Spanish Poet Salinas Visits O.U.

An ill-fated Europe has in one regard been a source of rare gain for the Americas. Artists and scientists who perhaps would never have left their native lands but for the ravages of war have sought refuge in the New World, the right to live freely and create as one wills is still preserved.

It was not otherwise with the eminent poet and scholar, Pedro Salinas, who had taught at the Universities of Paris, Cambridge, and Seville, and at his alma mater, the University of Madrid; who had been secretary of the International Summer University at Santander; and, who had lectured at Oxford, Brussels, and other European universities, before civil war in Spain brought him to this country as professor of Spanish at Wellesley College, in 1936. With already five volumes of distinguished poetry to his credit, he was, the following year, invited to give the well-known Turnbull Lectures on Poetry at the Johns Hopkins University.

In 1940, the University tendered the poet its chair of Spanish language and literature.

In Baltimore, Salinas found not only a poet, but, what is perhaps even dearer to a poet, a translator, Eleanor L. Turnbull, who, with unusual accuracy and delicacy, has put into English the poems in two volumes, Last Angel and Other Poems, and Other Poems, and Other Poems.

Before his lecture on February 6, the Department of Modern Languages entertained Dr. Salinas at dinner in the Blue Room of the Union, where the tables in gracious tribute to the poet were made festive with Spanish candelabra and charmingly carved wooden figures of Quixote and Sancho. Special guests at the dinner were Vice-President and Mrs. Royden J. Dangerfield, Dean and Mrs. E. D. Meacham, Dean and Mrs. Glenn C. Couch, and Professor and Mrs. Corteza M. Ewing. Here it was the poet paid his proudest compliment to Oklahoma. He had heard before he came to Norman of "Professor R. T. House and Books Abroad" (in which chapters from his new book, "In Defense of Letters, will soon appear) and of the University Press," but he had to come to Oklahoma, he said, to discover its "rare cordiality."

His own warmth induces such "rare cordiality": for, in addition to his scheduled addresses, the poet generously lectured to the eleven o'clock Spanish classes on February 6 on his impressions of South America, and read, for the first time in the history of the novel in Don Quixote human nature was conceived as an "organic integration of two separate and distinct elements... the quixotique and the sancheusical."

His final lecture, also in Spanish, was a commentary on a favored metaphor of three Spanish classical poets who tended the transiency of life to a river.

Dean Johnson Gets Memory Test

It's the second generation that's worrying Dean D. B. Johnson of the University School of Pharmacy. And it's all because his famous memory for names of students is undergoing a severe test during these days of skyrocketing enrollments.

Dean Johnson, who has been a member of the faculty for 30 years, has always prided himself on his ability to remember the name of every student in pharmacy—even if there was a lapse of 20 years between graduation and the time he saw him again.

But now the children of former graduates are in school and the dean scratches his head and says, "Golly, is used to be fairly easy to remember everybody's name, but now with so many it's almost impossible." More than 450 students are now enrolled in pharmacy.

Dr. Hassler Heads Committee Planning Interscholastic Meet

Heading the faculty committee for the planning and supervision of the Interscholastic Meet this spring is Dr. J. O. Hassler, professor of mathematics and astronomy and newly appointed chairman of the committee.

Dr. Hassler succeeds R. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37aw, as head planner for the meet. Gunning, former extension division director, resigned to take over directorship of the University of Oklahoma Foundation. Hassler assumed his duties as chairman following F. G. Tappan, David Ross Boyd, professor of electrical engineering, who directed the meet from 1919 to 1942.

James G. Harlow, '31ba, '31ma, recently appointed director of the high school science service, will take over the curricular division of the meet, which was formerly handled by Dr. Hassler.

Other faculty members on the committee include Gilbert H. O'Neill, fine arts events; Leslie H. Rice, publication events; Guy Brown, sports; J. Willis Stovall, museum features; Garner Columns, '18a, housing; Katherine Culbert, women's athletics; Harold Keith, '29a, '39ma, co-ordination of men's athletics; Jacob S. Davis, men's track and field events. Bette Yarger, '34, journal, recently appointed secretary of interscholastic activities, will also work with this committee which is appointed annually to make arrangements for the meet.

Dr. Hassler has served on the University faculty for 28 years, but this is his first experience with the Interscholastic Meet. He commented that one indirect contact with the meet might be the fact that his text, Plane Geometry, was studied by many high school students in preparing for the meet some years ago. He has written or collaborated on six other books, one of which is a college text for the teaching of highschool mathematics.

Formerly chairman of the department of mathematics, Dr. Hassler is in demand as a speaker on mathematics at teacher's meetings in Oklahoma and other states. Active in Turnbell Lectures, he lists membership in Sigma Xi, honorary scientific research society; American Mathematical Society; American Astronomical Society; Mathematical Association of America, and has served as past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science, his name is listed in Who's Who, the American Men of Science and the Leaders in American Education.

Dr. Hassler has been very active in promoting interest in astronomy. When he first came here, one concept in astronomy was offered; now through his energies, it is possible to list astronomy as a major. Principally through his efforts, the observatory was built and equipped so that research might be carried out in astronomy.

Boy Scout work has figured high in the interests of Dr. Hassler; he has worked with the group here in Norman for 27 years. For his "distinguished service to boyhood," he was presented with the Silver Beaver award in 1936. He is now chairman of the Council of Happers.

Committee plans for this spring's meet are in full swing, with the dates set for May 5, 6, 7 and 8. Curricular events are scheduled for May 6 and 7, athletic for May 6, 7 and 8. State finals in debate and oratory are slated for May 7, with state finals in instrumental music events set for May 5, 6 and 7. Entrants in the latter two divisions must have won their respective district contests to be eligible.

This meet, the forty-fourth annual, will bring entrants from over 250 high schools to meet in statewide competition.
Professors Make 'Who's Who'

The names of two University of Oklahoma professors appear for the first time in the geographical index of the 1948-49 Who's Who in America. A total of 39 OU staff members are listed.

Included are 85 from Oklahoma City, 50 from Tulsa, 42 from Norman, and 15 from Stillwater.

Governor Roy J. Turner is listed for the first time. Former governors included are Robert S. Kerr, '16, Martin E. Trapp, Robert L. Williams, and William H. Murray.

The two O.U. professors listed for the first time are Dr. Glenn C. Couch, '316x,'37rns, dean of the college of business administration, and William H. Murray, professor of history.

Other professors appearing for the first time are: Dr. Joseph H. Benton, '206a,'21fa,'41ma, professor of zoology; Dr. W. H. Carson, dean of the college of engineering; and Dr. John B. Cheadle, dean of the college of education.

The geographical index of the 1948-49 Who's Who in America also contains the names of 13 doctors, including several who are members of the medical staff of the University Hospital.

Dr. Charles E. Decker Receives Grant

A grant-in-aid of $700 has been appropriated to Dr. Charles E. Decker, University research professor of geology and professor emeritus in paleontology, by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists to be used in research investigations of Ordovician graptolites of Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia.

Dr. Decker, an international authority on the microscopic marine animals of the early paleozoic age, corresponds and exchanges specimens with other paleontologists throughout the world. He recently received bulletins from the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Indian Botanical Society, containing articles by Dr. G. S. Puri, paleobotanist of India.

The articles on "Fossil Plants and the Himalayan Uplift" indicate the possibility that "the fossils found in the Himalayan region may be identical with some found in the Archebakes." Dr. Decker said he has written the Indian society, requesting specimen returns to make comparisons with the Oklahoma fossils.

He will address the 33rd annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, being held jointly with the Society of Economic Paleontology and Mineralogy, April 26 to 29 in Denver.

Books by Vestal, Pearce Appear

Two Oklahoma authors, Dick Pearce, '31ba, and Stanley Vestal ('Walter S. Campbell), research professor in English and director of courses in professional writing, appear on the list of forthcoming books by the O.U. Press.

Dick Pearce's Desert Steel tells of New Mexico and its northern neighbor remains "locked in the Kremlin." Thelys Gill Hess, '47bus, an interesting similarity in the characteristics of the land of Iran and of that of the American Southwest, and the cultural kindling of the Aryan and Americans is brought out in the early chapters of the book.

The Persian arts—rug weaving, poetry, music, etc.—are abstract. The great beauty of Persian rugs seems to come from the ability of the weavers to express some inner feeling of beauty. The author states that Persian music—even more than rug decoration or poetry—is the quintessence of design and an expression of the inner spirit. The music is so ethereal that it is even more insubstantial than the air upon which it palpitates.

A great deal of the book is devoted to the popular art of rug weaving and to the personalities of the weavers. The music is discussed, and his mistakes and good works commented upon. The occupation by the British, American, and Russian forces of Iran is covered quite in detail. The author closes with the prophecy that whether Iran will be able to pursue its independent existence without molestation by its northern neighbor remains "locked in the Kremlin." Thelys Gill Hess, '47bus.

Family Fun Down South

WITH A SOUTHERN ACCENT, by Viola Liddell, University of Oklahoma Press, $3.00.

Mrs. Liddell gives a hilarious account of her own family life in the Old South in this book released in March by the O.U. Press. The adventures of the nine children of Robert and Annie Goode provide "a candid picture of rural Southern life and the author herself as an impossibly lazy child, explaining that what was play for her brothers and sisters was downright work for her."

Most of the book is devoted to the humorous chapters in this amusing book entitled "Twice-Told Tales." It includes some of the favorite stories and jokes of this unconventional family, most of which are uproarious. In fact, I can't resist telling one of the anecdotes here.

"Uncle Art," who is described as "not being afraid of the devil but who was deathly afraid of snakes . . . had gone to the barn to feed the stock and, unfortunately, was standing behind a frisky mule while he forked hay into the stalls. Some of the hay probably tickled the mule's rump and at the same time kept Uncle Art from seeing what was about to happen to him, so that it was some time after it happened before Uncle Art knew that the toughs's crier had loosed a rear salvo squarely into his midriff. The lick had knocked Uncle Art out of his wits and through the barn door, and when he came to his senses, he found himself lying in a pile of fresh manure and unable to move because of a shirtful of broken ribs. What he did not know and could not at once see was that a big blacksnake, with its tongue flicking continually, had coiled itself around, fallen out of the left, was lying across his chest."

"After a time, however, when he was somewhat revived, Uncle Art raised up his head to look the snake in the eye, and what he found was a snake thumbing its fangs at him like forked lightning and looking icy daggers into his eyes. But for the first time in his life, Uncle Art was too incensed and hurt to care what happened to himself or to the snake; so he groaned and dropped his head back on the manteur head and said defiantly, 'Just go right ahead and bite, damn you, 'cause I'm already dead anyhow.' Thelys Gill Hess, '47bus.