

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

JUAN BAUTISTA RAEI

(1900 - 1993)

Juan Bautista Rael, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese, died of heart failure at his home in Menlo Park, on November 8, 1993, at 93 years of age. On his retirement in 1965, Juan had taught at Stanford for 31 years.

As a specialist in Mexican Literature, as well as in American Spanish dialectology and folklore, Juan had the distinction of being one of the first professors of Spanish-American literature in American universities. He was one of the original faculty members in the Hispanic American Studies Program founded by Professor Ronald Hilton—a program which for many years was one of the foremost programs of its kind in the United States. Juan was also widely known as the founder and director of the University of Guadalajara Summer School, sponsored jointly by the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara and the University of Arizona. The Summer School, which Juan directed for 18 years, continues today as an integral part of the Foreign Studies Program of the University of Arizona.

Juan was admirably suited, both by temperament and by family background, to the academic career he chose to follow. He was born August 14, 1900, into a Spanish colonial family in Arroyo Hondo, in northern New Mexico. The first representative of the family in America was Lieutenant Alonso Rael de Aguilar, who accompanied Diego de Vargas on his expeditions in the region in 1690 and 1692, and later was mayor of Santa Fe. Living for generations in the area north of Santa Fe and Taos, the family witnessed the transfer of the territory from Spanish to Mexican rule in 1821, and, finally, to the United States, as a result of the War with Mexico, in 1848. Juan's father was a merchant and sheep rancher; a sister, Carolina Domínguez, still lives in Arroyo Hondo.

After earning the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts at St. Mary's College (then located in Oakland, California), in 1923, Juan taught at the College for one year before continuing his studies at the University of California. During the year 1926-27, he served as a teaching assistant at the University of California and completed the work for the M.A. degree. He continued his academic career as instructor in Spanish at the University of Oregon from 1927 to 1934. Attracted by the studies in American Spanish dialectology and folklore being carried out in the then Department of Romanic Languages, he accepted an instructorship in Spanish at Stanford and started his studies for the doctorate. He obtained the degree in 1937, with a dissertation on New Mexican Spanish. He was promoted to Assistant Professor the same year, became an Associate Professor in 1943, Professor in 1951, and Emeritus Professor in 1963.

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Building on his doctoral studies, Juan focused his research interests on the language and traditions of the American Southwest. His articles "Alternate Forms in the Speech of the Individual," and "Associative Interference in Spanish," deal with features of New Mexican Spanish. His major work, *Cuentos Españoles de Colorado y Nuevo México* (Spanish Folk Tales of Colorado and New Mexico), published by the Museum of New Mexico Press (Santa Fe, 1977) is the most extensive collection of Spanish folk tales gathered from oral tradition in Spanish America. Other works of a comparable nature are: *An Annotated Bibliography of Spanish Folklore in New Mexico and Southern Colorado* (with Marjorie Tully) (University of New Mexico Press, 1950); *The New Mexican 'Alabado'* (Stanford University Press, 1951), and *Sources and Diffusion of the Mexican Shepherds' Plays* (Guadalajara, México, 1965). Articles by Juan on Hispanic Folklore include: "New Mexican Wedding Songs," *Southern Folklore Quarterly*, June 1940; "New Mexican Spanish Feasts," *California Folklore Quarterly*, 1942; and "Introducción a los Cuentos Populares Nuevomejicanos," *Boletín de la Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española*, New York, 1976.

Texts edited or co-edited by him for the classroom are: *Cuentos Orientales*, by Angel González Palencia (Oxford University Press, 1939); *La Parcela*, by the Mexican novelist José López-Portillo y Rojas (with Robert Luckey) (Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1949); *La Batalla de los Arapiles*, by the Spanish novelist Benito Pérez Galdós (Odyssey Press, 1941) and *Antología Escolar de la Poesía Mexicana* (with Arturo Torres-Río seco) (Guadalajara, México 1960).

Various manuscripts of 'alabados' (religious hymns) and shepherds' plays collected by Juan are accessible in the Rare Book Room of the Stanford University Library. Sound disc recordings of Spanish folk songs and folk music of Colorado and New Mexico collected by him may be found in the Library of Congress, the Museum of New Mexico, in Santa Fe, and in the Music Library of Stanford University.

In 1946, to help Stanford students of Spanish to hone their skills in the language and acquire a firsthand knowledge of Mexican life and culture, Juan began to conduct summer tours of Mexico. The success of the tours led to the founding, in 1953, of the University of Guadalajara Summer School, mentioned above. With a carefully selected teaching staff, recruited from both American universities and colleges and Mexican institutions, and a wide variety of courses offered, the School came to be highly regarded. Courses offered ranged from language classes at several levels to courses in Mexican art, geography, history, literature and Spanish literature. During the 18 years that he directed the School, Juan displayed unusual qualities of fairness, creativity, sound judgment, and leadership.

One of Juan's hobbies was photography. He put his hobby to good use creating an extensive collection of slides, which he used effectively in lectures and in the classroom. During his retirement, golf was his favorite form of recreation.

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In recognition of his scholarly achievements, Juan was elected in 1974 to membership in the Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española, and in 1983 he was named a Corresponding Member of the Royal Spanish Academy. He also received honors from several Mexican institutions and from the city of Guadalajara.

Juan and his wife Quirina, who passed away in 1991, will be fondly remembered by their colleagues, students, and many friends. Their home – on the Stanford campus until Juan’s retirement, and later in Menlo Park – was the scene of many happy festivities.

Juan is survived by one son, José Ignacio, of Amarillo, Texas, and two daughters, María Soledad Nowell, of Monterey, and Maximina Roberta Traynor, of Sunnyvale, all of whom graduated from Stanford University; a sister, Carolina Domínguez, of Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico, 16 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. To all we express our condolences and our gratitude for Juan’s many years of service to the Department and to the University.

Aurelio M. Espinosa, Jr., Chair
Fernando Alegría
Ronald Hilton