Julian Marias, an outstanding scholar and intellectual of Spain, a prolific writer and renowned professor who lives and teaches in Madrid, was a visiting professor at OU this fall (see "Outside Agitators" on page 29). Described by his host, Dr. Lowell Dunham, chairman of the modern languages department, as a "warm, open, indefatigable man who loves people, enjoys life, and is a brilliant teacher and scholar," Marias wrote these first impressions of his visit for a Barcelona newspaper:

"When you are in Oklahoma, you feel as if you are two thousand miles from anywhere; but when you think about it, you find you are five thousand miles from Madrid. Oklahoma is in the south central part of the United States, the very navel of the country, we might say. If you look for the state of Oklahoma on a map printed seventy years ago, you will not find it, only a notation reading 'Indian Territory.' Seventy or eighty years ago, there were only buffalo and Indians—Comanches, Kiowas, Cherokees, Seminoles. . . . Today there are still Indians, but instead of buffalo, there are other things: two great universities with approximately 17,000 students in each and several smaller colleges; a University Press at the University of Oklahoma where excellent books are beautifully printed, books ranging from studies on Indian culture to a long series on centers of world civilization, from a fine bilingual edition of the poetry of Jorge Guillén to a Barcelona newspaper:

"Several times a day traffic on Main Street stops, railroad warning gates descend, and you can hear the whistle of a train in the distance—a whistle I often hear in the silence of my room. The Santa Fe railroad, which runs between Chicago, Ill. and Houston, Tex., crosses Main like those in western movies, the huge, powerful, proud engine with its Spanish name in black on a yellow background. Behind the diesel come passenger coaches or, more frequently, endless freight cars, traveling at high speeds through the plains with their cargo of wheat, oil, corn, meat, machinery, automobiles—eighty, a hundred, a hundred and twenty cars that disappear into the distance. And this takes place two thousand miles from anywhere, in the middle of the state of Oklahoma."