

## **Don Americo Castro joins UCSD faculty as Professor of Spanish**

**January 28, 1964**

Don Americo Castro, a figure of towering eminence in the world of scholarship, has accepted an appointment as Professor of Spanish Literature in Residence at the University of California, San Diego, President Clark Kerr of the University of California and San Diego Chancellor Herbert York announced today.

At the same time, the campus has acquired his 10,000-volume library, the fruit of more than half a century of collecting, for the UCSD Library.

Dr. Castro, 78, an emeritus professor at Princeton, has moved to San Diego to make his home.

"Don Americo's presence at UCSD marks auspiciously not only the inauguration of Hispanic studies but studies in the history and philosophy of culture, areas in which he has done work of world-wide renown, says Roy Harvey Pearce, Chairman of UCSD's Department of Literature.

Born of Spanish parents in Rio de Janeiro, Dr. Castro received his Ph.D. from the University of Madrid. At one time he was the Ambassador to Berlin of the Spanish Republic. He left Spain in 1936, and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in 1944.

He has held professorial appointments at the Universities of Madrid, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Wisconsin, in addition to Princeton. There he was Ford Professor of Spanish from 1940 until he became a professor emeritus in 1953.

He has written more than 300 books and learned papers. His masterwork, "Espana en su Historia," which appeared in 1948, has been revised and translated into English as "The Structure of Spanish History," published in 1954.

Dr. Castro is acknowledged as one of the world's leading scholars of Spanish life and thought. His library reflects his interests, says Melvin J. Voigt, University Librarian, San Diego. "It's a collection that simply couldn't be put together today. You couldn't find these books, many of them."

There are more than 2,000 books in Spanish literature, plus at least 1,500 in Greek, Latin, Italian, Portuguese, American, English, and French literatures. There are approximately 1,500 volumes in philosophy, Spanish history and the philosophy of history. There are at least 300 volumes of Arabic and Jewish civilization and more than 300 on general, Spanish, and French linguistics. There is a broad selection of dictionaries: Greek, Latin, Spanish (old and modern), English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Hebrew, and Catalan.

Among the many rarities in the library is a collection of 117 Spanish plays written and published in the 17th century and reprinted in the 18th. They give a glimpse of what had survived of the Spanish national drama at the end of the 18th century.