Dear Don Walacio

SECRETARIES OF THE MOON
The Letters of Wallace Stevens & José Rodríguez Feo
Edited by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis,

By Heberto Padilla

Among the recipients of the 800 letters Wallace Stevens preserved from those he wrote over 60 years, Mr. Rodríguez Feo, who studied at Harvard and Princeton universities and then, in Cuba, in 1944, began to publish Orígenes, an outstanding review of literature and art. Mr. Rodríguez Feo, who still lives in Havana, began the correspondence with Stevens as asking him if he might send him a copy of Orígenes. They did not actually meet until March 1947.

The first letter from Mr. Rodríguez Feo revived in Stevens the memory of his years of study in Havana and his early days of living there. "On my first trip, about 25 years ago I should say, I went downtown and spent the greater part of a week there. ... I walked around the town a great deal and concluded by writing a poem in the wildest of ways to study Spanish, which I really began. Then I used to buy bundles of El Sol of Madrid and do my studying by looking over these."

The immediate impression of his stay in Havana was revealed in a letter to his wife Elsaie in February 1928: "The place is infinitely more Spanish than I had supposed ... the evenings are fresh but not cold and as the whole hotel is built so as to circulate the air one sleeps like the king of sleep." At that moment Stevens began to convert himself into the person Mr. Rodríguez Feo would call "an almost legendary amigo of us Cuban writers." In 1944, Stevens wrote 48 letters to Mr. Rodríguez Feo — "one name, compound," the latter wrote, "I abhor the Feo by itself" (feo in Spanish means ugly). But only 37 were included in the correspondence. Of the correspondence between the two friends, which has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died, the correspondence between the two friends has now been collected by Beverly Coyle and Alan Filreis in "Secretaries of the Moon," with the two friends having died.

Heberto Padilla, executive director of the Center for Hemispheric Affairs, is the author of a novel, "Heroes Are Grazing in My Garden."