IN MEMORIAM

MIGUEL ROMERA-NAVARRO

Dr. Miguel Romera-Navarro, who had been Distinguished Professor of Romance Languages since September 1947, died in Austin, Texas, May 3, 1954. Before coming to the University of Texas, he had for many years taught at the University of Pennsylvania, where he participated in the founding and editing of one of the leading journals in the field of his research activities, the Hispanic Review. The following "Necrology" appeared in Volume XXIII, Number 4, (October, 1954) of the Hispanic Review:

Born in Almería (Spain) on September 29, 1885, he studied at the Universities of Granada and Madrid, receiving the degree of Licenciado en Leyes from the latter institution in 1908. During 1909 and 1910 he served as secretary of the Sección de Ciencias Morales y Políticas of the Ateneo de Madrid.

Attracted to the United States by de Tocqueville's Démocratie en Amérique, he came to New York in 1912, where he joined the staff of The Delmestor. An article on C. Upson Clark, "Un hispanófilo de Norte América," published by the New Orleans Mercurio in 1914, gave the public a foretaste of his book El hispanismo en Norte América: Exposición y crítica de su aspecto literario, published in Madrid (Reencarnación) in 1917. The preparation of this work brought him into contact with the dean of American hispanists, Hugo Albert Renert, and as a result the young Spaniard was appointed Instructor in Spanish at the University of Pennsylvania in the autumn of 1916. He received the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania in 1921 and 1927, and was made full professor in the latter year. He held this position until 1947, when he accepted a chair of Spanish in the University of Texas.

In 1918-1919 Professor Romera-Navarro was Representative in Spain of the United States Committee on Public Information and he became a United States citizen in 1927. He was a member or corresponding member of the Real Academia Hispano-Americana, Real Academia de Ciencias Históricas de Toledo, Academia Nacional de Artes y Letras de Cuba, Academia Argentina de Letras, Hispanic Society of America and Real Academia Española.

Professor Romera-Navarro's contribution to American academic life was important and distinguished. His extensive bibliography includes early journalistic articles on a wide variety of subjects (1914-1923); textbooks in the field of Spanish language and literature (1919-1940), notably his Historia de la literatura española, with accompanying Antología; critical book-reviews and numerous scholarly studies on classical Spanish literature. He will be remembered especially for his work on Gracián: his three-volume edition of El Criticón (Philadelphia, 1938-40), which is outstanding; his Estudio del autógrafo de "El Héroe" graciano (Madrid, 1946); his edition of Gracián's Oráculo manual (Madrid, C.S.I.S.), which appeared this year; and, finally, a study on Autógrafos cervantinos (Austin, Texas), which is now in press. Seven of his studies on Lope de Vega were re-issued in book form in 1935—the tercentenary year—under the title La preceptiva dramática de Lope de Vega y otros ensayos sobre el Fénix. His Registros de lexicografía hispánica (Madrid, 1951) reflects a life-long interest in lexicography and semantics.
Professor Romera-Navarro was active in the founding and editing of the Hispanic Review, which he served as Assistant Editor (1933-1939), Co-Editor (1940-1948), and Associate Editor (1948-1954). At the University of Texas he founded and edited (with E. E. Sima) the University of Texas Hispanic Studies.

Professor Romera-Navarro was an inspiring teacher, able to communicate to his students both his keen interest in literary studies and his own personal sense of their value and their dignity.

In these various capacities--scholar, editor, teacher—and also, as many will testify, in the more intimate associations of friendship, Miguel Romera-Navarro was a creator of values, in keeping with the best traditions of Spanish hidalguía. He laboured long and well, and has deserved the affection and gratitude both of his Spanish homeland and of his adopted country.

During the years at the University of Texas, Professor Romera-Navarro made a distinct place for himself as a member of the Austin and University community, as Graduate Professor, and as scholar and director of scholarly enterprises. Notable among these last was the series of the University of Texas Hispanic Studies of which five volumes were published by the University Press and a sixth, Professor Romera-Navarro's own Autógrafos Cervantes, is scheduled for early publication. The five published volumes have been favorably reviewed in Hispanic learned journals; this is particularly true of Vocabulario Español de Texas by three of Professor Romera-Navarro's graduate students, Gilberto Cerda, Berta Cabaña and Julieta Paride.

Professor Miguel Romera-Navarro is survived by his wife and three daughters, Mrs. Helen Waldrip, Mofia Victoria and Carmen Romera-Navarro.

Miguel Romera-Navarro Memorial Resolution Committee

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Filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty by Mr. Aaron Schaffer, Chairman of the Special Miguel Romera-Navarro Memorial Resolution Committee, November 23, 1954.

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