphic design of this book. We also thank Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela, Founding Member and President Emeritus of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., and to our families, who gave us encouragement and support to devote our time and attention to a book that honors this great woman from Chile, the Americas and the world.*

However, our deepest gratitude is to Lucila Godoy Alcayaga. Editing this book and translating her poetry and her writings have allowed us to engage in a wonderful dialogue with Gabriela and through her, we have had the privilege of knowing Lucila's essence.

Could young Lucila, who dreamed when looking at the stars in the Elqui nights ever have imagined the impact her dreams, her writings and her love for the people around her would have in the world? The answer is probably not...but let us be grateful and celebrate what she did, what she continues to do and what she will continue to mean for generations to come!

MA & GGG



a Elqui Valley Foundation por su constante y generoso apoyo que ha hecho posible la publicación de este libro; a nuestros contribuidores—Doris Atkinson, Pedro Pablo Zegers, Cecilia Morel Montes, Hno. Jaime Campos de la Orden Franciscana de Chile, Eva Zetterberg, Berita Sjöberg, David Unger, Jonathan Cohen y Theodoro Ellsaca—, nuestros patrocinadores y colaboradores. Reconocemos a Pedro Pablo Zegers por su gran apoyo; a Susan Smith por su amistad y su importante rol en el regreso de Mistral a Chile; a Fernanda Meza por apoyar y creer en la importancia de este proyecto; a Elena Manríquez, por su amistad y gran trabajo en la diagramación de este libro. También agradecemos a Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela, miembro fundador y presidente emérito de Gabriela Mistral Foundation Inc., y a nuestras familias que nos brindaron su aliento y apoyo para dedicar nuestro tiempo y atención a este libro que celebra a esta gran mujer Chile, de las Américas y del mundo.

Sin embargo, nuestro mayor agradecimiento es a Lucila Godoy Alcayaga. El editar este libro y traducir su poesía y escritos nos ha permitido tener un maravilloso diálogo con Gabriela y a través de ella hemos tenido el privilegio de conocer la esencia de Lucila.

La pequeña Lucila, cuando soñaba mirando las estrellas en las noches de Elqui, ¿podría haberse imaginado el impacto que sus sueños, sus escritos y su amor por quienes la rodeaban tendría en el mundo? La respuesta es probablemente no...pero agradezcamos y celebremos que así fue, que así es y que continuará para otras generaciones!

MA & GGG



Agradecimientos | *Acknowledgements*

Las editoras agradecen a las personas e instituciones que han alentado y apoyado esta iniciativa y con cuyo apoyo la publicación de este libro ha sido posible.

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*I thank you on this day, and all the days for allowing me to gather
the beauty of the earth, as water that is taken with our lips, and,
for the richness of the sorrow I am able to carry in the depth of my
heart, and not die.*

*To believe you can hear me I have lowered my eyes and I discarded
the morning, thinking that at this hour, evening is upon you.
And to tell you the rest, as my words are broken,
I become silent...**

Gabriela Mistral

* Lectura para Mujeres, 1923.

Gracias en este día y en todos los días por la capacidad que me diste de recoger la belleza de la tierra, como un agua que se recoge con los labios, y también por la riqueza de dolor que puedo llevar en la hondura de mi corazón, sin morir.

Para creer que me oyes he bajado los párpados y arrojado de mí la mañana, pensando que a esta hora tú tienes la tarde sobre ti.
Y para decirte lo demás, que se quiebra en las palabras, voy quedándome en silencio...*

Gabriela Mistral

* *Lectura para Mujeres*, 1923.

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Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.
100 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10017
info@gabrielamistralfoundation.org
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Gabriela Mistral

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Compiled in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Gabriela Mistral's receiving of the Nobel Prize, From Chile to the World, contains a wealth of material--essays and poetry by Mistral, articles by critics, photographs, and documents--all in both English and Spanish. The collection is a superb contribution to Gabriela Mistral studies, and incomparable resource for students and researchers, and a very readable book.

Compilado en conmemoracion del 70avo aniversario del Premio Nobel otorgado a Gabriela Mistral, *De Chile al Mundo*, contiene una riqueza de material --ensayos y poesia de Mistral, articulos de criticos, fotografias y documentos --todo en Ingles y Espanol. Esta coleccion es una excelente contribution a los estudios Mistralianos, una incomparable fuente de investigacion para estudiantes e investigadores, y un excelente lectura.

*Barbara Mujica
Georgetown University*

The book on Gabriela Mistral . . . What a precious joy. Each year I choose someone as a model for inspiration. I read about them- if possible connect to places they inhabited so special to them. This year it will be Gabriela Mistral!

El libro sobre Gabriela Mistral . . . Que valiosa alegría. Cada año elijo a alguien como un modelo de inspiración. Leo sobre ellos --si es posible me conecto a los lugares en donde vivieron que para ellos fueron tan especiales. Este año sera Gabriela Mistral!

*Francesca Colletti Ed.D
New England Director
Facing History and Ourselves
Brookline, MA*

Que libro tan bello! La Mistral llega nuevamente a nosotros, esta vez de la mano de ustedes.

What a beautiful book! Mistral comes to us once again, this time holding on to your hands.

*Dr. Anne F. Ashbaugh
Professor and Chairperson
Philosophy and Religious Studies
Towson University*

Gabriela Mistral Foundation

100 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10016 -- 212 984 0632 -- fax: 212 880 6499

www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org -- info@gabrielamistralfoundation.org



A beautiful constellation of Mistral's poetic production, biographic references, and literary contributions. Suitable for college and university settings apart from being a small treasure for readers and admirers of Mistral in general.

Una hermosa constelacion de la produccion poetica de Mistral, referencias biográficas y contribuciones literarias. Un pequeño tesoro para todos los lectores y admiradores de Mistral y también adecuado para estudios académicos.

*-- Dr. Inella Selimovic
Wellesley College*

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