In the accompanying pictures, Professor Gimeno is seated in his spacious living room, a beautiful part of his Spanish home. The accompanying reproduction of one of Mr Gimeno's paintings is of a scene in Colorado. In his collection the artist has many portraits, among them portraits of former Governor Lee Cruce, Dr. S. Roy Hadsell of the English department, Theodore H. Brewer, head of the department of English and Dr. William Bennett Bizzell, president of the university. He devotes several hours of each day to his painting.

Patricio Gimeno

BY WILLIAM H. WITT, '32

In spite of his peaceful life of the present day, Patricio Gimeno, professor of Spanish at the university, has a colorful career tucked away in the archives of his "past." He has lived a life of adventure, filled with travel and the romantic glamor of the Old World.

This lovable person is extremely modest—as most of the celebrities are. Although he could spin many a yarn savoring of storybook adventure which has been a part of his early life, he prefers to silence them somewhat and substitute the pleasant reverie of educational theories and philosophy. He does this because he has no desire to boast or make statements which will even lean toward the conduct of the braggart.

Professor Gimeno is a veteran on the campus of the university. He has been a member of the faculty for twenty-two years, since 1911. Here is an instance of a man changing his vocation to his avocation, for in reality, Professor Gimeno is an artist, and a most worthy one. Evidences of his artistic ability are to be found in practically every building on the campus of Oklahoma's leading institution for higher learning designed to provide a general education.

After graduation at Valencia, Professor Gimeno went to Cuba to paint and later came to New York City to engage in the same profession. In 1911 he came to the university as an instructor in art, being then the only art teacher on the campus, hence head of the department. Senor Gimeno recalls now that his studio was located in the Old Engineering building and that the Administration building was not yet completed when he arrived. A little later his studio was moved to the new administration building.

Professor Gimeno's ability as a linguist made him a most valuable asset, and as the demand for students with the knack of speaking Spanish became greater, Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, president of the university, transferred Mr Gimeno to the modern language department, making him head of the Spanish department. This was in 1914, so that Professor Gimeno remained the art instructor for four years, and for the remainder of his tenure during these eventful years, has been an instructor in the languages. During these many years on the campus, Professor Gimeno has not limited his activities to the teaching of Spanish, but has taught French and Italian.

Among his other qualities, Professor Gimeno has a keen appreciation of music, and is also a writer of some note, especially in the matter of Spanish literary criticism. Some of this work has been contributed to various Spanish publications as well as Books Abroad, the international publication of reviews, printed by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Professor Gimeno is the son of a talented Spaniard, José Gimeno, whose wife was an equally talented Italian lady. Patricio Gimeno was born in Arequipa, Peru, but was taken to Spain while he was but a baby. His parents were students of the Spanish opera and as talented musicians traveled extensively in Europe, South America, North America, and Central America. Hence at an early age, Patricio saw quite a bit of the world, and made a good many trips between Spain and the Americas.

Here is a dash of adventure for you. The first few trips made by Mr Gimeno between Spain and the new World across the Atlantic were made in wooden sailboats. It took months to complete the trip around the South American horn, and there were storms and other equally exciting happenings. Here indeed was a most picturesque setting for a life of art for a talented youngster.

With this Spanish and Italian ancestry it was natural that he should inherit a desire for the mastery of languages. His mother spoke English, French, Italian and Spanish, and his father spoke Spanish altogether. As a youngster he often performed on the stage, and after he came to the university assisted with the presentation of student plays. He likes to act, he says, but does not like the life of the actor. His youthful roamings were cut short when he was ten years old, at which time his father died. He went with his mother to live with his father's relatives in Valencia.
Some thirty-four years ago, he returned to Peru and other South American countries, in the interest of his art work and to revisit some of the scenes of his early travels. With his knowledge of South American commerce, he has been able as a teacher to provide many young men with a firm foundation in the understanding of Spanish so that they have been able to take their places in American export work. Professor Gimeno in discussing his advent into the educational field as an instructor of Spanish states: "Our commerce with South America was growing by leaps and bounds, and there was a scarcity of people who could speak both the English and Spanish languages. German and English companies had recognized a vast market in South America. Their salesmanship was far ahead of that of companies in the United States. But with the tremendous growth of American manufacturing methods in the early nineteen hundreds, this country put up a fight for commercial supremacy. The United States has been winning this supremacy more and more as the years have rolled by. A command of the Spanish language is the weapon which has enabled American tradesmen to win this victory. The importance of the command of Spanish in foreign trade is shown when we note that from our first Spanish classes hardly large enough to keep one teacher busy, the university has grown until now we have more than 500 students of Spanish."

Professor Gimeno's instruction of Spanish is practical, for he believes in giving his students a working knowledge of the language rather than a mere scholastic knowledge. He is able to point out many concrete examples of the benefits derived from practical knowledge of languages, but one in particular impressed the writer. He spoke of a young man connected with the Choctaw Milling Co., who took a course from Professor Gimeno in an extension class. This man handled extensive correspondence in Spanish from South American commercial people. His success in the local dealings with foreign trade later enabled this young man to accept a fine position in New York and later to travel extensively in South America in the interest of his business firm.

In stressing the point of a practical working knowledge and use of a language, Professor Gimeno says: "My first impression in the teaching field was that there was something wrong with the old academic methods of teaching modern languages. I received this impression through personal first hand experience. Although I had studied the English language in my student days at Valencia, when I arrived in this country I found my scholastic English of little value, and as time went on I believe it was more of a hindrance as a background than a help. My first aim has always been to make the student understand Spanish and speak it with as near a correct pronunciation as possible. To learn a lot about a language and its grammatical construction and then find yourself unable to understand a native when he speaks it and not be able to express yourself is proof enough that you have wasted your time. However the directness of the teaching must necessarily be deleted when we have large classes. The efficient learning of a language is a thing which requires practice and it is the aim of the teacher to give the student that practice in class. Explaining a lot about Spanish grammar in English will do little toward teaching the student to express himself.

"One of my most interesting experiences in teaching a language under purely direct methods was during the World War when I was sent to Camp Travis to teach the soldiers French. It was a question of teaching the most in the shortest time to men who were to use what they were taught. Rules and grammar were hardly mentioned. It was a matter of drilling their tongues and their ears. I believe we as educators are leaning toward this method of instruction more and more every day."

Evidence of Professor Gimeno's success as a language teacher are presented when we point out some of the members of the language faculty of the university who are former students of this Spanish gentleman. Among them are Miss Gladys Barnes, assistant professor of Spanish; Todd Downing, instructor in Spanish; Miss Eugenia Kaufman, assistant professor of modern languages; Kenneth Kaufman, assistant professor of modern languages and Miss Stella Sanders, instructor in romance languages.

There are many others, who have received their first instruction in Spanish from Professor Gimeno. The subject of this article remembers that Dr. Edwin DeBarr, former head of the chemistry department for whom DeBarr Hall was named, was at one time a student in Spanish classes and that Mrs. Stratton D. Brooks, wife of the former president of the university was also in his class.

Some seven years ago, Professor Gimeno took a sabbatical leave and worked on a varied course in Harvard university. While there he studied art under Dr. Denman Ross. An evidence of Mr. Gimeno'sliberality and respect of opinions of others is illustrated in his discussion of Ross's instruction. Professor Gimeno believes that one is born an artist. Doctor Ross taught that art could be learned in a mechanical way, through the mathematical application of color.

"Since that course in Harvard, I am always eager to read accounts of exhibitions by Mr. Ross and to examine his work, for I am interested in watching the progress of those with whom I have been associated," he says.

Like his father, Harold Gimeno, Professor Gimeno's son has inherited a love of the beautiful. He was graduated from the university with a degree in music and later attended Harvard where he received his Master of Arts degree in architecture. The younger Gimeno has built a number of buildings in Norman, and built the Gimeno home, a beautiful Spanish dwelling located at 800 Elm avenue in Norman. In this home there is a touch of Old Spain transplanted in Oklahoma. His daughter, Margarita, now Mrs. Leo Conisidine of Oklahoma City, is a talented musician, and is also a graduate from O. U. One of the most important of Professor Gimeno's outside activities is the collection of a large and valuable library. He started with a very few old volumes handed down in his family. He has several old volumes in this collection with the license of the Spanish Inquisition. In this library he also has one of the first translations of Marco Polo's travels, in Spanish. This book was printed in the year 1601, years

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