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DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LINGUISTICS

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Dear Ron,

On one of my visits to L'pool I got this from Nadal, together with a carbon copy of the application and an envelope addressed to Gili personally and marked confidential; so I've sent the carbon copy to Joan, with his envelope, and the top copy with Lamb's reference to you. I suggest, as I've suggested to Joan, that we talk about this in Southampton - and I've intimated to him that while I have no real objection to Nadal's candidature I think it would be better to spend the money on someone who would not otherwise be able to come to, or to stay long in, U.K. To Nadal I have said nothing much, except that we'll have a look at it - and he has said that he would not want the scholarship if anyone else applied.

I've been thinking about the Spanish grammar project, and feeling that I don't after all want to do it. I do not want to tie myself down to one thing for such a long time, when I could be fiddle-faddling with lots of little things and enjoying it. So craving your indulgence and pardon and anything else you think I might have I want to back out. I feel somewhat sinful, but the thought of being tied down began to sit on me like a bloody great pile of bricks or similar (something gone wrong with the simile there) and I began to have day stallions (worse than nightmares). I think my problem is that I don't much care about correction and normativeness any more, since the aberrant is much more fun and much more real, and add to that the growing conviction that the teaching of foreign languages is really best confined to teaching English to foreigners! Oh what a falling off, etc. Do you want to go it alone? If not shall I try to interest Mason of Salford? Or would you like to take over the idea and find a like-minded collaborator?

If I don't hear from you soon (tel. ext. 453) I'll write to the Press and say we don't want. O.K.? Sorry etc.. See you in Southampton or somewhere like that.

all ze best,

Paul.