

## Romero Collection of 16th Century books arrives at Library

**November 3, 1969**

The Romero Collection, the most important single acquisition since the Renaissance library of Don Cameron Allen, has been received by the Library at the University of California, San Diego.

The library of Senor Miguel Romero Martinez of Seville, Spain, arrived in 25 large wooden crates and held a few surprises. The library staff looked for the treasures they knew would be inside--15 incunabula (books printed before 1501 A.D.), about a dozen manuscript books, a large collection of classical writings and a fine library of Spanish books.

However, they also found that each volume was not only an important book of scholarship but a work of art as well. The majority of the books are in excellent condition and bound in vellum with gothic letters on the spine or in elegant leather and gilt bindings. Some are encased in handsome individual boxes.

The Romero Collection was obtained by UCSD largely through the efforts of Dr. Claudio Guillen, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature on the campus, who had lived in the Romero house as a boy. Part of the purchase funds were contributed by the Del Amo Foundation.

Senor Romero spent a quiet life as a teacher and collector of fine books. He was also a Latinist and a translator of Horace. He is best known in the outside world for his book, *Nueva interpretacion lirica en lengua Espanola de las odas de Horacio*, published in Seville in 1950 by the Amigos de Horacio in a limited edition of 550 copies.

The Romero Collection contains 4,100 volumes and is especially strong in Latin works of classical authors printed during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, many of which are rarely found today. There are also many books on Spanish history, literature and culture, from the Middle Ages until modern times but with the greatest concentration on the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There are many works dealing with the local history of Seville and Andalusia and of the Peninsular War from the Spanish point of view. French and Italian literature is also represented.

Important examples of the work of great printers of the past are seen in the Romero Collection--printers such as Giambattista Bodoni, Simon de Colines, the Elzevirs, the Estiennes, Johann Froben, Sebastian Gryphius, Joachim Ibarra, Aldus Manutius, Antonio Marin, Christophe Plantin and Alonso Sanchez.

A few of the outstanding volumes are: Pliny "the Elder," *Naturalis Hystoria*, Venice, 1483; the Latin Bible of 1483, Venice, and another of 1491, Basel; Valerius Maximus, *Facta ac dicta memorabilia*, Venice, 1485; Flavius Josephus, *Antiquitates Judaicae*, Venice, 1486; Cornelius Nepos, *De vita excellentium imperatorum*, Brescia, 1498; and Stephanus Brulefer, *Opuscula*, Paris, 1500.